

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SUPERVISOR JOHN D. JENKINS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Prince William County Supervisor John D. Jenkins and the years of service that he has selflessly devoted to his neighbors, constituents and friends. Supervisor Jenkins was recently awarded the Occoquan District Good Scout Award by the National Capital Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. I cannot think of a more appropriate recognition of John's accomplishments in public service than an award based on the credo, "You are put here to do something for your fellow man and to take an active part in your community and its issues."

Supervisor Jenkins and his wife Ernestine moved to Prince William County in 1973 and immediately took a role in their neighborhood as the Forestdale representatives to the Dale City Civic Association. Their three sons were educated in the Prince William County Public School system and were Eagle Scouts in local Troop 1378. They have 14 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Supervisor Jenkins began his life in public office in October of 1982 when he was appointed to fill the vacant Neabsco District Supervisor's seat. He has since been reelected to that position 6 times. He has served two terms as Vice Chairman of the Board of County Supervisors, two terms as Chairman of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, two terms as the State President of the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions, two terms as the State President of the Virginia Association of Counties and two terms as the Chairman of the Virginia Railway Express Operations Board. John has served on boards and steering committees of the Virginia Municipal League, the Virginia Association of Counties, the National Association of Counties and represents the Board of County Supervisors on the Quantico Marine Corps and Fort Belvoir Base Realignment and Closing advisory committees.

Supervisor Jenkins has been a tireless advocate for many organizations throughout his 27-year tenure on the Board of County Supervisors. However, his involvement in the Scouts predates even his time in office, spanning 6 decades and involving countless Scouting causes. Camp William B. Snyder in Haymarket, VA opened its doors in 2006 due in part to the Supervisor's efforts to end its stalled development. He is a fixture at local Scouting promotion ceremonies and often uses his considerable fundraising abilities on behalf of the Boy Scouts of America. His dedication to the Scouts is unquestioned and with his receipt of the Good Scout Award, the Boy Scouts of America recognize his devotion to the people of Prince William County. As a two-

tour Vietnam Veteran and the longest serving county supervisor in Prince William County history, his career is one of service to country and community.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding Supervisor John D. Jenkins' dedication to his community. As a public servant he embodies the values the Boy Scouts hope to instill in their youth. He has taught generations of Scouts the nobility of public service and the great potential that it holds to help one's fellow man.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2892) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Chair, I come to the House of Representatives to encourage my colleagues to support and fund an urgent national security priority—the creation of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, also known as NBAF.

From a rancher feeding his cattle this morning in Washington, Kansas, to a family sitting down for supper tonight here in Washington, D.C., Americans need to know that the United States is prepared to handle an outbreak of dangerous animal disease that could harm our country's economy and our food supply.

Our nation's current animal disease research center, located at Plum Island, New York, is well over 50 years old and can no longer meet our needs. With today's threat of bioterror attack, as well as the threat of natural and accidental outbreaks of foreign animal diseases, it is clear that more research capacity is needed. NBAF is needed to concentrate our efforts to assess disease threats to livestock, wildlife and humans, and to develop the vaccines and countermeasures against these threats. A modern, safe animal disease research laboratory is critical for protecting our country.

After years of study and a rigorous selection process, in January, the Department of Homeland Security unanimously chose to build NBAF at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. DHS found Kansas State University to be the best fit for this critical mission. Kansas was chosen because of the State's existing biosecurity research infrastructure, skilled animal science workforce, strong citizen support, and large cost-share contribution. At the time, NBAF was expected to be completed by 2015.

Despite the fact that there has never been stronger need for accelerated animal disease

research, I am incredibly disappointed that NBAF may now be delayed. The President requested \$36 million in 2010 for NBAF design and construction. I have concerns that this investment is inadequate for moving forward with this security priority. But as the House today considers H.R. 2892, the FY 2010 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, it appears that even the President's requested funding amount may not be provided. Citing safety concerns with researching foot and mouth disease, FMD, on the mainland, the spending bill provides no funding for NBAF. In addition, the bill requires yet another FMD risk analysis.

As a Member of Congress who represents a large agricultural district, I understand the importance of determining the risks associated with conducting FMD research, whether on an island or in the middle of the country. What we know is that studies by experts at DHS and elsewhere say that FMD can be safely studied on the mainland, as it is done in other countries like Canada, just across our northern border. Modern biocontainment technology has eliminated the need for locating this work on an island, like we did decades ago. The same state-of-the-art research methods and facilities allow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to research dangerous human diseases in the city of Atlanta. While I understand the risk associated with the research of any dangerous disease, it should not blind us to the risk of inaction. The bottom line is that if we do not build NBAF and increase our capacity to combat diseases, our country will be less safe.

The research that will be performed at NBAF is critical to secure America's food supply and protect our agricultural industries from animal disease outbreaks. A modern facility that can respond to outbreaks is urgently needed and must remain a top priority for the U.S. As the appropriations process moves forward, I strongly encourage my colleagues in Congress to fund and support NBAF.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE BUDGET REFORM AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1016, the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act.

The men and women who have served our nation in combat deserve to be provided with the very best that we have to offer. One part of achieving that is getting these men and women the best health care that they can possibly have. In turn, it is critically important that the Veterans' Administration (VA) have assurances regarding their funding in a timely manner so that the VA can deliver health care in an efficient and timely manner.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

This important legislation authorizes Congress to approve VA medical care appropriations one year in advance of the start of each fiscal year. While we still have much further to go in terms of making sure that every hero returning home has all the care that they need, this bill will at least ensure that the VA will be able to plan ahead of time and get the most out of each health care dollar that they are allocated. Furthermore, because many VA budget cycles have, in recent years, started on continuing resolutions, some decisions may have been made on the basis rather than on the basis of the most effective treatment. We cannot jeopardize the health of our nation's finest because of what amounts to nothing more than a bureaucratic difficulty.

I was proud to work with a number of colleagues to include a similar VA advanced appropriations provision in this year's congressional budget resolution, S. Con. Res. 13. Nevertheless, there is no reason why our veterans should need to count on Congress taking action every single year to keep this sensible policy in place. For this reason, it is imperative that we pass the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act.

I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this important bill. I thank my good friend, the Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Congressman FILNER for introducing it and I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in support.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, during an absence yesterday, I regrettably missed rollcall vote No. 426. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall No. 426: "no"

IN RECOGNITION OF THE STROKE COMEBACK CENTER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Stroke Comeback Center and the critical health care services that it provides to stroke survivors and their families.

The Stroke Comeback Center (SCC) is a non-profit organization that provides ongoing rehabilitation and therapy to help combat the devastating damage that strokes can cause. The mission of the SCC has been to pick up where traditional health care coverage leaves off by providing affordable speech and language therapy programs to stroke victims in a caring and supportive environment.

The SCC was founded in 2004 by Darlene Williamson and John Phillips based on the premise that stroke victims who suffer with communications problems can continue to improve with treatment and therapy. This theory went against the conventionally held belief that stroke survivors reached their maximum potential within the first few months of recovery.

In addition, most insurance companies cover only short term treatment, which can limit access to therapy and thereby inhibit recovery.

The SCC addresses these issues in a proactive and effective manner. Fees charged for services are on a sliding scale and are up to 75% less than at other facilities. No individual is ever turned away due to inability to pay. The programs offered by the SCC include group programs to assist with improvement of communication skills, computer assisted training, individual sessions and caregiver support meetings.

The growth of the SCC is a tribute to the success of its programs. In 2005, the SCC had five groups meeting two days per week. There are now 21 groups meeting four days per week. Since opening, the SCC has provided more than 7,000 hours of therapy to stroke survivors.

The SCC works closely with the American Heart Association, the Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, the National Rehabilitation Hospital and the George Washington University Department of Speech and Hearing Science.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Stroke Comeback Center and its dedicated staff and volunteers. The services and programs offered by the SCC fill a void in the rehabilitation process and significantly improve the quality of lives of stroke survivors and their families.

CAP-AND-TAX DOES NOT WORK

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, a national energy tax will do harm to American families by raising electric bills, gas prices, and food prices by thousands of dollars. Moreover, it will not achieve the goals of a cleaner environment.

As our European neighbors have learned from their own cap and trade scheme, costs go up but so do carbon emissions. Indeed, in the so-called market place of carbon trade, the American people will lose just as our European friends have. America will lose jobs and American families will lose money, and there is no excuse for the Democrat leadership in this House to place such a burden upon the American people.

I hope my colleagues will abandon this plan to raise taxes and realize that an all-of-the-above approach to our energy needs—one that has bipartisan support—is a far better course for this country to pursue.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

HONORING THE HEROISM AND BRAVERY OF THE WOMAN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS OF WORLD WAR II

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2014, which awarded the

Woman Airforce Service Pilots of World War II with a Congressional Gold Medal. Known as WASP, these courageous women faced incredible bias and hardship while serving our country. Out of the 300 recipients, three WASP are from the 9th district in Memphis, TN.

Women were essential to our effort in World War II. In factories and shipyards throughout this nation, they provided the fundamental infrastructure and labor which allowed our military to prevail. We can't forget that just 23 years before the war, Rosie the Riveter didn't have the right to vote. Suddenly, she was the muscle behind the plane, the tank, the ship—in short the entire arsenal of democracy. The women of these times toiled selflessly. They were passionately patriotic.

The WASP were no exception. They were the backbone of the Army Air Corps and performed vital jobs such as delivering newly assembled planes to key military bases and test piloting new planes. They even flew the first jets. The WASP flew over 60 million miles in every type of aircraft. Without their work, the Army Air Corps would not have been able to function properly and domestic efforts would have been severely crippled, making it more difficult to receive crucial supplies, troops and planes.

I am very proud to have three WASP veterans living in my home district in Memphis, TN. Martha M. Carpenter, Frankie Yearwood and Lillian E. Goodman all graduated from the WASP program with extensive flight experience and training. Their jobs required incredible skill and were highly dangerous. Recently, Ms. Goodman recalled, "in my own class there were two girls and an instructor that went up in a twin engine plane . . . they crashed and were all killed." The women that Ms. Goodman remembers were sent home in unmarked pine boxes. Their service was not acknowledged. They were denied military funerals and their families were not permitted to put up a Gold Star in their memory. It wasn't until 1977 that Congress finally gave the WASP veteran status and benefits.

For all their patriotism and service, the WASP—all of whom were pilots before the war—faced harassment and shocking levels of discrimination during and after their service. Sadly, they were made to pay for their own flight training and for their own trip home after being discharged. When the war ended, some male combat veterans fought vigilantly to deny them equal veteran status.

For thirty years, the federal government classified WASP records. For too long, their heroism was kept out of the history books. Grandmothers could only tell incredible stories of serving as pilots in World War II to disbelieving grandchildren. President Carter helped to change all that by finally opening up the records and allowing Ms. Goodman, Ms. Carpenter, and Ms. Yearwood's service to be public.

The WASP's exemplary record and contributions towards the war effort were referenced in the 1993 congressional hearings which led to legislation allowing women to fly aircraft in combat roles. Currently, women make up more than 14% of the military on active duty and more than 17% of the reserve and National Guard. The Air Force has the highest percentage of women enlisted, as nearly 20% of its members on active duty and 25% of the National Air Force Reserve are

women. Ms. Carpenter, Mrs. Goodman, Ms. Yearwood and the other brave women of the WASP were pioneers for the dedicated women who serve in our military today and for all who face prejudice in pursuit of equality.

REPEAL TONNAGE TAX'S 30-DAY LIMIT ON DOMESTIC OPERATIONS

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, U.S.-flag ships that compete in international trade face many disadvantages. The U.S. tax code should not be one of them. Today I am introducing legislation that will help smooth the seas for U.S.-flag shippers and increase their international competitiveness.

The version of the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 that passed both the House and Senate provided for the application of a "tonnage tax" based on the tonnage of a vessel, rather than taxing the U.S. vessel's international income at corporate tax rates. In the conference process on that legislation, however, new language was inserted which states that a U.S. vessel cannot use the tonnage tax on its income from international operations if that vessel also operates in U.S. domestic commerce for more than 30 days per year.

This 30-day limitation dramatically limits the availability of the tonnage tax for those U.S. ships that operate in both domestic and international trade and hinders their competitiveness in foreign commerce. It is important to recognize that ships operating in U.S. domestic trade already have significant cost disadvantages. The inability of domestic operators to use the tonnage tax for their international service is a further burden on their competitive position in foreign commerce. Foreign registered ships now carry 97 percent of the imports and exports moving in United States international trade. These foreign vessels are not held to the higher Coast Guard operating standards that apply to American-registered ships and foreign vessels are virtually untaxed.

Adding to the perversity of the provision, in December 2006, Congress repealed the 30-day limit on domestic trading for approximately 50 ships operating in the Great Lakes. There are 13 U.S.-flag vessels outside of these Great Lakes ships that remain caught in these tax provisions. In the interest of providing equity to these 13 vessels, this legislation would repeal the 30-day limit on domestic operations, enabling these vessels to also utilize the tonnage tax on their international income. Under this legislation, these ships will continue to pay the normal 35 percent U.S. corporate tax rate on their income for operations in domestic commerce.

Repeal of the tonnage tax's 30-day limit on domestic operations is a necessary step toward providing tax equity between U.S.-flag and foreign flag vessels. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this important legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2009 VIRGINIA HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the 2009 Virginia Human Rights Awards. These awards were presented during a recent ceremony hosted jointly with the Prince William County Human Rights Commission.

Prince William County has long been an area of growth in our Northern Virginia region. As the county population grew in the early 1990s and the demographics shifted, the Board of County Supervisors recognized the need for a study to examine the county's ability to respond to increasing population diversity. The result of the study was the creation of a Human Rights Ordinance prohibiting discriminatory practices based on race, color, sex, national origin, religion, marital status or disability in employment, housing, public accommodations, education and credit in Prince William County. When the Board of County Supervisors established the Human Rights Ordinance in September of 1992, it created the Human Rights Commission to ensure that "each citizen is treated fairly, provided equal protection of the law and equal opportunity to participate in the benefits, rights, and privileges of community life."

The recipients of this year's awards have exhibited a devotion to "[eliminating] discrimination through civil and human rights law enforcement and [establishing] equal opportunity for all persons within the county through advocacy and education."

The recipients of the Prince William Human Rights Awards are Betty Covington from Prince William Public Schools and Dexter Fox with Unity in the Community.

The Virginia Human Rights Commissioner of the Year is Victor Dunbar, Chairman of the Fairfax County Human Rights Commission.

The Staff Member of the Year is Annie Carroll, Deputy Director of the Fairfax County Human Rights Commission.

The Virginia Human Rights Commemorative Award for contributions to human rights through the signing of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts will be made posthumously to President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding the efforts of these individuals on behalf of harmony and equality in our communities. We are a happier, safer society when we promote fairness and justice. I would like to extend my unconditional support for the Human Rights Commission's mission and my deepest appreciation to those who take up the cause of human and civil rights.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican standards on member requests, I am submitting the following information regarding congressionally directed ap-

propriation projects I sponsored as part of H.R. 2847, FY 2010 Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

Agency/Account: U.S. EPA—State and Tribal Assistance Grant

Amount: \$439,065

Requesting Entity: City of Petersburg, P.O. Box 326 Petersburg, Texas 79250

Funding will enable the city of Petersburg to continue supplying quality drinking water to its residents. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has ordered the city to replace one of its elevated water tanks or place it off-line or the city will be forced to pay penalties and fines. Loss of a water tank will reduce the water supply, as well as drop the water pressure which is important for fire fighting. Without a stable water supply, the city of Petersburg will not be able to maintain economic growth. The total cost of this project is \$798,300.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010:

Requesting Member: Congressman TIM MURPHY

Bill Number: H.R. 2996, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Account: State and Tribal Assistance Grant Program

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Findlay Township Municipal Authority

Address of Requesting Entity: 1271 Route 30, Clinton, PA 15026-1537

Amount: \$500,000

Description of Request: to replace old and undersized water transmission lines, and to expand and upgrade the water and sewer infrastructure, to benefit the entire Township of Findlay in economic development and job creation, fire safety and environmental protection.

The water and sewer upgrades and expansion will serve businesses—and the 21,310 jobs being created—at three business parks in the Pittsburgh International Airport Corridor: the Chapman Commerce Center; the Clinton Commerce Park and the Route 30 Industrial Site. Furthermore, annual tax revenue generated at the three business parks is projected to be \$48.7 million. In terms of fire safety, the project will replace old and undersized water transmission lines to provide adequate fire flow for the entire township, including residents and businesses. In terms of environmental protection, the project will rectify a concern of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection that the sanitary sewer system capacity from Enlow Road to the Moon Township Interceptor must be expanded to adequately convey additional flow.

I certify that this project does not have a direct and foreseeable effect on the pecuniary interests of me or my spouse.

I took extreme care to ensure that these projects are well vetted and strongly supported within the community. The Findlay Township Municipal Authority appropriation is of particular interest to my district and importance to my constituents.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010:

Requesting Member: Congressman TOM COLE

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Provision: Title I

Account: National Park Service—Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: "National Park Service—Chickasaw National Recreation Area"

Address of Requesting Entity: 1008 West Second Street, Sulphur, OK

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$500,000 for a design plan to construct a Visitor's Center at the Chickasaw National Recreation Area. The need for a Visitor's Center was identified in the recreation area's 1980 General Management Plan and 1994 Addendum to the 1980 General Management Plan. The Visitor's Center was previously budgeted for, but funds were reprogrammed for wildfire suppression. The Visitor's Center will provide those visiting the Chickasaw National Recreation Area a much needed centralized location where the Park Service may educate individuals on the ecosystems and history of the area. This will increase tourism to the recreation area, and thereby grow the local economy substantially.

Requesting Member: Congressman TOM COLE

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Provision: Title II

Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Lawton Ft. Sill Chamber of Commerce

Address of Requesting Entity: 9 SW "C" Avenue, Lawton, OK 73501

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$500,000 for water and sewer line expansions at the Lawton Industrial Park, in Lawton, OK. The Comanche County Industrial Development Authority recently purchased an additional 480 acres immediately southwest of the present industrial park for purposes of expansion. Before this development can begin, water and sewer lines must be expanded to the property. The industrial park expansion will allow for more commercial expansion, thus creating jobs and aiding Lawton's economy. For this project, 80 percent of funds will be used for construction costs, 12 percent will be used for contingency, 6 percent will be for engineering costs and 2 percent will be used for inspections.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I am submitting the following earmark disclosure information for project requests that I made and which were included within H.R. 2996, "Making appropriations for the Department of Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010."

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN DUNCAN

Account: National Park Service, Save America's Treasures

Project Amount: \$200,000

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Blount Mansion Association, 200 W. Hill Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37902

Description of Request: This funding will be used to upgrade and improve the National Historic Landmark.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BURKE, VIRGINIA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Rotary Club of Burke, Virginia, on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary and to pay tribute to its significant contributions to the community.

The world's first service club, the Rotary Club of Chicago, Illinois, was formed on February 23, 1905, by Paul P. Harris. The name "Rotary" is derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members' offices. The Rotary Club concept thrived in its early years, and, by 1921, there were chapters on six continents. In 1922, the name "Rotary International" was adopted. The objective of Rotary International is to encourage and foster the ideal of community service as a basis of worthy enterprise. International understanding, goodwill and peace are fostered through the shared commitment to service of Rotarians from 166 countries.

The Rotary Club of Burke was organized by Brian Tilbury and was chartered by Rotary International on June 30, 1984. Since that time, the Burke Rotary has grown in not only the number of active members, but also in the areas of community service.

The Burke Rotary participates in Polio Plus, which is dedicated to the eradication of polio in countries such as Afghanistan, India, Pakistan and Nigeria. Closer to home, The Rotary Club of Burke is a dependable ally in the Toys 4 Tots Program and the Northern Virginia Literacy Council. It also encourages involvement in the Medical Reserve Corps, a Fairfax County, Va., program that trains volunteers to provide vital services in the event of a public health emergency.

The Rotary Club of Burke has partnered with the Rotary Club of Annandale to provide scholarships to deserving students who wish

to pursue vocational training at Northern Virginia Community College. This partnership now provides six scholarships each year and has allowed approximately 40 individuals to continue their education and learn a marketable skill. The quality of life for each of these students and their families will be forever improved because of this opportunity.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating The Rotary Club of Burke on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary and to express our gratitude for their contributions here at home and abroad.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks as well as in accordance with Clause 9 of Rule XXI, I am submitting the following information regarding the earmark I received as part of H.R. 2996, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman PHIL GINGREY

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: Environmental Protection Agency; STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Projects

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District

Address of Requesting Entity: 40 Courtland Street, NE Atlanta, GA 30303

Description of Request:

The \$500,000 in STAG funding secured will be applied to this list of the Water District projects:

COBB COUNTY

Sweetwater Creek Sanitary Sewer Extension—This proposed extension of the Sweetwater Creek interceptor will provide gravity sewer service to much of the unserved portion of southwestern Cobb County, including several dry sewer subdivisions. It will also extend service into the Sweetwater basin in Paulding County, eliminating the need for an additional treatment facility and comporting with our regional plan. The project includes about 20,000 linear feet of large diameter sewer. Estimated cost of this project is \$7,700,000.

Mack Dobbs Road Water Main Replacement—Replacement of 11,200 linear feet of existing 6-inch asbestos cement water main with 12-inch ductile iron between Cobb Parkway and Stilesboro Road. Estimated cost of this project is \$1,200,000.

Low Flow Toilet and Urinal Retrofit for 127 Cobb County Public Schools—A water conservation project which consists of replacing approximately 5,782 older, inefficient toilets and urinals and 2,478 miscellaneous faucets and pre-rinse spray valves in Cobb County Schools. The estimated cost of this project is \$875,000.

COBB COUNTY-MARIETTA WATER AUTHORITY

The Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority (CCMWA), a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, is a regional water wholesaler with 13 customers that serve over 790,000 people.

The customers include Cobb County, all of the municipalities within Cobb County, all of Paulding County, portions of Douglas County, Cherokee County, the City of Woodstock, and a small community in Fulton County.

Austell West Side Connector 24"—This pipeline project installs 8,000 feet of 24" ductile iron pipe to connect existing transmission lines. The pipeline will improve system flow capacity and provide redundancy to Cobb Hospital and high growth area along East-West Connector. The estimated cost of this project is \$2,549,800.

Five Million Gallon Steel Tank at Lost Mountain—This tank will provide enhanced fire protection. It will also increase system reliability by improving storage-to-production ratio and source water reliability for existing pump station. It will provide additional water storage for west Cobb County and Paulding County. The estimated cost of this project is \$3,500,000.

Five Million Gallon Steel Tank at Pete Shaw—This tank will provide enhanced fire protection. It will also increase system reliability by improving storage-to-production ratio. This tank will provide additional water storage capacity to east Cobb County. The estimated cost of this project is \$3,500,000.

Columns Drive Pipe Replacement—Replacement of approximately 600 linear feet of 36" ductile iron pipe with 54" restrained joint ductile iron pipe. This installation will eliminate a restriction in the main line from the Quarles Water Treatment Plant. The estimated cost of this project is \$780,600.

HALL COUNTY

Low Flow Toilet and Urinal Retrofit for Hall County Government Facilities—A water conservation project which consists of replacing all older, inefficient toilets and urinals in County facilities not already fitted with low flow systems including; Parks, Fire Stations, Senior Centers, Prisons, etc. The estimated cost of this project is \$190,000.

THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE

Flat Creek Watershed Improvement Plan and Ecosystem Restoration—The City of Gainesville and Hall County have developed a watershed improvement and ecosystem restoration plan for the Flat Creek watershed which includes several projects involving stream restoration and construction of storm water best management practices. The City is currently designing the Upper Flat Creek Stream Restoration and Regional Stormwater Detention Pond project. The estimated cost of this project is \$700,000. Other projects we are moving forward with would cost approximately \$2,000,000.

Gainesville/Hall County Water Main Extensions and Improvements projects—These projects include approximately 25 miles of 8"-20" water line extensions/improvements throughout Gainesville/Hall County. Projects will extend water service to new customers and improve fire and water service by installing fire hydrants in new locations and improving flow capacity and quality in the water distribution system. The cost of these projects is estimated to be \$13,200,000.

ROCKDALE COUNTY WATER RESOURCES

Distribution Waterline Replacements—A water conservation project to significantly reduce or eliminate unaccounted for water (i.e. reducing water leaks in public water supply distribution system). Estimated cost of this project is \$15,000,000.

Wastewater Pump Station—To prevent sewer overflows and upgrade pumping station to meet current demands in a concentrated area. Estimated cost of this project is \$300,000.

THE CITY OF LOCUST GROVE

Water Supply Wells—The City of Locust Grove has drilled two additional wells for drinking water supply. These wells have already been drilled and permitted by GA EPD. The wells are needed to help supply enough water for current demand. The design has already been drawn. Estimated cost of this project is \$250,000.

THE CITY OF ROSWELL

Municipal Buildings Water Conservation Project—The condition of Roswell's municipal building restroom facilities vary widely in age, use, quality and repair. An initial assessment of the restrooms found 106 urinals, 295 toilets and 265 faucets to replace. The proposed water conservation project will purchase and install high-efficiency urinals, and toilets for the City's administrative, public safety, public-works, recycling center and park buildings. Additionally the project could include low-flow faucets, eco-friendly sanitizer systems and to minimize restroom vandalism and maintenance the installation of stainless steel panels, new and replacement tile. The estimated cost for this project is \$500,000.

THE CITY OF ALPHARETTA

North Park Improvements: Construct off-line sediment forebay—A sediment forebay will allow silt to fall out in a confined area just prior to the lake. During non-storm flows, the creek will flow naturally into the lake. When it rains and the creek rises, water will be diverted to the forebay. The forebay will slow down the water, allowing time for much of the silt to fall out before discharging back into the lake. The forebay will be much easier to clean out than the lake itself.

North Park Improvements: Construct three enhanced swales to treat water coming from the softball fields and two parking lots—Enhanced swales are state recognized water quality Best Management Practices (BMPs) that allow for more water to infiltrate and be treated prior to entering the creek. As part of the installation of the enhanced swales, the water from these areas will be diverted to directly enter the lake instead of entering upstream through very eroded gullies. The gullies are so large that it is actually more cost effective to install the BMPs and divert the flow than it would be to repair the gullies, which are over 20 feet deep in some areas.

North Park Improvements: Modify the outlet control structure of the lake—The current outlet structure of the lake clogs in nearly every storm event, requiring parks maintenance personnel to have to remove debris to restore drainage. The outlet control structure can be modified to reduce clogging and provide improved water quality benefits for the lake. This will reduce necessary maintenance and give the lake an overall better aesthetic appearance.

Total cost for these improvements is: \$517,818.75. This price includes the cost to prepare conceptual and final design; construction of three improvements/BMPs; and model pollutant removal.

RECOGNIZING CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER OF DALLAS FOR ITS RANKING AMONG THE TOP TEN CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS IN THE NATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, in 1913, a group of nurses established Children's Medical Center of Dallas as an open air clinic. Today, Children's Medical Center has been chosen among the top 10 children's hospitals in the nation, according to U.S. News & World Report. Children's provides exemplary care and resources to its thousands of patients, as well as a wide range of teaching opportunities to the future physicians and nurses of our country. As a former nurse, I am proud to have such an accomplished medical institution in my district and would like to extend warm congratulations to them for receiving such recognition.

Children's Medical Center of Dallas is a private, non-profit pediatric health care center. As one of the largest pediatric hospitals in the country, Children's treats approximately 360,000 patients a year, with treatments ranging from simple physical exams to specialized care in heart disease, oncology, orthopedics, kidney disorders, neurology, respiratory disorders, neonatal care, urology, diabetes, and digestive disorders. Furthermore, Children's is a major pediatric transplant center, and also is the only academic health care facility and only designated Level 1 trauma center in Texas. Children's Medical Center of Dallas is continuously conducting research and developing new and improved treatments and therapies regarding pediatric diseases.

It is my hope that Children's Medical Center of Dallas will continue its strong record of success and provide patients with excellent care. It shines as an example of excellence, and I truly appreciate the dedication put forth by the administrators, doctors, nurses, and everyone else there. Again, I offer my congratulations to Children's Medical Center of Dallas on its achievement of being named one of America's top 10 children's hospitals.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding an earmark I received as part of H.R. 2996, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010:

I originally requested \$1 million in this legislation for the El Monte Valley Groundwater Recharge Project through the Environmental Protection Agency's State and Tribal Assistance Grant Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project account. It is my understanding that \$500,000 was ultimately appropriated for this project by the Subcommittee and the entity to receive funding for this project is the

Helix Water District located at 7811 University Avenue, La Mesa, California 91941.

This is a groundwater recharge and habitat restoration effort led by the Helix Water District where it will secure highly treated wastewater from the Padre Dam Municipal Water District's Santee Water Recycling Facility, provide additional treatment to purify the wastewater, pump and pipe this water to surrounding basins and then release it into the San Diego Riverbed where it will be allowed to seep down to existing groundwater levels. As the purified water is maintained in this location, it will receive additional natural treatment as it percolates through native materials. Extraction wells will be installed at strategic locations for conveyance to a water treatment plant as a new source of water for all District users.

This action will assist in the continued goals of the San Diego County region to reduce its dependence on imported water from the Colorado River and Northern California by annually producing 5,000 acre-feet of locally available drinking water and meeting 10–15% of the Helix Water District's raw water needs. By raising the groundwater levels in El Monte Valley, revegetation of the riverbed is supported and a more natural habitat is created for recreation and wildlife. This project is the beginning of an 8-year program and has been endorsed by other elected officials, including California Assemblyman Joel Anderson and California State Senator Christine Kehoe, as well as the Association of California Water Agencies, Endangered Habitats League, San Diego County Water Authority, Padre Dam Municipal Water District, Otay Water District, and the Lakeside Water District.

IN RECOGNITION OF WOODBRIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Woodbridge Middle School as a leader in education reform. Woodbridge was recently designated as a 2009 School to Watch by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform.

The Schools to Watch program was established in 1999 with the purpose of identifying schools on a path to meeting the National Forum's criteria for high performing schools. There are four categories in which qualifying schools must excel to be selected as a School to Watch. First, students must be challenged academically with clear and well-communicated education goals. Second, a school must work to develop a well-rounded student. This is accomplished through programs that foster healthy physical, social, emotional and intellectual development. Third, a School to Watch must present students with a socially equitable learning environment where diversity, civility, service, and democratic citizenship are valued. Finally, a qualifying school must have organizational structures in place that work to institutionalize the first three criteria.

Consistent with the cooperative spirit of the Schools to Watch program, the motto that drives Woodbridge Middle School is, "We get

better together." Students, faculty and administration are held accountable for school performance and are encouraged to make the education experience a team effort. The staff is required to follow a set meeting schedule for the purpose of monitoring instructional and support programs. Students who are in danger of failing a course must work with parents and teachers to map out a plan to achieve a passing grade. No one is an island at Woodbridge Middle School where education is a community effort.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding Woodbridge Middle School on this prestigious designation and in encouraging it to continue these proven successful approaches to education. Woodbridge Middle School is a model that provides guidance in how to effectively improve our education system. The students, faculty and entire community benefit when we invest in our nation's future by providing our children with a productive and positive learning experience.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mrs. BONO MACK. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2892, Department of Homeland Security Act of 2010:

Requesting Member: MARY BONO MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 2892

Account: Department of Homeland Security—State and Local Programs

Entity Requesting: City of Moreno Valley, 14177 Frederick Street, Moreno Valley, CA 88005

Description of Earmark: The City of Moreno Valley currently has plans to construct a new 8,000 square foot Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The City's current EOC consists of one room inside the existing Public Safety Building. With the new facility, the City will be fully prepared to respond to all emergency situations, restore services to our residents as quickly as possible, and provide effective communication among other agencies as well as with our residents. This request is to fund the purchase of new equipment such as telecommunications and video display, resource tracking software, and computers. The federal nexus is to assist federal, state and local authorities and help coordinate responses to emergencies such as earthquakes and wildfires.

Spending Plan: The total project construction costs for the Emergency Operations Center are \$4.5 million. The \$400,000 appropriation will be used to fund the purchase of equipment for the EOC. This project is currently out to bid for construction. This request is to fund the purchase of new equipment such as telecommunications and video display, resource tracking software, and computers.

THANKING ROBERT WARNICK FOR
HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on May 1, 2009, we rise to thank Mr. Robert "Bob" Warnick for thirty-one years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives. Bob has served this great institution as a valuable employee of House Information Resources, HIR, in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Bob began his tenure with the United States House of Representatives in May of 1978 in House Information Resources, HIR, as a Senior Systems Analyst, SSA. As an SSA, he successfully implemented a system to generate the Committee Calendar for the Committee on Public Works and Transportation using HIR's Legislative Information Management System, LIMS, developed a case history and mailing list system for the Helsinki Commission, and successfully implemented the first Correspondence Management System, CMS, on the Hill.

In 1987, he transferred to the Administrative Systems Division as the Senior Project Leader for LIMS. In 1995, he was promoted to Senior Systems Specialist and transferred to the Integration Group. As a senior member of this group, he was tasked with the design and implementation of several applications using Standard Generalized Mark-Up Language, SGML. As a proof of concept project, his group successfully converted and produced three House documents using SGML.

In 1996, he was transferred to the Cyber Congress task force within the Integration Group. He was appointed to the position of Senior Internet Systems Specialist when the Cyber Congress task force was renamed the Web System Branch, WSB. His important contributions as a team member in the CAO Advanced Business Solutions Web Solutions Branch have resulted in continued success of the Web Solutions Design team where he designed and implemented Member and Committee Web sites and provided a wealth of knowledge of the Web Indexed Document Automation, WIDA, service application to staff and Member offices.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Robert "Bob" Warnick for many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the United States House of Representatives. We wish Bob many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

COMMENDING ARTHUR LEE HENRY
FOR BEING NAMED A STATE OF
LOUISIANA "CITIZEN HERO"

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Arthur Lee Henry, a true "Citizen Hero", as honored by the president of Victims and Citizens Against Crime.

Law enforcement officers in St. Landry Parish nominated Arthur for an incident that occurred in August of 2008, when he successfully disarmed a gunman on the campus of T.H. Harris Technical College in Opelousas, Louisiana. Upon seeing a man produce a gun and fire shots, Arthur quickly reacted and saved the lives of several innocent bystanders.

Arthur, a happily-married man with two children, proudly serves as a custodian at the technical college, where he has worked for twelve years. Coworkers describe him as “a very professional individual”, “a wonderful employee”, and “an integral part of campus.” Today, he will be attending a banquet to receive the award with the dean of the college, Allen Espree.

Again, congratulations to Arthur Lee Henry, one of Louisiana’s “Citizen Heroes” for taking pride in the campus he proudly serves.

2009 CONGRESSIONAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. ROONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the efforts and achievements of the 2009 Congressional Award recipients. Striving to better themselves and inspire others, these individuals have invested countless hours into public service, built their strength and endurance through academic and athletic pursuits, and explored their own abilities in new and challenging arenas. Volunteerism, self-discipline, and determination are hallmarks of this class of award recipients, and their passion rightfully deserves the admiration of this House.

The Congressional Awards recognize four avenues of individual growth—community service, physical fitness, exploration, and personal development—while acknowledging their interconnectivity in forming balanced and promising young citizens.

In their pursuit of these goals, recipients have encouraged the growth of new skills and greater confidence. For many, these projects will be the cornerstone for future endeavors, further enriching their lives and encouraging others to follow their lead.

The 2009 Congressional Award winners demonstrate dedication to improving their communities and making the world a better place.

The following are honored recipients of the 2009 Congressional Award:

Alec Kohli, Lukas Bergqvist, Ashley Macres, Kristen Glass, Stephanie Glass, Sarah Williams, Kelly Chen, Renee Jorgensen, Spencer Chase, Mark Felicio, Todd Lundrigan, George Major, Sarah Schwab, Charles Su, Christopher Barnum, Sacha Finn, Cameron Chalfant, John Hunsaker, Malinda Seu, Lynn Tse, Natalie Millman, Kathryn Gasparro, Heather Mauldin, Jena Mauldin, Andy Powers Davis, David Steinmetz, Christina DiMarzio, Courtney Cox, Hayley Gibson, Drake Gordon, Alexandra Abadia, Brian Asker, Christian Estevez, Jessica Fillhaber, Jordan Gallas, Stefan Hogle, Shannon Johnson, Kiera Kadri, Jesse Lively, Nicholas Lively, Adam Pere, Aleks Poirier, Maxwell Poirier, Mitchell Poirier,

Faren Silverman, Philip Stumpf, Neil Zimmerman, Erin Brannen, Katherine Brattebo, Taylor Celedinas, Lyndsay Daubert, Elizabeth Doane, Michelle Hardin, Adam Hollander, Summer Lubart, Connor Melnyk, Amanda Pekar, Jessica Olsen, Joshua Howard, Michael Moroz, Jenna Harris, Ashley Newman, Weston Newman, Rebecca Brazeale, Jeralyn Westercamp, Katelyn Benton, Jonathan Bertsch, Kyle Felzien, Heather Layher, Josh Layher, Jacob Levi, Daniel Revard, Shelby Roth, Kathryn Vincent, Lyndsey Vincent, Megan Breeding, Shawn Bybee, Ida Fischer, Hosanna Kabakoro, Mary Jordan Langfield, Elizabeth Middleton, Justin Novacek, Anna Sandven, Ryan Seastrom, Rebecca Seward, Candace Trautwein, Alexander Hawkins, Erica Newell, Melanie Spung, David Cieply, Emily Carlile, Alex Cain, Joshua Chudy, Lisa Huber, Jadhken Kerr, Jadhon Kerr, Rachel Battershaw, Annie Burke, Dakota Hauserman, Rachel Matthew, Denver Shipman, Scott Shipman, Emilee Whitesell, Mari Reeves, Tyler Wilcox, Brandi Thomas, Christopher Camillucci, Niels Steadman, Todd Sharpe, Kristen Barnett, Cassandra Dalrymple, Joanna Guy, Henry Zheng, Joseph Jendrusina, Veronica Kirin, Jenna Bjorke, Alexander Mace, Ashley Mace, Ami Mehta, Emma Frey, Kelsey Abele, Elizabeth Lewis, Tyler Camp, Daniel Clark, Cory Gargus, Chelsi Smith, Justin Armstrong, Mattie Carter, Ashley Cooper, Derek Lair, Steven Elliott, Alston Harris, Eleanor Hoppe, Sarah Smith, Colin Sorensen, Katherine Aronoff, Summer Brecht, Elizabeth Cubbage, Jordan Phifer, Eric Stump, Katie Stump, Rebecca Wentzel, Steven Zipparo, Gabrielle Giaquinto, Madeline Giaquinto, Sonam Shah, Nicholas Stango, John Voorhees, Samantha Albala, Patrick Chevalier, Robert Dorfman, Adam Gross, Megan Arguell, Alexandra Garney, Megan Partridge, Nevin Raj, Neal Bakshi, Elizabeth Bogdon, Sean Lu, Tina Shiang, Rebecca Wu, Christina Borovilas, Mary-Katherine Rose, Sujay Tyle, Nandini Srinivasan, Michael Cox, Mike Eklund, Teor Khuon, Du Luong, Phong Ma, Quyen Ma, Nhan Nguyen, Tevorith Srong, Srun Chhang, Le Long, Phanit Nhem, Mi Ta, Camlung Ung, Kyle Zhu, Jazmin Richardson, Vinay Trivedi, Cuiping Chen, Cuiyu Chen, Jillian Comer, Elizabeth Donahoe, Jacob Feldman, Julie Ann Haldeman, Brittany Love, James McDonald, Julia Melin, Victoria Patchell, Marta Piotrowicz, Julia Powers, Jocelyn Simons, Michelle Wojciechowicz, Tyler Zimmerman, Stephanie Bernasconi, Luis Gutierrez, Joaquin Mondragon, Amin Ruiz, Brian Elgort, Ryan Kane, Kent Willis, Michele Felberg, Christina Noblett, Amanda Vining, John Bradshaw, Collin Evans, Christine Folger, Britt Brandon, Sarah Gresser, Alicia Hanson, Jonathan Hanson, McKenna Rankin, Marshall Christopher, Karen Pickens, Cassandra Tuten, Mark Van Wagenen, Jenessa Barch, Faith Jones, Amanda O'Malley, Katherine Shannon, George Smith III, Dana Matthews, Blythe Hall, Devin Hall, Kaitlin Smith, Jacqueline Bedsaul, Taryn Bierhuizen, Courtney Owens, Patrick Crow, Matthew Cutler, Sam Pauken, Stephanie Redfern, Jennifer Baltas, Alexander Grigg, Emily Green, David Ramish, Nicolo Mendolia, Alexander Chin, Chelsea Green, Ryan Pyke, Leanne Paulsen, Lauren Below, James Hilgendorf, Paul Isaac Picklesimer, John Tate Bauman, Nicole Clikeman, Beth Cochran, Alex Coolidge, Kali Gentleman, Jessica Griffith, Keegan Hall,

Taylor Hanzlik, Ian Kline, Edward Lynch, Michael Aaron Meier, Stephanie Meisner, Christina Nielsen, Betsy Plemons, Christopher Plemons, Kurt B. Rangitsch, Sara Rangitsch, Katrina Sauter, Katherine Stewart, Lara Wilson.

HONORING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2009 FAIRFAX COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of this year's Fairfax County Human Rights Awards. Jeannie Cummins Eisenhower, Philip N. Reeves, Robert B. Worley, and the Communities of Faith United for Housing will be honored on July 2nd 2009 for their dedication and commitment to the community.

Each year, the Fairfax County Human Rights Commission presents the Human Rights Awards to individuals, nonprofits, and business who “demonstrate accomplishments in eliminating discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, age or disability in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations, private education and credit.”

Ms. Eisenhower is recognized for her commitment to working with members of the community with disabilities, opening opportunities to them and educating the public on their specific needs. Her distinguished work has aided persons with disabilities throughout Fairfax County and the D.C. area. Her accomplishments include working with the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority to ensure that it amend its universal design policy to accommodate those with special needs. Ms. Eisenhower is not only president of the board for the Coalition for Housing Opportunities in the Community for Everyone, but she also is director of development for RPJ Housing. She uses her positions to work tirelessly on behalf of disability groups to ensure accessible and affordable housing.

Philip N. Reeves is recognized for his work as a health services advocate, educator and author. After serving in the Air Force, he worked to develop the Leaders of Tomorrow program which works to eliminate discrimination in nursing and long term care methods.

Robert B. Worley is a deserving recipient for his dedicated work on behalf of people in need in Fairfax County and the D.C. area. A leader of the United Way's Fairfax County/Falls Church campaign, he has been an indispensable asset to and dedicated fundraiser for local and regional charities. Mr. Worley has also dedicated his time working with organizations like the YMCA and the American Heart Association, raising funds to help those in need.

This year, The Virginia Peters Fair Housing Award and the Human Rights Award are being given to the Communities of Faith United for Housing (CFUH). The CFUH is an advocacy network of faith communities and nonprofit organizations that are committed to increasing the amount of affordable housing in Fairfax County for low-income families and individuals. The CFUH is especially dedicated to providing long term housing to the homeless or

those who are dangerously close to becoming homeless. They have dedicated time to educating the public and elected officials on how to do more to provide low-income housing and have worked with the community and the county to create the Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. Their work has provided an invaluable service to the community.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring these individuals and their dedicated service to the community. Their commitment is deserving of not only the prestigious Human Rights Award, but of our respect and deep appreciation.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: JOHN R. CARTER

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: STAG

Requesting entity: City of Temple, TX

Address of Requesting Entity: 2 North Main Street, Suite 306, Temple, TX 76501

Description: \$500,000 was secured for a wastewater Interceptor that will enable the construction of approximately 9,000 feet of wastewater main line and 11,500 feet of wastewater interceptor. \$50,000 will be spent on a Preliminary Design, \$155,000 on the Final Design, \$10,000 to Bid & Award construction, \$1.7 million for construction, and \$85,000 for construction administration. The total price for this project is \$2 million. The requesting entity will provide the required funding match. Construction of this piece of utility infrastructure will benefit taxpayers by providing wastewater service to Industrial Park tenants. Wastewater services are critical to the services required for a growing economy.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2892) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. NADLER of New York. Madam Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 2892, the Homeland Security Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2010.

While the bill provides vitally necessary funds to secure our nation's safety, it also contains a troubling provision regarding people who are currently detained at the Guantanamo

Bay facility. This provision would prohibit the use of any funds in the bill to provide any immigration benefits to any Guantanamo detainee. Examples provided by the bill of such benefits include "a visa, admission into the United States, parole into the United States, or classification as a refugee or applicant for asylum." The language does include the proviso that nothing in this provision prohibits detainees from being brought into the United States for prosecution.

Now, I want to prosecute and punish anyone who has sought to harm the United States or is responsible for attacks on the United States and its people. But, we do not know that everyone in Guantanamo fits into this category. There are likely people still imprisoned at Guantanamo today who are there, not because they are a threat, but because our government can not figure out what to do with them. As you know, the Bush Administration already released many people from Guantanamo who were wrongly detained there and our courts have ordered the release of others who apparently were not linked to any terrorist organization and pose no threat to the United States. There were, and possibly still are, innocent people being detained by our government at Guantanamo Bay.

It is shameful for our country to deny a visa to an innocent person who we have determined is no threat to the United States, who the United States wrongly imprisoned for years, who may be prosecuted if returned to his own country, and who the United States may not be able to send to any other country. Frankly, if they are innocent of any crime and pose no threat to the United States, they should be allowed to come to the United States. In addition, I do not see how we can deny them asylum if we determine they have a legitimate fear of persecution if sent anywhere else.

Because the Homeland Security bill provides such critical funding to first responders all over the country, and especially to my city of New York, I can not justify voting against it. Funding for these services is desperately needed.

However, I want to warn my colleagues about the dangers of reflexively adding provisions to every appropriations bill that may end up further harming innocent people who were mistakenly imprisoned by our government. If you want to make a political point that you oppose terrorists, fine. But, you have to allow for the fact that until we know for sure that all of the people remaining at Guantanamo are terrorists, it is not right to punish everyone who is there just to make a political point. We have a moral obligation to do better.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2647) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense; to prescribe military personnel

strengths for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the fiscal year 2010 National Defense Authorization Act, and I want to thank my good friend Chairman SKELTON for his leadership in crafting an excellent bill.

This bill gives not only gives our service men and women the tools they need to keep our nation safe, but it also makes valuable investments in programs and projects that support our military families, increase oversight of our war efforts and further critical non-proliferation efforts. It recognizes the sacrifices made not only by our troops, but by their families as well, providing a 3.4 percent pay raise, expanded TRICARE coverage, and \$1.95 billion for military family housing. This measure will increase oversight and accountability by requiring the President to report on U.S. goals in Afghanistan and Pakistan and our redeployment from Iraq. It also adds \$2.5 billion to programs designed to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons, one of the most urgent threats the world faces today. Finally, the bill strengthens our nation's missile defense capabilities, by increasing funding for systems vital to protect against real threats while balancing technology development to face the needs of tomorrow.

I am particularly pleased with the steps taken in this bill to ensure that contractor waste, fraud and abuse is brought to an end and that we have an efficient and fair system for meeting critical defense needs. During the Armed Services Committee's mark-up, I offered an amendment, which was adopted by voice vote, to alter the OMB Circular A-76 process for determining which activities are inherently governmental functions and vital to our national defense. My amendment will ensure the A-76 process is fair for our government workforce and provide the Obama Administration a chance to address past failures of the A-76 process.

This legislation also addresses the need to enhance our military's cybersecurity capabilities. Cyberspace is a growing component of the modern battlefield, and we must ensure our forces are prepared for the wars of tomorrow. I applaud the efforts of the Secretary of Defense and the services to meet the growing threat of cyberattacks. I am concerned, however, that individuals with critical cyber skills are not making a career in the uniformed services. We need to do everything in our power to recruit and retain talented and experienced individuals, and that is why I offered an amendment during committee consideration that requires the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress a report assessing the challenges to retention and professional development of uniformed and civilian cyber operators. I am pleased that this requirement is now included in the bill before us today. This report will help define numbers of personnel, recruitment and retention incentives, policy impediments, and methods to improve interagency and academic outreach to individuals with critical cyber skills.

Finally, I also want to give praise to Secretary Gates, Chairman SKELTON and Chairwoman TAUSCHER for working with our military commanders to shape a budget that protects the U.S. and our allies from real ballistic missile threats. The bill provides \$9.3 billion for missile defense, supporting critical programs that are tested and operational and eliminating

unnecessary and unproven programs that waste taxpayer dollars.

The U.S. Intelligence Community estimates that the most significant ballistic missile threat to U.S. interests, deployed forces, and our allies comes from short- and medium-range ballistic missiles that represent 99% of the total number of ballistic missiles other than those held by the United States, NATO nations, Russia, and China. H.R. 2647 supports the President's request to increase funding by \$900 million for systems that counter this threat, such as the Aegis BMD system and the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system.

Looking forward, this bill also provides \$1 billion to support the requests of President Obama, Secretary Gates, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to support the development and operation of 30 Ground-based Midcourse Defense interceptors, designed to guard against future emerging threats. According to senior defense officials, these 30 interceptors are more than what is necessary to deal with any long-range threat from a rogue state in the near and mid-term. This will ensure our nation is able to face the threats of today and tomorrow.

Mr. Chair, this bill admirably balances critical national security needs with realistic budget considerations, and I am proud to support it. Again, I thank Chairman SKELTON for his leadership and urge my colleagues to vote for this important legislation.

**A TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF
THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SRO
HOUSING CORPORATION AND
THE GRAND OPENING OF ITS
NEW JAMES M. WOOD APART-
MENTS**

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize SRO Housing Corporation, a nonprofit, community-based organization dedicated to building a vibrant community for homeless and very low-income individuals in the Central City East community of Downtown Los Angeles in the 34th District, an area more commonly known as "Skid Row."

Skid Row is home to one of the largest populations of homeless persons in the nation. To address the needs of this vulnerable population, the late James M. Wood, who served as the Chairman of the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles, pursued a vision in the late 1970s to include in the revitalization of Downtown Los Angeles a plan to redevelop the Skid Row area and address its rampant homelessness.

In 1977 that plan began to take form as the City of Los Angeles adopted a redevelopment plan for the Downtown Los Angeles Central City East area to preserve and expand the single room occupancy hotels in the area. To acquire and rehabilitate the hotels, the Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Housing Corporation was founded in February 1984 by the Community Redevelopment Agency under the leadership of James Wood.

Through the development of thousands of affordable housing units, the SRO Housing

Corporation provides a full continuum of emergency, transitional, and permanent housing for Skid Row residents. This month's grand opening of the James Woods Apartments, at 408 E. 5th Street and 506 S. San Julian Street, is the most recent shining example of its successful efforts to develop clean, safe and affordable housing units. The project involved converting two decaying parking lots into a 5-story building containing 53 studio apartments with private bathrooms and kitchenettes.

The corporation also offers a wide array of supportive services for its clients, including food services, case management, transportation, support groups and referrals. Every week, SRO Housing serves nearly 4,000 meals in its emergency shelter and senior meal program as well as delivering over 8,000 pounds of food and fresh produce to all permanent-housing sites. This critical service ensures that very low-income individuals, who are attempting to sustain themselves on a fixed income, receive nutritious foods that would otherwise be absent from their diets. In addition, SRO Housing provides its residents with a way to regain basic living skills through classes in cooking, laundry, and money management.

The SRO Housing Corporation also works to build a sense of community belonging for its residents. It manages two public parks—the San Julian Park and Gladys Park—and operates the James Wood Community Center where area residents can socialize and have fun in safe, clean and public areas located in their own neighborhood.

With 25 years of experience, SRO Housing Corporation has a unique insight into the needs of the Skid Row community. More than 40 percent of its diverse and multi-cultural staff is made up of formerly homeless individuals, residents and community members whose history and life experiences are a source of inspiration to others.

Madam Speaker, on the occasion of SRO Housing Corporation's 25th Anniversary and the Grand Opening of its new James M. Wood Apartments, I join today with my congressional colleagues in recognizing all of the many dedicated people who make this fine organization the beacon of hope that it is today. I especially commend Anita Nelson who works day in and day out to keep James Wood's memory and mission alive as the corporation's Chief Executive Officer. I also pay tribute to the SRO Housing Corporation's community partners, supporters, invaluable volunteers, its entire staff and, most of all, the residents of the Skid Row community. Thousands of lives have been transformed and positively impacted through the wonderful work of SRO Housing Corporation and I wish everyone involved with this fine organization many more years of continued success.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, pursuant to Republican standards on disclosure for Member project requests, I am submitting the following information regarding a project I support for inclusion in H.R. 2996, the Department

of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Congressman PETER J. ROSKAM: H.R. 2996, Environmental Protection Agency, STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project account for the Tubeway Drive Storm Water Lift Station Rehabilitation Project in Carol Stream, Illinois. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Village of Carol Stream, 500 North Gary Avenue, Carol Stream, IL 60188. It is my understanding that the funding would be used to rehabilitate and replace a 35-year-old storm water lift station at the end of its useful life. The Tubeway Drive Storm Water Lift Station is showing signs of corrosion, and is in need of desperate repair to alleviate flooding in the village. Under this rehabilitation project, the lift station will be totally replaced with new more efficient pumps, valving, backup systems and structures. Replacing the station in a timely manner will ensure storm water flows are effectively managed, preventing flood damage losses. Carol Stream has demonstrated a good-faith cost share in the project, providing a 45% commitment of matching funds. Severe flooding has plagued the village in the last year. Rains in September 2008 submerged 50 homes and damaged 400. This was followed in December by more rain, melting snow, and another round of flooding. Even last week the Daily Herald reported on how Carol Stream has had to deal with "severe flooding in several areas." This timely funding will bring much-needed relief to my constituents.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the Fiscal Year 2010 National Defense Authorization bill.

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF MILLER

Project Name: AFSOC Injury Prevention and Human Performance Initiative

Account: RDAF

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Pittsburgh School of Health and Rehabilitative Services/Andrews Institute

Address of Requesting Entity: 1040 Gulf Breeze Parkway Gulf Breeze, FL 32561

Description of Request: \$1,000,000—AFSOC Injury Prevention and Human Performance Initiative, University of Pittsburgh School of Health and Rehabilitative Services/Andrews Institute. I requested these funds for an injury prevention and performance enhancement initiative that will achieve a critical doctrinal shift in human performance strategies in Air Force Special Operations. Phase 1 will include task and demand analyses to identify Air Force Special Operator-specific tasks during which injuries occur, mechanisms of injury, and the physiological requirements of training.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of Pittsburgh School of Health and the Andrews Institute located at 1040 Gulf Breeze Parkway Gulf Breeze, FL 32561. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I hereby certify that this request (1) is not directed to any entity or program named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2) is not intended for a "front" or "pass through" entity; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF MILLER

Project Name: Anti-Materiel Explosive Round for Javelin Block II

Account: RDA

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems, Niceville Operations

Address of Requesting Entity: 115 Hart Street Niceville, FL 32578

Description of Request: \$3,000,000—Anti-Materiel Explosive Round for Javelin Block II, General Dynamics. I requested these funds to provide the warfighter with a significant improvement in lethality against Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) structures. The funding will allow for a qualification program in FY 2010 and early fielding in FY 2012.

The entity to receive funding for this project is General Dynamics located at 115 Hart Street Niceville, FL 32578. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I hereby certify that this request (1) is not directed to any entity or program named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2) is not intended for a "front" or "pass through" entity; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF MILLER

Project Name: Coordinated Operation of Unmanned Vehicles for Littoral Defense

Account: RDN

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition

Address of Requesting Entity: 40 South Alcaniz Street, Pensacola, FL 32502

Description of Request: \$2,000,000—Coordinated Operation of Unmanned Vehicles for Littoral Defense, General Dynamics. I requested these funds to perform research to: develop a fully-functioning prototype of biologically inspired robotic concepts uniquely suited to the littoral environment; to develop and evaluate policies and metrics for optimal resource utilization and for effective configuration and control of hybrid teams of people and heterogeneous unmanned systems and to assure effective tasking of physically distributed humans and heterogeneous configurations of unmanned platforms to best support littoral operations.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition located at 40 South Alcaniz Street, Pensacola, FL 32502. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I hereby certify that this request (1) is not directed to any entity or program named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2) is not intended for a "front" or "pass through" entity; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF MILLER

Project Name: Eglin Air Force Base Range Operations Control Center (ROCC)

Account: RDAF

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Cubic Corporation

Address of Requesting Entity: 1225 South Clark Street, Suite 702 Arlington, VA 22202

Description of Request: \$3,000,000—Eglin Air Force Base Range Operations Control Center (ROCC), Cubic Corporation. I requested these funds to address the increased testing and evaluation at Eglin AFB, the 46th Test Wing Super ROCC initiative is a phased effort involving development, procurement and military construction (MILCON) funding to meet the future need in the 2015–2020 timeframe. This project provides more effective control to better optimize range scheduling and increases flexibility in meeting the Eglin AFB test and training missions. By knowing the locations of all entities on the range, the Super ROCC will have great flexibility in reassigning missions to ground and air space previously not being used.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Cubic Corporation located at 1225 South Clark Street, Suite 702 Arlington, VA 22202. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I hereby certify that this request (1) is not directed to any entity or program named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2) is not intended for a "front" or "pass through" entity; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF MILLER

Project Name: Flight Test Operations Facility (413 FLTS)

Account: MCAF

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Hurlburt Air Force Base

Address of Requesting Entity: Hurlburt Air Force Base

Description of Request: \$9,400,000—Flight Test Operations Facility (413 FLTS), Hurlburt Air Force Base. I requested these funds to a construct a facility to conduct developmental and qualification testing of aircraft. A modern facility is necessary to ensure mission success, minimize acquisition costs and fielding delays. Functional areas include administration, operations and special purpose areas including open storage area with SIPRNET, workshop/maintenance area with compressed air, a hoist system and an electrical system capable of providing multi-phase power and covered outside storage.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Hurlburt Air Force Base located at Hurlburt AFB, Florida. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I hereby certify that this request (1) is not directed to any entity or program named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2) is not intended for a "front" or "pass through" entity; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF MILLER

Project Name: Gulf Range Mobile Instrumentation Capability

Account: RDDW

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Prologic
Address of Requesting Entity: 9400 Innovation Drive Manassas, VA 20110

Description of Request: \$3,000,000—Gulf Range Mobile Instrumentation Capability, Prologic. I requested these funds for Gulf Range Mobile Instrumentation Capability for the 46th Range Group (46 RANG. The 46th Range Group (46 RANG) has a need for a capability for remote test, collection, storage and relay of various data types. This capability can be accomplished with a Gulf Range Mobile Instrumentation Capability (GR-MIC). The GR-MIC is needed to support test events on the Eglin AFB range which occur over large geographic areas (land and sea based).

The entity to receive funding for this project is Prologic located at 9400 Innovation Drive Manassas, VA 20110. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I hereby certify that this request (1) is not directed to any entity or program named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2) is not intended for a "front" or "pass through" entity; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF MILLER

Project Name: Intelligence Broadcast Receiver (IBR) for AFSOC MC 130 Aircraft

Account: PDW

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: DRS Technologies

Address of Requesting Entity: 651 Anchors St., Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

Description of Request: \$2,500,000—Intelligence Broadcast Receiver (IBR) for AFSOC MC-130 Aircraft, DRS Technologies. I requested these funds to procure equipment that provides Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) MC-130 Combat Shadow aircraft with vastly improved situational awareness in high threat arenas. These aircraft provide clandestine or low visibility, low level missions into denied areas to provide support to small SOF ground teams as well as to provide air refueling for specialized infiltration aircraft. This equipment provides real time information to include; immediate intelligence, Blue Force tracking (friendly units), and survivor information, greatly improving mission success and survivability.

The entity to receive funding for this project is DRS Technologies located at 651 Anchors St., Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I hereby certify that this request (1) is not directed to any entity or program named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2) is not intended for a "front" or "pass through" entity; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF MILLER

Project Name: Joint Gulf Complex Test and Training

Account: RDDW

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Boeing
Address of Requesting Entity: 634 Anchors St NW Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

Description of Request: \$3,000,000—Joint Gulf Complex Test and Training, Boeing. I requested these funds to provide critical training

and mission rehearsal for Iraq and Afghanistan deployments. The range must accommodate requirements for joint testing of weapons systems that are revolutionary in nature and being developed for the War on Terrorism. The Joint Gulf Range must accommodate critical joint training requirements specifically in support of U.S. Air Force Special Operations Command and U.S. Special Operations Command.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Boeing located at 634 Anchors St NW Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I hereby certify that this request (1) is not directed to any entity or program named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2) is not intended for a "front" or "pass through" entity; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF MILLER

Project Name: LAIRCM for AFSOC MC-130
Account: PDW

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: L-3 Crestview

Address of Requesting Entity: 5486 Fairchild Road Crestview, FL 32539

Description of Request: \$4,000,000—LAIRCM for AFSOC MC-130, L-3. I requested these funds for enhanced protection of AFSOC's C-130 aircraft operating in combat conditions where man-portable infrared missiles are present. Current countermeasures, during critical phases of their mission, have marginal effectiveness. This is needed to protect lives and assets in current and future missions in the Global War on Terror.

The entity to receive funding for this project is L-3 located at 5486 Fairchild Road Crestview, FL 32539. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I hereby certify that this request (1) is not directed to any entity or program named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2) is not intended for a "front" or "pass through" entity; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF MILLER

Project Name: Mobile Learning Cultural Training for Military Personnel

Account: OMN

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of West Florida

Address of Requesting Entity: 11000 University Parkway Pensacola, FL 32514

Description of Request: \$1,500,000—Mobile Learning Cultural Training for Military Personnel, University of West Florida. I requested these funds to provide regional cultural awareness training through multiple mobile devices and through the Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) portal. Cultural awareness and language skills are critical for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. This project builds on previous projects by the University of West Florida on mobile learning instructional delivery and on an Arabic Language and Cultural Awareness for-credit certificate program.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of West Florida located at

11000 University Parkway Pensacola, FL 32514. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I hereby certify that this request (1) is not directed to any entity or program named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2) is not intended for a "front" or "pass through" entity; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF MILLER

Project Name: Moving Target Strike

Account: RDAF

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: General Atomics/Alpha Data Corporation

Address of Requesting Entity: 1326 Lewis Turner Blvd Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

Description of Request: \$3,000,000—Moving Target Strike, General Atomics/Alpha Data Corporation. I requested these funds for GPS-guided weapons systems. The project will demonstrate the ability to strike a time-critical moving target with a low cost GPS guided weapon using coordinates derived and communicated from a single platform. GPS guided weapons are replacing higher cost laser guided and seeker weapons throughout DoD. The ability to use the GPS guided weapons against moving targets furthers this trend and reduces overall costs of weapon systems.

The entity to receive funding for this project is General Atomics/Alpha Data Corporation located at 1326 Lewis Turner Blvd Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I hereby certify that this request (1) is not directed to any entity or program named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2) is not intended for a "front" or "pass through" entity; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF MILLER

Project Name: Virtual Perimeter Monitoring System (VPMS)

Account: RDDW

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: DRS Technologies

Address of Requesting Entity: 651 Anchors St., Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

Description of Request: \$2,000,000—Virtual Perimeter Monitoring System (VPMS), DRS Technologies. I requested these funds to provide a perimeter monitoring system of remote sensors for detecting and alerting security personnel of intrusions in defined areas of interest at critical facilities. Virtual Perimeter Monitoring System (VPMS) provides continuous and persistent surveillance of areas of interest to include near real time monitoring of air fields, ports, depots and other critical infrastructures.

The entity to receive funding for this project is DRS Technologies located at 651 Anchors St., Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I hereby certify that this request (1) is not directed to any entity or program named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2) is not intended for a "front" or "pass through" entity; and (3) meets or exceeds all

statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2647) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Chair, as we consider H.R. 2647, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, I would like to say a special thanks to Chairman SKELTON and Ranking Member MCKEON—as well as to subcommittee Chairman ABERCROMBIE and Ranking Member BARTLETT—for their tireless efforts in support of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who are bravely defending us at home and abroad.

While not a perfect bill, this legislation covers a wide scope of issues that are vitally important to our Armed Services, both active and reserve component, and it clearly addresses the most pressing needs of our troops in a very trying time for America. A 3.4% pay raise for all members of the Armed Forces will further reduce the military-civilian pay disparity. I am very pleased with the work the Committee has done this year to authorize \$368 million for the advance procurement of long-lead supplies needed to build 12 additional F-22's in 2011. The F-22 is the world's most capable fighter, and these funds will go a long way towards providing stability for our forces and ensuring that America maintains air dominance for the foreseeable future.

While I applaud the work of the Committee in addressing pressing readiness issues, I am however concerned about the deep cuts to missile defense. A viable missile defense system is critical to deterring and countering emerging threats to our national security—especially as Iran and North Korea develop their nuclear capabilities. I look forward to working with Chairman SKELTON, Ranking Member MCKEON, and the rest of the Committee as this bill moves forward to address these program needs.

While there is much to be proud of in this bill, I am disappointed that the Rules Committee failed to make any of my four amendments in order. These were commonsense amendments, Mr. Chair, that would make the Department of Defense (DoD) more effective in carrying out its mission.

The first amendment I offered to this bill would have ensured that no detainees at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility are transported to the United States. The American people have spoken on this issue with 55% of them opposed to allowing terrorists to be transported to American soil. Further, a June 12, 2009 letter from the Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons to my colleague, Trent Franks, stated that "there is insufficient bed space in any high-security Federal prison to

confine these individuals. In addition, there are currently no beds available in our Administrative Maximum United States Penitentiary in Florence, Colorado, to confine any more Federal inmates, let alone any of the Guantanamo Bay detainees. If called upon to confine any of these detainees, we would most likely confine them in ADX Florence and in one or more high-security penitentiaries. Depending on the numbers, this might require us to transfer a sufficient number of inmates to other penitentiaries in order to create the necessary bed space. Such transfers would impose significant additional challenges on our agency." Clearly the transfer of these detainees to anywhere in America is dangerous and must be prohibited.

My second amendment would express the sense of Congress that active military personnel who live in or are stationed in Washington, DC, would be exempt from the District's firearms restrictions. On June 26, 2008, the Supreme Court of the United States in the case, *District of Columbia v. Heller*, held that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to possess a firearm for traditionally lawful purposes, and thus, ruled that the District of Columbia's handgun ban and requirements that rifles and shotguns in the home be kept unloaded and disassembled or outfitted with a trigger lock to be unconstitutional. However, the D.C. City Council has circumvented the Supreme Court ruling by enacting the Firearms Control Emergency Amendment Act of 2008, making a waiver necessary to ensure that our military men and women—of which there are 40,000 in Washington and who have been trained in firearm use—are permitted to safely carry a firearm in the District.

A further amendment would prohibit DoD civilian employees from using official paid work time for union activities, ensuring that American taxpayers are not subsidizing labor organizations. DoD was one of the largest abusers of using "official time" for union activity. Its total number of official time hours in FY 2008 was 331,099 (a 5.1% increase from FY 2007). OPM estimated the official time wage cost for the DoD was \$12,141,699 for FY 2008, which is an \$855,694 increase from FY 2007. This is just one example of union activity being subsidized by taxpayer dollars on official time.

My final amendment would have provided the Secretary of Defense with a waiver from section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 regarding the procurement of alternative fuels if the Secretary feels that a waiver is appropriate to enhance the readiness of the Armed Forces. Section 526 prohibits all federal agencies from contracting for alternative fuels that emit higher levels of greenhouse gas emissions than "conventional petroleum sources." DoD accounts for over 80% of all federal government fuel usage, and its annual fuel expense more than doubled between 2003 and 2007—from \$5.2 billion to \$12.6 billion. The Secretary of Defense needs a waiver from section 526 so that DoD's fuel costs can be kept low.

Mr. Chair, there is much to be proud of in this bill. I again commend Chairman SKELTON and Ranking Member MCKEON for their efforts to keep this bill focused on the needs of the war-fighter, a fact that I hope is not lost as we progress through the amendment process.

CELEBRATING FISH AND LOAVES COMMUNITY PANTRY'S MIL- LIONTH POUND SERVED

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge, honor, and celebrate the Fish and Loaves Community Pantry for serving its one millionth pound of food to people in need from across the Downriver area. Since its opening in 2007, Fish and Loaves continues to collaborate with churches, food banks, and hundreds of volunteers to provide cost-free, quality groceries to thousands of families and individuals.

Tough economic times have made acquiring even basic necessities difficult for many residents of Southeastern Michigan. Many of the people that Fish and Loaves serve are below the poverty line, lack medical coverage, and struggle to pay for essential services.

The organizers of the Fish and Loaves Community Pantry recognized this and, in response, churches and volunteers joined together in remarkable collaboration to construct a special kind of food pantry. The facility, located in Taylor, is arranged as a small grocery store in which individuals may select the items they need most, which include quality products like fresh produce, dairy products, frozen meat, and perishable items. Of course, everything is still provided at no cost to the client. The pantry serves the residents of Taylor, Romulus, Allen Park, Southgate, Dearborn Heights, and Brownstown.

Fish and Loaves provides assistance to those in need with both efficiency and dignity by providing a wide variety of foods and household products from which to choose. The hard work and dedication of the Board and volunteers is the source of its great success and support it gives to the thousands of individuals and families it helps to feed.

Madam Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in honoring the Fish and Loaves Community Food Pantry on its millionth pound of food served. It is an exemplary organization that continues to be an invaluable member of the Southeastern Michigan community and for which I, and thousands others, are truly grateful.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman BRIAN BILBRAY

Bill Number: H.R. 2996—Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Account: Environmental Protection Agency, State Tribal Assistance Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Carlsbad, CA

Address: 1200 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad, CA 92008

Description of Request: I received an earmark of \$500,000 for the Vista-Carlsbad Inter-

ceptor project (VC4), consisting of wastewater pipeline improvements project, including the construction of a new 24-inch HDPE forcemain, the trenchless rehabilitation (lining) of the existing 24-inch forcemain and refurbishment of pipeline appurtenances. VC4 is one of a number of joint wastewater projects between the cities of Vista and Carlsbad. VC4 is one of two pipelines that convey all of the wastewater from the City of Vista to the Encina regional wastewater treatment facility. In April 2007, the 24-inch ductile iron pipeline ruptured creating a significant sewage spill into the Buena Vista Lagoon. The 2,400 foot long 24-inch diameter pipeline receives flow from the cities of Carlsbad, Oceanside and Vista. This is the only year of funding needed to complete this aspect of the project. The cities of Carlsbad and Vista will provide the remaining funds required for the project directly.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, in accordance with House Republican Conference standards, and Clause 9 of rule XXI, I submit the following member requests regarding H.R. 2647, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2010.

Project: Air Filtrations Systems for Helicopters

Account: Department of Defense, Army, Aircraft Modifications

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Aerospace Filtration Systems, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 4 Research Park Dr, Suite 200, St Charles, MO, USA

Description of Request: To provide \$2,000,000 to install barrier filtration systems on National Guard aircraft. This request would allow the National Guard to obtain dramatic savings by reducing engine replacements and thus maintenance, keeping overall engine performance from being reduced due to erosion and Foreign Object damage (FOD), and increasing readiness rates of the ARNG fleet. The earmark will address a portion of the ARNG fleet to include: AH-64A APU Barrier Filter—32 Aircraft; AH-64D APU Barrier Filter—48 Aircraft; CH-47 APU Barrier Filter—80 Aircraft; OH-58A/C Engine Barrier Filter—50 Aircraft. AFS Barrier Filtration Systems capture 99% of the dirt and debris that would otherwise enter the engine or APU and cause a significant loss of performance. This prevents engines/APU's from being removed from the aircraft for costly maintenance or overhaul. Engine overhaul costs could cost as much as \$300,000 on one engine. By extending the life of the engine/APU up to 11 times, the savings from one installation kit could be as high as \$6.6M on one AH-64 helicopter alone. AFS barrier filters in use by the U.S. Army in the deserts of Iraq and Afghanistan have been proven extremely effective. These kits have allowed engines to reach TBO and have been a major part of unprecedented readiness rates for the aircraft fleets.

Project: Hyperspectral Imaging for Improved Force Protection (HYPER-IFP)

Account: Department of Defense, Army, RDT&E (CERDEC, NVESD, Special Projects)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Clean Earth Technologies, LLC.

Address of Requesting Entity: 13378 Lakefront Drive, Earth City, MO, USA

Description of Request: To provide \$5,400,000 for the Hyper-IFP (Hyper spectral Sensor for Improved Force Protection) Program. The introduction of a Hyper-IFP in FY08 is allowing the detection and recognition of humans (with a near zero false alarm rate) and providing indication of other certain physiological triggers that can indicate that a person is under extreme stress such as contemplating "bad" behavior. To date successful development, test and evaluation has been done in the lab, though these systems have not been fully optimized for theatre operation or for costs. The continued funding of Hyper-IFP will operationalize and integrate the knowledge gain in the lab and apply it in a true-fielded application at an affordable cost. The Hyper-IFP system will also be environmentally hardened to allow field deployment and allow integration w/other FP sensors in the last quarter of 2009. Hyper-IFP is focused on the missions of Perimeter Security, Suicide Bomb Detection and Urban Route Recon. Utility will be demonstrated through an evaluation in both the Southwest border and contingency mission in Southwest Asia. This effort will require leveraging the current Force Protection sensor suite designs for the missions cited to maintain interoperability. In the end, this request focuses on both achieving data verification, and the delivery of sufficient hardware to validate the Technical Data package for re-procurement as well as demonstrate the system's ability to deploy to DoD/DHS users for the missions described. The Night Vision Electronic Sensors Directorate, Ft. Belvoir, Virginia, is very supportive of this project.

Project: Backpack Medical Oxygen System (BMOS)

Account: Department of Defense, Air Force, RDT&E

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Essex Cryogenics of Missouri Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 8007 Chivvis Drive, St. Louis, MO 63123-2395

Description of Request: To provide \$2,900,000 for improving Air Force oxygen generation technology for emergency field medical rescues. With modification, the Backpack Medical Oxygen System (BMOS) is the system that satisfies the USAF Requirement for a small deployable oxygen generator system. This spiral development program for the BMOS system will significantly decrease the time and funds required to field critical capabilities needed today by our warfighters. The U.S. Air Force requirement for oxygen is a minimum of 93% pure oxygen at 6 liters per minute for critically injured personnel and the BMOS satisfies that requirement.

Project: High Power Electrolytic Super-Capacitors Based on Conducting Polymers

Account: Department of Defense, Army, RDT&E, Weapons and Munitions Technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Crosslink, Inc

Address of Requesting Entity: 950 Bolger Court, St. Louis, MO 63026

Description of Request: To provide \$9,000,000 for the development of State of the art electrolytic supercapacitors for the purpose of supplying Non-Line-of-Sight (NLOS) weapons, which are dubbed the "Objective Force Weapons," with quick discharging/recharging

energy storage systems that are capable of high power pulses, on the order of megawatts, to be delivered in the hundreds of microseconds to one millisecond time range to make these weapons successful. Approximately 21% of the funds will be used for salaries for four (4) employees, 43% for equipment and materials, and 36% for indirect costs associated with completing the project. This project has received past funding of \$2.6 million in FY'07, \$2.4 million in FY'08, and \$800,000 in FY'09. Crosslink, University of Missouri-St. Louis, University of Missouri-Rolla and University of Florida have collaborated to develop new polyaniline and PXDOT (poly(3,4-Alkylenedioxythiophene—Conjugated electro-active polymers). The results of this collaboration will be the development of devices capable of power delivery rates significantly faster than standard supercapacitors.

Project: Aircrew Body Armor and Load Carriage Vest System

Account: Other Procurement—U.S. Air Force

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Eagle Industries

Address of Requesting Entity: 1000 Biltmore Drive, Fenton, MO 63026

Description of Request: To provide \$9,000,000 to issue the Aircrew Body Armor Load Carriage Vest System, an integrated body armor vest system, to aircrew personnel. The system provides fire retardancy and ballistics protection from a wide array of threats including small arms fire, fragmenting shrapnel and spall, while decreasing the heat stress and weight burdens faced by airmen. Currently issued aircrew flight equipment survival vests are not body armor-compatible due to weight, heat, and survivability concerns. Current issue is not fire retardant and fails to meet the present needs of the U.S. Air Force. Of the \$9 million, approximately 25% is for materials; 25% is for labor; and 50% is for armor and armor integration.

This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the U.S. Air Force—Other Procurement account. If funded in full, this is a one-time funding request with the goal of the Air Force using internally budgeted funding to continue fielding the system to aircrew personnel.

Project: Mission Equipment Technology Implementation (METI)

Account: Department of Defense, Army, RDT&E

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: QinetiQ North America (Formerly Westar Aerospace and Defense Group)

Address of Requesting Entity: 36 Research Park Ct., St. Charles, MO 63304, USA

Description of Request: To provide \$5,300,000 for funding to complete the METI plan initiated by the Aeromechanics division 3 years ago. This funding will complete the development of a robust enterprise level data repository that supports the Aviation Engineering Directorate's (AED) airworthiness release mission to rapidly develop and deploy mission equipment tools. The AED will have the capability to data mine and analyze complex data to determine trend information to reduce high cycle times between flight tests and airworthiness releases.

Project: Bonded Cellular Aluminum Tail Rotor Blades

Account: Department of Defense, Army, RDT&E

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Kemco Aerospace Manufacturing

Address of Requesting Entity: 3616 Scarlet Oak Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63122

Description of Request: To provide \$3,600,000 for bonded cellular aluminum helicopter tail rotor blades that are well suited for military helicopter structures which operate in demanding environmental conditions and must be battle damage tolerant. Unlike traditional aluminum honeycomb, the vented/drainable cellular bonded structure redistributes load paths around damaged areas and has eliminated corrosion problems associated with traditional aluminum honeycomb structures; dramatically improving life cycle costs. This technology offers significant advantages compared with current structural technologies that were designed over 30 years ago, including 82% reduced parts count, elimination of skin delamination, significantly enhanced battle damage tolerance and field reparability benefits. The tongue and groove joint structures reduce the amount of touch labor required as well as tooling costs. This has the potential to reduce procurement costs by 20–30%.

Project: Adaptive-Defense HIPPIE (High-speed Internet Protocol Packet Inspection Engine) on a Chip.

Account: Department of Defense, Army, RDT&E

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: TechGuard Security, LLC

Address of Requesting Entity: 743 Spirit 40 Park Drive, Chesterfield, MO 63005

Description of Request: Provide \$6,000,000 to enhance the Army's Cyber Security. This project puts the rapid and power-conserving High-speed Internet Protocol Packet Inspection Engine's (HIPPIE) security capability on a silicon chip. This funding will allow for development of a Nano-power supply and a nano-memory capability. It will enhance the coalition warrior and the US Warfighter's communication security and access control through discreet deployment with secure remote-controlled chip-level destruction in the event a device is compromised. This enhanced capability at the chip-level allows for deployment directly into the hands of the warfighter engaged in traditional and irregular warfare.

Project: JSOW—ER

Account: Department of Defense, Navy, RDT&E

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: LaBarge Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 9900 Clayton Road, St. Louis, MO 63124

Description of Request: Provide \$6,500,000 for Joint Stand Off Weapon (JSOW) a GPS-guided air-to-ground weapon designed to attack a variety of targets in day, night and adverse weather conditions. The 70+ mile range of JSOW allows launch aircraft to stand off beyond the range of most Surface-to-Air missiles. There is a need for a small number of weapons with greater stand off. Currently the Navy fills this requirement with SLAM—ER, Harpoon and Tomahawk. The Navy completed its relatively small buy of fewer than 500 SLAM—ERs in 2004. A new variant of JSOW (JSOW—ER Block IV) would have a range and lethal capability equal to or greater than SLAM—ER and would satisfy the warfighter's need at less than half the cost of SLAM—ER. An existing engine from the Miniature Air-Launched Decoy program will be used to extend the range of JSOW—ER to more than four times of the current glide version.

RECOGNIZING GABRIEL PEREZ

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, Gabriel Perez, the Director of the Saginaw Michigan Aleda E. Lutz Veterans Affairs Medical Center, has been appointed as the new Health System Administrator/Medical Center Director of the Veterans Affairs HealthCare System in Phoenix, Arizona. He will start his new position on July 19, 2009.

Mr. Perez graduated from Loyola University in 1968, attended the University of California at Los Angeles Law School and obtained his Master's Degree in Public and Health Care Administration from the University of Southern California. Prior to his work with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Perez spent several years working for the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services and teaching courses at the university level in medical legal law and personnel.

Prior to becoming the Director of the Lutz Veterans Affairs Medical Center in 2000, Mr. Perez was the Chief Operating Officer and Acting Director of the Honolulu VA Medical and Regional Office Center. Since assuming his duties in Saginaw, he led the facility to improve its overall performance and move to a top ten spot among Department of Veterans Affairs facilities nationwide, ranking 3rd in the nation for its hospital grouping. From October 2005 to August 2006 he also served as Acting Director of the Veterans Affairs Ann Arbor Healthcare System.

Patient care and safety has been his primary concern and his practices have earned him the respect of his peers. The delivery efficiencies he developed have been adopted nationwide and have won awards for improving VeteranCare delivery. He is a member of several professional organizations and community groups. His work with veterans, Hispanics, workers and children has been recognized numerous times and he is a regular participant in efforts to promote veterans and Hispanics at the local and national levels.

Madam Speaker, Gabriel Perez has brought insight and innovation to the day-to-day operations of the Lutz Veterans Affairs Medical Center over the past 9 years. He has worked to enhance the health and well-being of veterans, improve service to veterans, and expand accessibility for all veterans. I congratulate him on his new position and wish him the best as he enters this new phase of his life.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding the earmark I secured as part of H.R. 2996, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

My request, totaling \$280,000, will come from the Surveys, Investigations & Research

account at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for the Groundwater and Stormwater Protection program in McHenry County, Illinois. The funding would be used to accelerate work on studies associated with the implementation of McHenry County's Groundwater Protection Program. McHenry County is continuing to experience rapid population growth and there is a critical need to plan for the future. The county's program is working to address the protection of groundwater resources, stormwater drainage and detention, stream and wetland protection, and sustainable growth all into a single program. Ongoing and future development poses serious challenges because of the reduction of the land's ability to absorb precipitation and the continuing pressure to develop flood prone areas. The McHenry County government has already invested over \$615,000 of local resources in studying local groundwater resources and stormwater investigations. The local USGS entity to receive funding for this request is the Illinois Water Science Center at 1201 West University Avenue, Suite 100, in Urbana, Illinois 61801, who will work in partnership with McHenry County to implement this initiative.

Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Representative DAVID OBEY, and the Ranking Minority Member, Representative JERRY LEWIS, and the Chairman of the Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, Representative NORM DICKS, and the Ranking Minority Member, Representative MIKE SIMPSON, for working with me in a bipartisan manner to include this critical request in this spending bill.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding projects that are listed in H.R. 2996, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010:

Bill Number: H.R. 2996, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Account: National Park Service, Save America's Treasures, Title: Saylor Cement Kilns Historic Preservation, Legal Name of Requesting Entity: County of Lehigh, Address of Requesting Entity: 17 South 7th Street, Allentown, PA 18101, Description of Request: This funding will be used to stabilize and restore the historic Coplay Company Cement Kilns, known locally as the Saylor Cement Kilns, a unique industrial feature built between 1892 and 1893 that is key to the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor's industrial story. The Saylor Cement Kilns are in a state of serious decay, prompting concerns about public safety and liability, as well as the potential loss of a significant historical landmark in the Lehigh Valley region. Rehabilitating the kilns will have a positive impact on local economic development through increased heritage tourism. Once restored, the site will encourage use for historical education and community events.

Bill Number: H.R. 2996, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Account: EPA, STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project, Title: Vera Cruz Wastewater Collection System, Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Lehigh County Authority, Address of Requesting Entity: 1053 Spruce Street, P.O. Box 3348, Allentown, PA 18106, Description of Request: This funding will be used to build a wastewater collection system for the Vera Cruz area of Upper Milford Township. On-lot sewer disposal systems in the area are failing, causing environmental damage and public health concerns. The project will provide central sewer service to approximately 284 properties in the village of Vera Cruz and the surrounding area. Funds will be used for construction, engineering services and purchase of capacity in downstream transportation and treatment facilities.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the Fiscal Year 2010 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Bill: H.R. 2996, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Borough of Hopatcong located at 111 River Styx Road, Hopatcong, New Jersey 07843.

Description of Request: H.R. 2996 includes \$500,000 for the Borough of Hopatcong's Drinking Water Disinfection Improvement project to provide safe drinking water to the residents of the Borough. The funds will be used to install large diameter pipes at public community supply wells to improve the disinfection of the raw water before being distributed.

Bill: H.R. 2996, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Account: Land Acquisition (Fish and Wildlife Service)

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: The entity to receive funding for this project is the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge located at 241 Pleasant Plains Road, Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920.

Description of Request: H.R. 2996 includes \$750,000 for the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, a component of the Fish and Wildlife Service. The Great Swamp Refuge is located in Morris County, New Jersey, about 26 miles west of Manhattan's Times Square. The refuge was established by an act of Congress on November 3, 1960. The protection of this gem of wilderness in the heart of dense suburban development is one of the success stories of our National Wilderness Preservation System. The funding would be used to acquire an 18.31 acre parcel of land, known as the Great

Brook Property, adjacent to the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, which provides critical habitat for numerous rare species.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2647) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Chair, while I cannot support H.R. 2647, this legislation does contain important provisions regarding family and medical leave for military families.

Last session, Congress passed—also in a Defense Authorization bill—legislation to provide military families with up to 26 weeks of leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to care for injured servicemembers. I had introduced this bill in the House, and its provisions implement one of the recommendations of the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors, chaired by Secretary Donna Shalala and Senator Bob Dole.

Also included in the final legislation was an amendment introduced by Representative ALTMIRE (with then Representative UDALL) to provide up to 12 weeks of leave for military families who need this leave to deal with qualifying exigencies arising out of the deployment of a servicemember to Iraq or Afghanistan.

Once this legislation became law, and the Bush Department of Labor issued regulations, we realized that corrections needed to be made to these FMLA provisions to truly effectuate their purpose to assist military families when these families need time off from work. Section 585 of H.R. 2647 does just that; and clarifies:

That family members of certain seriously ill and injured veterans are entitled to the 26 weeks of leave; and

That the family members of regular active servicemembers (and not just reservists and members of the national guard) are entitled to 12 weeks of leave for "exigencies" when they are deployed away from home.

Finally, Section 585 provides that exigency leave will be available when a servicemember is to be deployed anywhere overseas and not just overseas in support of a contingency operation (e.g. Iraq or Afghanistan).

The FMLA is intended to help individuals balance their family and work obligations. Millions of working people are now eligible for unpaid job protected leave. When the Act was passed in 1993, it was a giant step and is of great importance to working families.

Since a majority of military spouses work, they too must balance work and family. They work to put food on the table and support their families. But they face additional challenges because their lives are disrupted by multiple deployments, involving not only reservists and members in the National Guard, but those servicemembers in regular active duty as well.

The conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have resulted in over 34,000 casualties with many servicemembers being seriously wounded. These injured warriors need substantial support and care from their families, often for long periods of time, and some permanently. In addition, a recent Pentagon study found that 11 percent of Iraq veterans and 20 percent of Afghanistan veterans suffer from post-traumatic stress syndrome, an often disabling condition.

The expansion of the FMLA to include leave for military families was much needed. The provisions of Section 585 in H.R. 2647 help clarify the original intent of the law.

SUPPORTING HEALTH REFORM

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, this past Sunday my colleague from Pennsylvania, ALLYSON SCHWARTZ, addressed the issue of health reform in a guest editorial for the Philadelphia Inquirer. In her piece she laid out an indisputable case for why the current healthcare system has become unacceptable for Americans and what we must do to fix it. I encourage all of my colleagues to read the article and to work in the coming months to ensure that we enact affordable, quality health care for all.

[From the Philadelphia Inquirer June 21, 2009]

OP-ED HEADLINE: FIXING HEALTH CARE

Health-care reform is the number-one issue my constituents raise with me, and a leading concern of business owners. For Democrats in Congress, health-care reform is a moral and an economic imperative.

American families are facing inadequate health coverage, mounting bills, and lack of access to care. They like their doctors and appreciate the quality of care provided by their hospitals. But, they have deep worries that their current coverage may change suddenly and limit access to their doctor or to needed benefits.

Business owners are struggling to pay for health benefits for their workers, forcing them to pass greater costs to employees or drop coverage.

Increasing costs for the federal government are neither sustainable, nor producing the health outcomes they should. Taxpayers pay 46 percent of our nation's \$2.5 trillion health-care costs. And, just as in the private market, costs are skyrocketing. The share of our GDP devoted to health-care spending has doubled in the last 20 years, threatening our budget stability.

The status quo is unacceptable and unsustainable. We must do a better job to contain costs for families, businesses, and the government, and to ensure meaningful, affordable coverage for all Americans.

Can we? I believe we can by keeping what works, fixing what doesn't, and demanding quality care and greater value for our dollar.

In the first three months of this new administration, we did more to strengthen health care than in the prior decade. We expanded affordable health coverage to 11 million American children, took major steps to modernize medicine through health-information technology, invested significantly in lifesaving medical research, and ensured that U.S. workers and their families hurt hardest by this recession continue to have access to health coverage when they lose a job.

Building on these achievements, we can find a uniquely American solution to cost, coverage, and quality. This is essential if our businesses are to be economically competitive, our people healthier, and our federal budget balanced.

Here's what we should do:

First and foremost, we start with the acknowledgment that health care is a shared responsibility. Every American will be expected to get health coverage and employers will have to provide coverage or help pay to cover the cost of the uninsured.

As President Obama has said, if you have coverage, and you like it, you can keep it. This means work-based coverage for most Americans, Medicare for seniors, Medicaid for our poorest and sickest, and continued benefits for veterans.

For the nearly 50 million uninsured Americans, many of whom are working families, we will help you buy either private or public coverage. While everyone will have to pay part of their premiums, partial subsidies on a sliding scale will be established and can be used to buy either private or public insurance.

To ensure affordable, meaningful coverage, we will change the ground rules in the insurance market. Denying coverage or charging more for preexisting conditions, health status, or sex is going to stop. Insurers will have to simplify terms and procedures. And, we expect insurers to pass those savings along to their consumers.

Next, we know that in order to control costs and improve health-care outcomes, delivery of health services must be more efficient, more accountable, and better coordinated. Changes in Medicare and the new public-insurance option will create choices for patients to find primary-care providers and will mean better continuity of care for those with chronic diseases. We will gather, analyze, and disseminate information on best practices to doctors, nurses, and health providers, and then expect them to use it. And, we must have a renewed focus on primary care, encouraging future health-care providers to enter the field and working to ensure their excellence.

Third, we have to strengthen our commitment to innovation and technology. Americans have always been scientists and innovators, and we must keep investing in the next generation of medicines, technologies, devices, and cures.

Finally, without increased personal responsibility, Americans will not be healthier. We must take greater responsibility in the way we get health care and the way we take care of ourselves. If we don't, we all pay the consequences—from lost productivity, to the cost of expensive care, to personal pain and suffering.

Setting our nation toward a healthier, more economically competitive future will take fair and responsible financial investment. We are committed to covering the cost of health reform. To do so, we will consider means that are appropriate, fair, shared, and the least disruptive to economic growth and financial security for our families. The president has asked that those making under \$250,000 not be burdened by higher taxes. These are the parameters; the decisions will be difficult, but ones that you have entrusted to us.

Much of the cost of health-care reform will come from savings within the system. Reducing hospitalizations, duplicative testing, and medical errors, ending the current overpayments to private insurance companies that contract with Medicare, and insisting on better prices for prescription drugs for seniors will result in hundreds of billions of dollars of savings.

Besides the significant dollars that will come from savings and new premiums paid

by those currently uninsured, stakeholders in health care, including insurance companies, hospitals, doctors, pharmaceutical companies, medical-device manufacturers, have committed to reducing costs by \$2 trillion over 10 years. These savings should be passed along to consumers.

There will always be naysayers who say these decisions are too hard, that health-care reform cannot be done, but I believe that today even "Harry and Louise," who helped stop reform before, would tell us reform is a necessity. If our businesses are to be economically competitive, our families healthier, and our government fiscally sound, we must find a uniquely American solution to our health-care challenges.

The time to act is now.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 425, I was present on the floor, but due to a malfunction, my vote was not recorded.

Due to insufficient time to consider the subject before us, adjournment was the most responsible alternative. Thus my vote below would be in the affirmative.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, the Fiscal Year 2010 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act:

Requesting Member: Congressman DAVID DREIER

Bill Number: H.R. 2996, the Fiscal Year 2010 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act

Account: EPA STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Arcadia, California

Address of Requesting Entity: 240 West Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91066

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$500,000 for the cities of Arcadia and Sierra Madre for their Joint Water Infrastructure Projects. Arcadia's project will provide for the portion of the construction cost for the Baldwin Reservoir Rehabilitation Project (\$250,000). This project will provide for structural reinforcement of the existing reinforced concrete reservoir to be able to withstand a seismic event as identified in the Corps Seismic Reliability Study in 1997. Sierra Madre's project will provide for the portion of the construction cost for its Water Supply Well Project (\$250,000). This project will replace an existing well with a new high capacity well to provide for groundwater supply reliability. Each

city will provide a 45% local match to the 55% EPA STAG funding, as required.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2647—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010:

Authorized Amount: \$4,800,000.00

Project Name: Tactical Metal Fabrication (TacFab)

Funding Account/Service: RDA, Army

PE Number: 0602601A, Combat Vehicle and Automotive Technology Line Number: 13
Intended Recipient: SeaBox Inc., 450 Black Horse Lane, No. Brunswick, NJ 08902

The TacFab system, which is currently under development, will demonstrate a tactically mobile rapid metal fabrication capability that will be a companion unit to the Mobile Parts Hospital to provide spare and replacement parts to our Warfighters in theater, and also as a stand-alone, metal casting resource provided to domestic organic Army depots and industrial facilities in support of RESET activities. This final increment for FY 2010 will result in a mobile, rapidly deployable asset, both in theater and within the U.S. in support of RESET operations. Once fully configured, the Army expects a 5x–10x reduction in delivery times for poured metal part base shapes using TacFab versus conventional procurement processes.

TacFab's containerized, mobile foundry to the U.S. Army allows deployed forces to produce spare and replacement parts in the field. This cuts the order time from weeks or months to 24 hours. Funding for this project will provide our troops with the parts they need to effectively complete their missions. Additionally, the system can be deployed at depots in CONUS assisting in RESET as currently exists. TacFab will reduce time waiting for parts and cut costs for DoD while ensuring our troops have the weapons they need as soon as they need them so they may effectively complete their missions.

IN HONOR OF DR. GOFF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding life-work of Dr. Lynda J. Goff. Dr. Goff has served with distinction as a Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of California, Santa Cruz for more than 30 years. Dr. Goff has decided to take the next step in her life, and is retiring from the University of California. While she will no longer be a faculty member, her legacy of outstanding dedication to California and the scientific community at large shall be persistent.

Dr. Goff is a devoted and truly inspiring biology teacher. In the tenure of over three dec-

ades, she has taught 10,000 university students, and has supervised the research of more than 100 graduate students. Her noteworthy achievements include teaching and researching molecular plant and marine biology on all seven continents. She has the honor of having significantly contributed to seven expeditions to Antarctica and twenty in the Arctic. Her exemplary teaching led her to serve in the distinguished role of Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education from 1999 to 2004, and subsequently as the first director of the "California Teach" program. Dr. Goff played a pivotal role in creating this program, established to increase the number of highly trained K–12 science and mathematics teachers in California—something our nation desperately needs. She dedicated herself wholeheartedly to ensure that California, and indeed our great Nation, increases its competitiveness in math and science in the 21st Century.

Professor Goff has received national and international recognition for her scientific research, much of which has centered on cell-cell and genome interaction in algae and the evolution of parasitism. Dr. Goff has been a solid pillar in the Monterey Bay community for years; not only as a distinguished professor, but also as an elementary science teacher, a naturalist and photographer. Her work embodies what California's central coast prides: experiencing the beauty of nature, seeking to understand the mysteries of our oceans' flora and fauna and giving back to the community to ensure our posterity's brighter future.

I would like to thank her for her meritorious service to California and commend her for her many accomplishments.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2874, Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Awarded under: COPS TECH GRANT, Kanawha Prosecutors Case Management, Kanawha County Prosecuting Attorney, 700 Washington Street, East Charleston, WV 25301.

This project would allow for the cost of implementation of the case management system, integration of the system with law enforcement and hardware needed for both systems.

Awarded under: COPS TECH GRANT, Spencer PD Computer System, Spencer Police Department, 116 Court St., Spencer, WV 25276.

Funding will be used to purchase a computer system for processing criminals and case management.

Awarded under: COPS TECH GRANT, Weston Police Department Technology Upgrade, Weston Police Department, 102 West 2nd Street, Weston, WV 26452.

Funding would help establish a computer network in all police vehicles that is networked with the 911 center and the Weston Police Department and surrounding counties.

Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am

submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996 Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Awarded under: U.S. Forest Service Land Acquisition, Nature Conservancy—Monongahela National Forest, U.S. Forest Service, 200 Sycamore Street, Elkins, WV 26241.

Funds would go towards the acquisition 1,210 acres within the Monongahela National Forest.

Awarded under: Save America's Treasures, Claymont Court Claymont, Society for Continuous Education, 667 Huyett Road, Charles Town, WV 25414.

This funding will go to underwrite initial phases for restoration of Claymont Court, a national historic site of great significance.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. STEVEN C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010:

Requesting Member: Mr. STEVEN C. LATOURETTE

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: National Park Service, Construction Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Address of Requesting Entity: 15610 Vaughn Rd., Brecksville, Ohio 44141

Description of Request: Provide an earmark in the amount of \$500,000 to carry out the Cuyahoga Valley National Park's Site and Structure Rehabilitation Program which is a component of its General Management Plan. With more than 250 historic structures, nearly 100 of which are on the National Register, the park will use the full amount for restoration, rehabilitation and stabilization of the buildings and the environment within the park. Protection of our nation's national parks and their facilities is a relevant use of taxpayer dollars.

Requesting Member: Mr. STEVEN C. LATOURETTE

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, State and Tribal Assistance Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The City of Stow, Ohio

Address of Requesting Entity: 3760 Darrow Road, Stow, Ohio 44224

Description of Request: Provide an earmark in the amount of \$500,000 for the construction of a sanitary sewer system within the City of Stow, Ohio. The full amount of the funding will be used for the construction and installation of the new system. The City of Stow will provide \$600,000 toward the total \$1.1 million cost of the project. Sanitary sewer systems protect human health and the environment.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of HR 2892 the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2010

Requesting Member: Congresswoman CANDICE S. MILLER

Bill Number: HR2996

Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The office of the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner

Address of Requesting Entity: Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner 1 Public Works Dr. Building 95 West, Waterford, MI 48328

Description of Request: This request, in the amount of \$500,000.00, would be used to help rehabilitate the Oakland Macomb Interceptor. This is critical to the environment and health and safety of the region. This interceptor has experienced a catastrophic failure and is in need of major repairs.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SONS OF THE PIONEERS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a legendary Ozarks western singing group—Sons of the Pioneers, who will celebrate their 75th anniversary of performing this year. They are known worldwide for their vocal blend, unique harmonies and special arrangements of their classic songs. Introduced in 1934, the Sons of the Pioneers are reputed to be the longest continually performing musical group in the history of western music.

After about 50 years of touring, the Sons of the Pioneers decided to make Branson their home. They settled at the Shepherd of the Hills, where they perform at the Sons of the Pioneers Pavilion. The six-member group entertains guests with western songs and stories.

The members have changed over the years, but they all continue to present the music in its original form for everyone to enjoy.

The founding members included Roy Rogers (Leonard Slye), Bob Nolan and Tim Spencer, who was born in Webb City, Missouri, which is now part of my congressional district. Their unique style of music became widely admired and copied. They composed many original songs, several of which have become true American classics. "Tumbling Tumbleweeds," "Cool Water," and "Riders in the Sky" were part of a unique sound and style, which became the traditional music of the American cowboy and the West.

The Sons of the Pioneers has had 33 members, and has never disbanded. The Sons of the Pioneers have performed in nearly 100

movies and have sung over 3,000 western songs. They have starred in movies with well known actors such as John Wayne, Gene Autry, Bing Crosby, and of course Roy Rogers.

The Sons of the Pioneers has achieved many awards and accolades over their three-quarters of a century performing. They are considered "National Treasures" by the Smithsonian Institute. They have been inducted in several halls of fame including: Nashville Country Hall of Fame in 1978, Western Hero's Hall of Fame in 1984, Western Music Association Hall of Fame in 1990 and the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in 1995. The group won Vocal Group of the Year in 1970 and Band of the Year in 1978. In 1986, their popular song "Cool Water" was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame.

Sons of the Pioneers is truly a group who deserves significant credit for the music they have created, the standards they have set, the achievements they have accomplished, and all the generations they have touched.

This year celebrates the Sons of the Pioneers' 75th Anniversary of creating and preserving western music. It is truly an honor for Southwest Missouri to be the home of such a distinguished group. I wish Sons of the Pioneers continued success and many more years of keeping western music alive for future generations to enjoy.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2847, the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill:

Requesting Member: ADERHOLT

Bill Number: H.R. 2296, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Account: National Park Service, Save America's Treasures

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Fort Payne

Address of Requesting Entity: City of Fort Payne, 100 Alabama Ave., NW, Fort Payne, AL 35967

Description of Request: "Historic Fort Payne Coal and Iron Building Rehabilitation, \$150,000"

The funding would allow Fort Payne to create the construction documents, let bids, and begin the phased rehabilitation of an important landmark. The building will house a cultural center, which will serve the entire county. Taxpayer Justification: This building is located in the Fort Payne Boom Town Historical District (National Register #88000444), and upon completion of renovation, will be a valuable asset in stimulating cultural tourism and raising awareness of our heritage. The \$150,000.00 appropriation will be applied to the project in the following manner: \$40,000 for the completion of the design phase (creation of construction documents); \$30,000 for the rehabilitation of the roof system; \$30,000 for the renovation of the exterior of the building; \$50,000 for the installation of HVAC, plumbing and electrical components.

Requesting Member: ADERHOLT
 Bill Number: H.R. 2296, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Account: National Park Service, Save America's Treasures

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Montevallo

Address of Requesting Entity: UM Station 6130, Montevallo, AL 35115

Description of Request: "Historic Montevallo Main Hall Renovation", \$150,000

Provide \$150,000 to fund interior and exterior renovation and an upgrade to existing safety codes. Priorities include upgrades to fire and life safety systems, HVAC systems, elevators, and toilet and shower rooms; enhancements to interior cosmetics and furnishings; and an exterior renovation. Taxpayer Justification: This building anchors the Montevallo campus and is a prominent feature of the Olmsted Brother's 1930 Master Plan. Main Hall was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. This project's budget is \$2.5 million. Within the budget is \$150,000 for stone and masonry work, \$300,000 for metal cornice repairs, \$250,000 for exterior painting, \$1,600,000 for windows, and \$200,000 for professional services. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the National Park Service, Save America's Treasures account. The University of Montevallo will meet or exceed all statutory requirements for match funding where applicable.

Requesting Member: ADERHOLT

Bill Number: H.R. 2296, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Account: STAG, Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Sulligent

Address of Requesting Entity: City of Sulligent, 5795 Highway 278, Sulligent, AL 35586

Description of Request: "Water Supply Project", \$500,000"

The funding would be used for the planning, design, and construction of an additional water supply well, an additional water storage tank, and a booster pumping station, all to provide an additional source of potable water and to increase system pressures. Taxpayer Justification: This funding will help meet the water needs of a growing population. The proposed project consists of the design and construction of a new water supply well and new water storage tank. The project budget includes \$315,000 for the construction of a new water supply well, \$600,000 for the construction of a new water storage tank, and \$75,000 for the construction of a booster pumping station. In addition, the budget includes \$110,000 for engineering services for a total estimated project cost of \$1,100,000.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the fol-

lowing information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996—the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010:

Requesting Member: Congressman PETER KING

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: Environmental Protection Agency—STAG

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Glen Cove

Address of Requesting Entity: 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY 11542

Description of Request: \$500,000 will be used to rehabilitate and obtain technology for failing drinking and storm water infrastructure that are critical to protection of the Long Island Sound, the community's sole source aquifer, and shoreline properties.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. HELLER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010:

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: Environmental Protection Agency—STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Lyon County Utilities

Address of Requesting Entity: 275 Main Street, Yerington, NV 89447

Description of Request: \$500,000. This project will expand the current wastewater treatment facility at Mound House to serve residents currently on septic. This will help remediate the groundwater contamination currently taking place downstream of the wastewater treatment plant's leach field. Through this project groundwater contamination can be reversed with improved wastewater treatment and by eliminating the existing septic system.

HICO POTHOLE PATCHING

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, the residents of Hico, Texas deserve to be greatly commended for the service they provided to their own city through the Pothole Patching Project on March 7, 2009. One hundred and fifty dedicated and eager volunteers prepared for weeks for a long day of repairing the city's roads. These hardworking volunteers not only made their roads safer for residents and travelers, but nurtured a strong sense of community while doing it. The fellowship that this act of volunteerism illustrates is nothing short of honorable and I hope other cities can mirror this kind of community enthusiasm and resourcefulness.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROBERT E. LATTI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. LATTI. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2647, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBERT E. LATTI

Bill Number: H.R. 2647, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010

Account: AirForce; Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Air force (RDAF)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Metals Affordability Initiative (MAI)

Address of Requesting Entity: 1138 by-the-Shores Drive, Huron, OH 44839

Description of Request: \$10,000,000 for the initiation of 4 new, more immediate high-impact programs, as well as sustaining ongoing programs. These new industry-led programs will be directed at improvement in total systems cost, fuel savings/energy management, "green" (environmental impact), sustainment/life extension, and access to space. The mission of MAI is to innovation to maintain leadership in the strategic aerospace metals industrial sector by using technology innovation to maintain global competitiveness while improving performance and increasing affordability of weapons systems. MAI's main economic impact will be to maintain leadership in the strategic aerospace metals industrial sector by using technology innovation to maintain global competitiveness. This industrial sector continues to be under pressure by foreign manufacturers, and investing in technology will help sustain jobs. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding funding that I requested as part of H.R. 2996, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman SPENCER BACHUS

Bill Number: H.R. 2996, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Account: National Park Service, Save America's Treasures

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Montevallo

Address of Requesting Entity: UM Station 6130, Montevallo, AL 35115

Description of Request: Provide \$150,000 to fund interior and exterior renovation and an upgrade to existing safety codes. The Main Hall renovation project will provide students

with safe, comfortable, and accessible housing in a building listed on the National Historic Registry. The projects will provide an enhanced environment for living and learning. This project's budget is \$2.5 million. Within the budget is \$150,000 for stone and masonry work, \$300,000 for metal cornice repairs, \$250,000 for exterior painting, \$1,600,000 for windows, and \$200,000 for professional services. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the National Park Service, Save America's Treasures account. The University of Montevallo will meet or exceed all statutory requirements for match funding where applicable

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF JOHNSON MATTHEY INC.

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding southeastern Pennsylvania manufacturer celebrating its 100th anniversary.

Johnson Matthey Inc. was officially incorporated on June 30, 1909 and has grown from a platinum works shop in Philadelphia to a thriving business that employs approximately 8,700 workers at operations in more than 30 countries. The company's North America headquarters is in Wayne, Pennsylvania and several plants operate throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Johnson Matthey focuses on catalysis, precious metals, fine chemicals and process technology. While the company's roots extend back to the 19th Century, Johnson Matthey has continued to develop its technology, demonstrating the company's ability to maintain world leadership by adapting constantly to rapidly changing customer needs. While adhering to rigorous environmental standards itself, Johnson Matthey products have contributed greatly to a cleaner environment and have enhanced the quality of life for millions of people around the world.

Throughout the week of June 30, 2009, Johnson Matthey management, employees, affiliate companies, parent company, and communities will commemorate the company's centennial.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating everyone at Johnson Matthey for reaching this memorable milestone and in wishing the company continued success in creating jobs and improving the quality of life across the globe.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I submit the following information:

Project Name: Washington County Commission Sewer Extension

Requesting Member: Congressman JO BONNER

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Washington County Commission

Address of Requesting Entity: 45 Court Street, P.O. Box 146, Chatom, Alabama 36518

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$500,000 for Phase II of an ongoing project for unincorporated areas of Washington County not currently served by sanitary sewers. The soils in some areas of the county are generally conducive to percolation and some areas are on soils that have higher water tables that absorb water very slowly. Approximately, \$500,000 [or 100%] of funding will be used for construction, labor and materials of a low pressure, decentralized sanitary sewer collection and treatment facility. The county is currently working on phase I of this project and phase II would construct a 30,000 GPD on-site treatment and disposal facility, collection mains, interceptor tanks and pumps to provide homes and businesses with sanitary sewer. Washington County, the most economically challenged county in the state of Alabama, is home to a new steel plant that is providing 25,000 new construction jobs and 2,000 fulltime jobs. This much needed project will allow the county to continue to grow and recruit even more industry. The Washington County Commission will provide dollar for dollar match for this project.

CARNEGIE MEDAL

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the family of Courtney E. Butler from Stephenville, who was presented with the Carnegie Medal for heroism for their daughter's bravery in attempting to save a civilian caught in a flood on a low water crossing. Miss Butler was only sixteen when she made her valiant attempt in May of last year, and was swept up and drowned in the process. It is citizens like this young girl who make me proud to serve the great people of Texas District 31 and continually inspire me, as they should everyone else who learned of her valor.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding an earmark I received in the amount of \$500,000 as part of the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Environmental Protection Agency, STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Account for the South Seminole and North Orange County Wastewater Improvement Project. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Or-

ange County Wastewater Transmission Authority located at 410 Lake Howell Road, Maitland, Florida.

This project will replace wastewater pipes and mechanical equipment that are approaching the end of their service lives. Portions of the Force Main that will be replaced are under the travel lanes of Aloma Avenue. The roadway carries 33,000 vehicles per day and a collapse of the Aloma Avenue pipe and a resulting collapse of the road would be a major public health and safety liability.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, as a leader on earmark reform, I am committed to protecting taxpayers' money and providing greater transparency and a fully accountable process. H.R. 2996, The Fiscal Year 2010 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act contains the following funding that I requested:

Requesting Member: Rep. ZACH WAMP

Account: National Park Service—Construction

Legal Name Entity Receiving Funding: Moccasin Bend National Archeological District
Address: Moccasin Bend Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37405

Description of Request: Moccasin Bend National Archeological District, a unit of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, has a rich and varied cultural history with evidence of occupation dating back to the earliest human cultures in North America. Moccasin Bend was designated as a unit of the National Park Service to preserve the area's rich heritage for future generations. There are no facilities for public enjoyment of these nationally significant resources. Moccasin Bend National Archeological District received \$500,000 for design and construction of an Interpretive Center and educational exhibits to promote awareness of the archeological district.

Distribution of funding:

Design development and construction 100%

Requesting Member: Rep. ZACH WAMP

Account: Environmental Protection Agency-State and Tribal Assistance Grant

Legal Name Requesting Entity: City of Harrogate, Tennessee

Address: 138 Harrogate Crossing, Harrogate, Tennessee 37752

Description of Request: The Mayor and City Council of Harrogate requested funding to extend a wastewater collection system to the Tri-State Health and Rehabilitation Center, residences and businesses. Upgraded sewer capabilities are critical to support the increasing residential and commercial development in Harrogate. The proposed expansion will allow residents in the area to have safe, adequate wastewater service. The City of Harrogate received \$500,000 for the wastewater improvements.

Distribution of funding:

Construction—83%

Survey/Fees—1%

Engineering—6%

Inspection—3%

Project Contingency—4%
Environment Review—1%
Administration—2%

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF
ERBENDORF, GERMANY'S 900TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and honor the city of Erbdorf in the Oberpfalz region in the State of Bavaria in Germany as it celebrates its 900th Birthday.

Nine hundred years ago, this village was first mentioned as "Herbendorf" in the Establishment and Protection letters of Pope Paschalis II as he wrote to the monastery Weissenhohe in Oberfranken. Although it appears that location is today what is known as Altstadt, it is clear that the city we know today has enjoyed an existence for more than 900 years. And since history does not stand still, we are sure that someday an even earlier mention of this city will be found.

In its more than 900 year history, the city of Erbdorf has certainly changed and developed. Through the middle ages and modern times it has been beset by war, hunger, pestilence, and siege. However, this has given the city its inner strength and it has now grown into a beloved city with a wonderful quality of life, enviable infrastructure, and a strong economy.

Certainly some of its most prominent citizens include Buergermeister Hans Donko, Axel Baron von Stromberg, and Hilde and Fritz Kohr, who recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary and continue to operate one of the city's most beloved businesses, Konditorei Kohr. In addition the city was the birthplace of two of its most favorite daughters, Maria Schrebs Trottmann, who emigrated to Neustadt/Waldnaab, and my mother Meta Baronin von Stromberg McMahon, who emigrated to the United States where she had seven children who to this day consider themselves part of the Erbdorf family. For many years, her brother Doctor Nils Baron von Stromberg and his wife Charlotte served the city as family doctors.

Madam Speaker, the city of Erbdorf has had a front row seat to the turbulent course of European history. For nearly a millennium, her citizens have borne witness to the countless events—from the epic to the mundane which unfolded to shape the Europe and the world of today. I am proud to be a son of the city of Erbdorf and offer my congratulations on its 900th anniversary.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman HAROLD ROGERS

Bill Number: H.R. 2647

Account: MILCON, Army National Guard

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Kentucky Department of Military Affairs

Address of Requesting Entity: Boone National Guard Center, 100 Minuteman Parkway, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Description of Request: Provide directed funding of \$1.805 million to complete construction of the Phase IV Aviation Operation Facility—London Joint Readiness Center located in Laurel County, Kentucky. The funding will be used for the construction of two additional (11,400 Sf) unheated aircraft storage buildings at the facility. The project is required to fully house the Joint Support Operations equipment and personnel in one facility located in the vicinity of operations. At the conclusion of this project, the unit will be able to respond quicker and in a much more efficient manner which will allow a greater return on investment funds spent on the operation.

TEMPLE TEACHER

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, congratulations to Temple High School German teacher Nella Spurlin who was recently honored as Regional Teacher of the Year by the Southwest Conference on Language Teaching. The hard work and passion that she was committed to distinguished her from educators of the nine other states in the region.

On behalf of Texas District 31, I would like to wish Ms. Spurlin the best of luck when she competes against other regional winners for the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language National Teacher of the Year award in November.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican Standards on Congressional appropriations initiatives, I am submitting the following information regarding a project that was included at my request in H.R. 2647, The National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2010:

Consolidate Communications Facility

Account: Military Construction, U.S. Air Force

Legal name and address of requesting entity: MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida.

Description of request: \$21,000,000 for a Consolidated Communication Facility (Project Number NVZRO33702). MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida does not have an adequate Consolidated Communication Facility for the Joint Components of USSOCOM and USCENCOM forces. This Consolidated Communication Facility would provide for all communication circuits (both digital and analog) entering and exiting MacDill AFB. The Department of Defense Unified Facilities Criteria Anti-Terrorism and Force Protection guidance

requires that essential communication equipment be located in a secure environment. Base Network Control Center functions currently located in Bldg 260 will be relocated to the new secure facility.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, on June 24, 2009, due to a medical situation involving a member of my immediate family, I had to return to my district and was unable to participate in rollcall votes 435 through 452. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

"yes" on rollcall 435; "yes" on rollcall 436; "no" on rollcall 437; "yes" on rollcall 438; "no" on rollcall 439; "no" on rollcall 440; "no" on rollcall 441; "yes" on rollcall 442; "no" on rollcall 443; "no" on rollcall 444; "no" on rollcall 445; "no" on rollcall 446; "no" on rollcall 447; "no" on rollcall 448; "no" on rollcall 449; "yes" on rollcall 450; "yes" on rollcall 451; "yes" on rollcall 452.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Bill Number: H.R. 2647—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010

Account: OPAF, Line 12

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: California National Guard

Address of Requesting Entity: 9800 Goethe Road, Box 42, Sacramento, CA 95826

Description of Request: I received an earmark of \$4 million to upgrade the Eagle Vision III system which is operated by the 147th Combat Communications Squadron, in San Diego, California. In October of 2007, San Diego suffered through one of the worst wild-fire disasters in California history. With thousands of homes lost and hundreds of thousands of lives changed, the California National Guard requested upgrades to Eagle Vision, the San Diego based system that has already proven itself as an asset for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, CAL Fires/OES, and the Army Strategic Command. The Eagle Vision III system directly and indirectly supported the 2008 Midwest Flooding, Hurricanes Fay, Gustav, and Ike and has participated in numerous military exercises. To augment the current system, this request seeks to provide resources for an increased imaging system that will provide higher resolution images, with more frequent access to images for first responders, while at the same time allowing for image data collection through clouds, haze and smoke. These capabilities are essential for the military and will be critical to the San Diego region for combating natural disasters such as wildfires, floods and hurricanes.

MARY HARDIN-BAYLOR
CHANCELLOR

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate to Dr. Jerry G. Bawcom, President at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, in Belton Texas, as Dr. Bawcom transitions into the office of the Chancellor. As the 21st President of UMHB, he has served as President for 18 years and will become Chancellor on June 1, 2009. I would like to thank Dr. Bawcom for his leadership and service as well as congratulate him and wish him well in his new position as Chancellor.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the U.S. House of Representatives Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding an earmark I received as part of H.R. 2996, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010:

The City of Gainesville Water Treatment Plant Expansion Project, Gainesville, TX—\$500,000—STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project—Congressman MICHAEL C. BURGESS

The purpose of this project is to expand the water supply and distribution system to convey treated water to the City of Valley View, Bolivar Water Supply and other water users in Cooke County, Texas. The requested funding will be utilized for raw water pump station improvements, a treatment unit and backwash pump station, high service pump station expansion, and other appurtenances as necessary for the water treatment plant upgrade. Federal funding is necessary to allow the city to meet its obligation to provide a stable drinking water supply for residents of Gainesville and surrounding communities and to reduce the region's reliance on limited groundwater sources. The total project cost is \$2,533,007. Matching funds will be provided through in-kind services and through city and state funds.

The City of Gainesville is located at 200 South Rusk, Gainesville, TX 76240.

THANKING LILLIAN BETHEA FOR
HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement on December 31, 2008, we rise to thank Mrs. Lillian Bethea for twelve years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives and 36 years of service in the United States Government. Lillian has served this great institution as a valuable employee of

House Information Resources, in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Lillian began her tenure with the United States House of Representatives in 1996 as a Systems Analyst working in the Member Information Network (MIN) Group and later for the Quality Assurance Team. Lillian specialized in the support and maintenance of in-House applications including but not limited to Federal Funds Reports, Grants and Contracts and Bulletin Board services. She became a Federal Funds Trainer based on her extensive knowledge and attention to detail on the project. Lillian has played an important role in many information technology projects including Quality Assurance and Integrated Services and Information Systems (ISIS) testing. During the Y2K remediation efforts, she played an instrumental role in quality assurance and data testing of systems resulting in the successful transfer of services from the mainframe to their new platforms.

Since 2004, Lillian has been a Team Leader for the Web Solutions Call Center. Her attention to detail and quality assurance experience were again highlighted as she managed the customer request tracking system, team assignments, and day to day customer requests for the Web Group. Her duties included managing customer requests for web services using the Customer Tracking System (CTS) and coordinating with external teams to process Secure ID Web Manager requests, establishing Listserv lists, and providing permissions and access to Web Site Statistic services. Again, her detail orientation and quality work ethic assured the security of the House Web infrastructure through oversight and management of the necessary processes involved. Lillian also played a vital role in the preparation of materials and coordination of efforts for the House Services Fair, ensuring the Web Solutions Branch was properly represented during the event.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Lillian for many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the United States House of Representatives. We wish Lillian many wonderful years in fulfilling her retirement dreams.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2047) to authorize appropriation for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strength for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of National Defense Authorization Act of 2009.

The Department of Defense directed the Army to restructure its premier modernization program known as Future Combat Systems—FCS program—which includes a network of new sensors, radios, robotic vehicles and a fleet of new combat vehicles.

I personally commend the thousands of dedicated soldiers, department of defense civilians and their defense industry partners who worked on the project.

More than 1,000 of these dedicated men and women that do the engineering work for the FCS program live and work in my district. Some 10,000 employees in 74 Michigan companies worked to provide the Army a new ground combat vehicle fleet.

Many of them will be economically disadvantaged, despite their best efforts, by termination of the combat vehicle project.

Legislation passed by the Armed Services committee recognizes the restructuring of the FCS program and provides guidance on how the Army should proceed.

Providing for the national defense is in the preamble of the Constitution of the United States, it is this body's most solemn duty and responsibility. We must ensure that the men and women we send into harm's way have the very best training and equipment we can provide.

It's imperative that we move rapidly to provide the Army a new ground combat vehicle that protects American soldiers against IEDs, road side bombs and anti-tank munitions. We must not lose the momentum gained during six years of research and development and the multibillion dollar taxpayer investment on this project.

Any new program must consider both Army and Marine Corps needs for manned ground combat vehicles now and in the future. It must build on what we have learned from three separate FCS ground vehicle designs as well as lessons learned from combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We have the best trained and dedicated Armed Forces in the world. Will we ask them to go to combat with vehicles that are nearly two generations old, designed for a different enemy and more conventional warfare?

Instead, let's build on the work that has already been done; ensure that billions of taxpayer dollars already spent are not wasted by starting from scratch, and provide U.S. Soldiers and Marines vehicles and systems that provide increased situational awareness for the conflicts of the future.

I urge the members to make a new combat vehicle the centerpiece of Army's research and development efforts in a restructured program.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY JOP

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate The Honorable Judy Schier Hoobs, Justice of the Peace for Williamson County, Precinct 4, who was awarded "Judge of the Year" by the Central Texas Justices of the Peace and Constables Association (CTJPCA) on April 15, 2009. When the group held their first meeting in 1986, Judge Hobbs was elected as the first vice president and was later elected as president in 1987. A lifetime member of the CTJPCA, Judge Hobbs was chaplain in 2008 and chair of the Legislative Committee. I am truly proud to have Judge Hobbs serve in Texas District 31.

IN HONOR OF SENATOR THURMAN
G. ADAMS, JR.

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart but great honor that I rise today to pay tribute to the life of the Honorable Thurman G. Adams, Jr. A member of Delaware's State Senate for the past 37 years and owner of T.G. Adams & Sons Inc., Senator Adams is a man who has given much to his community and his state; a man who is to be recognized for all that he has done and a man who will truly be missed by me and Delawareans throughout our state.

Since his initial election in 1972, Senator Adams worked diligently as a representative of his constituents and as an advocate for progress, molding Delaware into the business-friendly, agriculturally rich state that it is today. The longest serving State Senator in Delaware history, Thurman served in this capacity under eight Governors and was elected as the Senate Majority Leader in 1999 and as the President Pro Tempore in 2002. Regarding Thurman's dedication to our State and his strength of character, I cannot say enough. For nearly four decades now, there is hardly a bill that has come to pass in Delaware upon which Thurman's influence has not been felt. One of the most notable pieces of legislation that he sponsored and fought for was an enhanced 9–1–1 bill. Passed and currently in place, the bill created a system that automatically gives the address from which a 9–1–1 call originates—enabling a quicker, more accurate response time. A member of the Senate Executive Committee since his first term and later appointed as chairman, Thurman played a huge role in determining who served in the judiciary, cabinet and various other influential state posts. The strong, positive force which he brought to the legislature every day has helped to strengthen and solidify Delaware's courts and government for many decades.

In his capacity as a legislator and as a citizen, Thurman spent his life in service to the State of Delaware. Senator Adams graduated from the University of Delaware in 1950 with a B.S. in agricultural education and went on to succeed his father as the President of T.G. Adams & Sons Inc., a feed and grain business in his hometown of Bridgeville. With a solid base in agriculture and the business world, Thurman was appointed to the State Highway Commission in 1961 and appointed as the chairman of the Governor's Safety Committee in 1966. Over the years, Senator Adams was recognized for many accomplishments. In 1996, he received the University of Delaware's "Medal of Distinction," an honor acknowledging his outstanding professional achievements. He and his wife Hilda also became very active in trying to make the process to receive organ transplants easier for individuals and their families after their own personal experience with their son Brent. In 2008, he was both inducted into the National 4–H Hall of Fame and awarded the "Order of the First State," the highest award our Governor can present in recognition of his many years of service.

Senator Adams spent his life as an advocate for his Bridgeville district, for the county

of Sussex, and for the State of Delaware. A believer in personal, deep-rooted relationships, Thurman was a respected and compassionate legislator and his passing will leave a void in Delaware's General Assembly and our state. During my time as a State Senator and in my role as Lt. Governor and Governor, I had the privilege of working with Senator Adams on many key legislative issues. Thurman is someone with whom I worked closely and confided in frequently and I feel confident in recognizing him for who he was—a man who was incredibly fair, a strong, trusted and great leader with devotion unequalled, and a sterling reputation for helping others.

Foremost in Thurman's life was his family. Thurman was a loving husband to his wife Hilda, a father who could bestow life's lessons as well as heartfelt love to his three children, Brent, Lynn, and Polly, a grandfather who adored his grandchildren, and a brother to Leon, Beatrice and his deceased brother Alvin. His family and grandchildren warmed his heart and he took great pride in watching them grow and mature over the years. While we will all miss him dearly, I take comfort in knowing that he, Hilda, and Brent have been reunited and I am sure are watching over all of us now.

He gave his time, his energy, and his heart in pursuit of comprehensive and useful measures, established and implemented for the benefit of his fellow Delawareans. Steadfast in his beliefs, Thurman once said, "I hope that every bill will make life better." I stand today to acknowledge and honor that he was a man dedicated to just that. Godspeed to my good friend, Senator Thurman G. Adams, Jr. and thank you for your guidance, support and friendship over the years.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DENNY REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. REHBERG. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Rep. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Name and Address: Em-Kayan County Water and Sewer District, 910 Greens Ferry Road, Libby, Montana 59923.

Description: The Em-Kayan community water system consists of three springs, two wells, five steel storage tanks and a water distribution system inclusive of fire hydrants. The original water system was constructed in the 1960s. Funding would be used to replace badly corroded steel water main with PVC water main, install additional fire hydrants to meet fire flow requirements, install water meters to better account for the District's water resource and install a control system.

Requesting Member: Rep. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: National Park Service—Save America's Treasures

Name and Address: City of Bozeman, 121 North Rouse Avenue, Bozeman, Montana 59711

Description: Historic Downtown Bozeman suffered a devastating loss due to a natural

gas pipeline explosion in March, 2009. The explosion and subsequent fire destroyed four historic buildings, and significantly damaged three others. All buildings are in the Bozeman Main Street Historic District, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. The destroyed buildings covered 150 linear feet of historic streetscape.

Requesting Member: Rep. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: BLM—Land Acquisition
Name and Address: The Conservation Fund, 125 Bank Street, Suite #612, Missoula, Montana 59802.

Description: Funding would be used for the BLM to purchase Phase II of this project. Located in Carbon County, near Red Lodge, the wind-bladed stone pinnacles of the Meeteetse Spire reach hundreds of feet into the sky and provide a unique backdrop to a scenic hanging valley as part of the Meeteetse Spire Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). In partnership with the BLM, The Conservation Fund has reached an agreement to acquire a 560-acre private inholding from a willing seller within the ACEC with the goal of conveying the property to the BLM through an appropriation.

Requesting Member: Rep. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: U.S. Forest Service—Land Acquisition

Name and Address: The Nature Conservancy, 32 S. Ewing, Helena, Montana 59601.

Description: This funding would be used for the U.S. Forest Service to acquire lands critical for protecting the existing federal investment in the Blackfoot Community—Nora Gulch—project area, including wildlife habitat for grizzly bears, elk, and threatened trout species.

Requesting Member: Rep. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: EPA—Science and Technology
Name and Address: Consortium for Plant Biotechnology Research Inc., 100 Sylvan Drive, Suite #210, St. Simons Island, Georgia 31522.

Description: Partnering with Montana State University, this funding would be used to fund university research and technology transfer for phytoremediation and environmentally friendly industries. Working with The Consortium for Plant Biotechnology Research, Inc., it will develop new and improved technologies that range from "green" chemicals and industrial manufacturing processes to environmental remediation.

Requesting Member: Rep. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: EPA—Science and Technology
Name and Address: The Water Research Foundation, 6666 Quincy Street, Denver, Colorado 80235.

Description: Partnering with the Mountain Water Company of Missoula, Montana, this funding would be used to sponsor individual research projects that enable utilities to provide safe, affordable and sustainable water to their customers. These projects will help water utilities address challenges such as climate change impacts on water supply, pharmaceutical contaminants in drinking water, aging infrastructure, and protection of watersheds.

Requesting Member: Rep. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—Land Acquisition

Name and Address: The Nature Conservancy, 32 S. Ewing, Helena, Montana 59601.

Description: This funding will be used for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire conservation easements along the Montana's Rocky Mountain Front.

Requesting Member: Rep. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: BLM—Land Acquisition

Name and Address: The Nature Conservancy, 32 S. Ewing, Helena, Montana 59601.

Description: This funding will be used for acquiring lands for the Bureau of Land Management to protect the existing federal investment in the project area, including wildlife habitat for grizzly bears, elk, and threatened trout species near the Blackfoot River.

Requesting Member: Rep. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: U.S. Forest Service—Land Acquisition

Name and Address: The Trust for Public Land, 111 South Grand Avenue, Suite #203, Bozeman, Montana 59715.

Description: This funding will be used as an acquisition project for the United States Forest Service to purchase mining claims within the Yellowstone National Park ecosystem. These lands offer natural and recreational resources that will be protected by the United States Forest Service.

RECOGNIZING THE CREW OF THE
RB-47H SHOT DOWN OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS BY THE SOVIET UNION ON JULY 1, 1960

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major Willard Palm, Captain Freeman B. Olmstead, Captain John McKone, and the crew of the RB-47H shot down over international waters by the Soviet Union on July 1, 1960. This recognition is well-deserved and highlights the unending service and integrity of our men and women in uniform.

The plane was crewed by Major Willard Palm as aircraft commander; Captain Freeman B. Olmstead as pilot; Captain John McKone as navigator.

Freeman B. Olmstead was born in Elmira, New York, and brought up in a devout Episcopal family. He earned a bachelor's degree in history from Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio. He entered active duty with the Air Force in 1957.

McKone was a native of Tonganoxie, Kansas, and he graduated from Kansas State University with a bachelor's degree in history in 1954. He entered active duty on March 15, 1955.

On July 1, 1960, a United States Air Force RB-47H based at Forbes Air Force Base, Kansas, departed from Brize Norton Royal Air Force Base in England. The flight's planned route kept the plane over international waters.

A MiG-19 fighter intercepted the American bomber in the Barents Sea. The MiG eventually opened fire on the RB-47H. Olmstead and McKone successfully ejected and survived only to be picked up by a Soviet fishing vessel. The aircraft commander, however, perished in the Barents Sea.

Ten days after the shootdown, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev announced that they had shot down the bomber and captured the two crewmen. The pair were imprisoned in Moscow's Lubyanka prison, and accused by the Soviets of espionage, punishable by death, for allegedly violating the Soviet Sea frontier.

Shortly after the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy, Premier Nikita Khrushchev extended an offer to free Olmstead and McKone quickly—but with three terms later agreed to.

After seven months of imprisonment and interrogation the guards drove Captain Freeman B. Olmstead and Captain John McKone to the American embassy. They were handed over to U.S. officials to be reunited with their families without having disclosed any information to the Soviet government.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Armed Services, I am continuously struck by the integrity of our servicemembers. With examples like Captain Freeman B. Olmstead and Captain John McKone it is clear where this integrity comes from and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring them.

TRIBUTE TO BEN SACCO

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bernard "Ben" Sacco, a longtime Bakersfield entrepreneur, community leader, and friend who passed away on Tuesday, June 23, 2009, at the age of 87.

Ben Sacco was born in a small town outside Salerno, Italy, and immigrated to the United States in 1935. Sacco moved to California after serving his country in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, and worked in agriculture in Hanford. In 1947, he and Morris Rosenberg founded Sierra Bag Company in Bakersfield to produce containers for local growers.

A devoted recycling advocate, Ben also founded Sierra Iron and Metal Company to recycle salvaged metals in 1959. Eventually, it became Sierra Recycling and Demolition, which cleans up land for redevelopment. On a visit to Italy, Sacco visited a scrap yard near Venice and discovered a unique machine—a mobile baler that could process twice as much scrap metal in a day as its U.S. counterparts. He promptly bought one, and at an age when many are considering retirement, Sacco embarked on a new career equipment vendor. He introduced the combination shear/baler in the United States in 1987, and soon Sierra International Machinery expanded into a major industry. Earlier this year, the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries honored Ben Sacco with a lifetime achievement award for his dedication to Sierra International Machinery, LLC. Adding to his list of accomplishments, Sacco founded the Italian Heritage Dante organization in 1996.

Ben Sacco is survived by his wife, Eunice Sacco; sons John, Anthony, and Phillip; daughters Angela, Aragon, and Laura; and six grandchildren. Devoted to serving his community in a variety of ways, Ben's death is a

great loss for the Bakersfield community, but his legacy of dedication to his family, friends, and businesses will always be remembered.

FEDERAL OFFSET PROGRAM

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today I am proposing bipartisan legislation to establish a program that would mirror the existing law for states. The legislation, in which I am joined by my colleagues, Representatives WOLF, WITTMAN, and CONNOLLY, would allow certain types of delinquent local tax debt to be collected through the reduction of federal tax refunds. Providing local governments access to these needed and due funds is important both in principle and for budgetary purposes. In the middle of this recession, it is especially important to assist cities and counties to collect the taxes they are owed. The alternatives would be a reduction in vital services and jobs at a time when the government safety net for very poor families who lack jobs has weakened significantly and increases in deep poverty in this recession are likely to be severe. This will impose significantly higher demands on local governments for police, housing and shelter, food, and other vital services. This bill offers a unique opportunity not just to provide hundreds of millions of dollars of desperately needed assistance at no cost to federal taxpayers, but also to protect honest taxpayers from an increase in local property taxes. Under this legislation, the only cost is to the delinquent taxpayer, who would finally be made to pay his or her outstanding tax obligation.

This proposed program would have no additional cost to the federal government. Local governments would pay the federal government the fee of \$25 for each offset refund. It would alleviate the administrative burden to Department of the Treasury by requiring the state taxing authority to act as the clearinghouse. Therefore, the client base for the Department of the Treasury would not increase.

This concept of an offset originated as a way to assist states with securing child support arrearages. It was expanded to allow states to submit other delinquent claims against an individual's federal tax return. This program has been very successful for the states. Now this bill would expand its successful idea and concept to local governments in all states. Doing so could potentially result in several billion dollars annually for local governments by effecting the collection of delinquent taxes.

The bill would instruct the Secretary of the Treasury, upon receiving notice from any eligible state on behalf of a local government, that a named person owes such local government a past-due, legally enforceable tax obligation and provide, consequently, for the reduction of the federal tax refunds payable to such person by the amount of such debt. That amount would be remitted to the state for payment to the affected local government, provide for notification to the state of the taxpayer's name, taxpayer identification number, address, and the amount collected; and notification of the person due the refund that it has been reduced by an amount necessary to satisfy a past-due, legally enforceable tax obligation.

This bill offers a unique opportunity to provide hundreds of millions of dollars of desperately needed assistance at little cost to federal taxpayers. For Virginia localities, it is estimated that it will bring in between 65–70 million dollars in revenue during the first year in the program. From its participation in the Federal Offset Program, for FY 2008, the Commonwealth of Virginia received over \$17 million dollars in offsets of federal income tax refunds and an additional \$5 million in offsets of the tax stimulus checks. This legislation has the official support of the National Association of Counties, the Government Finance Officers Association, the National League of Cities, the Treasurers' Association of Virginia, the United States Conference of Mayors, the Association of Public Treasurers of the United States and Canada, and the Conference of State Court Administrators.

This concept of an offset originated as a way to assist states with securing child support arrearages. It was expanded to allow states to submit other delinquent claims against an individual's federal tax return. This program has been very successful for the states. Now this bill would expand its successful idea and concept to local governments in all states. Doing so could potentially result in several billion dollars annually for local governments by effecting the collection of delinquent taxes. Under this legislation, the following order of priority for payment of an offset would be: (1) past-due federal income tax, (2) past-due state child support, (3) past-due federal government agency debt, (4) past-due state income tax, and (5) local government tax. The state taxing authority for each state would act as the clearinghouse for the local government tax debts, so this will not be an additional burden to Financial Management Services (which is a division of the United States Department of the Treasury administers the Federal Offset Program).

This is a bipartisan, good-government bill. If the legislation is passed, it would allow federal, state, and local governments to work together. Good citizens, who pay their taxes, will appreciate that the federal government and the state government are assisting localities to help local government collect from the delinquents. Each citizen should share in paying his fair share of taxes.

CONGRATULATING TRIXIE
JOHNSON ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Trixie Johnson on her recent retirement and to commemorate her dedicated service to the Southern California and to the nation throughout her distinguished career. Johnson served as the Director of Research for the Mineta Transportation Institute ("MTI") and where she worked for ten years before retiring this past May.

MTI was established by Congress in 1991 as part of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act and is located at San Jose State University (SJSU). This institution conducts research, education, and information and technology transfers specializing in transportation policy and management.

Ms. Johnson led a research program at MTI that brought together faculty and student researchers from SJSU, along with other academic institutions around the country, and the private sector to advance the body of knowledge in transportation policy and management from an intermodal perspective. In addition to publishing innovative reports and research findings, Ms. Johnson was deeply committed to recruiting, engaging, and training the nation's next generation of transportation planners and leaders.

Before joining the Mineta Transportation Institute in July 1999, Trixie Johnson served the full limit of two terms on the San Jose City Council—from 1991 through 1998. Due to Ms. Johnson's extensive experience, she has been recognized as a land use and environmental specialist by her peers. Her council service included two years as Vice Mayor and several years as chairperson of the city's Transportation, Development and Environment Committee.

Ms. Johnson has a long record of public service that included serving as chair of the Environmental Quality Committee and member of the Board of Directors for the League of California Cities; vice-chair of the Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee of the National League of Cities; and member of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Board.

While her passionate work on transportation issues throughout her career will surely be missed, the many students and colleagues she has inspired will carry on her work as the nation seeks solutions to the transportation challenges of the 21st century.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Trixie Johnson on her retirement, and wish her and her family the best of luck in this next chapter of their lives.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, the Department of Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Requesting Member: Congressman TODD RUSSELL PLATTS (PA–19)

Bill Number: H.R. 2996—Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act

Account: STAG

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: York City Sewer Authority

Address of Requesting Entity: 1701 Blackbridge Road, York, PA 17402

Description of Request/Justification of Federal Funding: The York City Sewer Authority is a public, municipal authority providing wastewater services for residential, commercial, and industrial users in an eight municipality service area. The York City Sewer Authority would use this funding to construct a new headworks facility, which includes the replacement of the building's heating and ventilation system and replacement of the activated carbon bed in the

building's odor control system. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because the combined improvements provide the most cost effective solution for updating infrastructure for the authority's residents and businesses.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks as well as in accordance with Clause 9 of Rule XXI, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2647, the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman BILL POSEY

Bill Number: H.R. 2647

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Defensewide

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Soneticon

Address of Requesting Entity: 1045 South John Rodes Boulevard, West Melbourne, Florida 32904

Description of Request: This technology is important to helping our military and would be used for enhancement of a currently installed system for continued operations. \$3 million is provided for this program.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I rise today to submit the following information regarding an earmark I received as part of the Interior-Environment Appropriation.

The following earmark was requested by my office and is listed for funding in this bill:

City of Galt Wastewater Treatment Plant

Requesting Member: DANIEL E. LUNGREN

Bill Number: HR 2996

Account: EPA/STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Requesting Agency: City of Galt

Agency Address: 495 Industrial Drive, Galt, CA 95632

Amount: \$500,000

Description: The City of Galt is being forced to upgrade their existing wastewater treatment facility as a result of increased Federal water quality mandates. The new wastewater treatment facility will put Galt in to compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). NPDES is the Federal system for the issuance of permits under Section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, and many of the stringent NPDES permit requirements are based on National Toxics Rule (NTR). The NTR is an Environmental Protection Agency regulation that established numeric water quality criteria for priority inorganic pollutants for fourteen States and jurisdictions, including California,

into compliance with Section 303 (c)(2)(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Federal mandates dictate an increased number of contaminants for which the City must treat wastewater. The existing WWTP was not designed to meet most of the new standards, and therefore must be upgraded. The City is subject to mandatory Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) fines until such time as the project is completed. This project will enable the City of Galt to come into compliance with these Federal mandates.

This project represents an appropriate use of taxpayer funds as it responds to EPA mandates to improve wastewater treatment, to provide mitigation against a wider array of water contaminants, in a community acutely impacted by the capital demands of such undertaking.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION PROVIDING STRONG LAND PROTECTION INCENTIVES

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, more than 2 million farms make up America's rural landscape. Ninety-eight percent of these farms are owned by individuals, family partnerships, and family corporations, producing about 86 percent of U.S. agricultural products sold.

The most significant asset held by many of these farmers is their land. In some cases, when the owner of the farm dies, surviving family members must sell portions of the farm to cover their estate tax costs. Today I am introducing legislation to help ensure that families are not forced to sell the farm and that their land resources are available for agricultural and conservation use by future generations.

In 1997, in order to encourage the conservation of sensitive lands and farms, Congress enacted an estate tax exclusion for land placed under a conservation easement. 26 USC 2031(c). That law caps the exclusion at \$500,000. Given the significant rise in land values over the past decade, especially for agricultural regions near urbanizing areas, that cap is now too low to provide a meaningful incentive to many farmers.

My legislation updates and increases the exclusion to \$5 million. By increasing the current cap on the property value that can be ex-

cluded from an estate when the land is protected by a conservation easement from \$500,000 to \$5,000,000 (and by raising the exclusion percentage from 40 percent to 50 percent, this bill will encourage significant additional protection of farmland across our country.

The voluntary placement of a conservation easement on private land is a very effective and successful tool for protecting and conserving our nation's open spaces and sensitive lands. As the American Farmland Trust has written, "We strongly believe that the proper incentives are the most effective way of encouraging landowners to conserve land." This legislation provides strong land protection incentives and will result in the preservation of America's vital farm and ranchlands.

HONORING MR. JOHN GAMBLE

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a respected leader of Southwest Colorado, Mr. John Gamble of Durango. Mr. Gamble has served the community of Southwest Colorado with distinction for 24 years and is announcing his retirement this month.

In 1985, Mr. Gamble took over the new Southwest Colorado Volunteers of America in Durango, Colorado. Under his strong and steady leadership, the agency grew to provide many critical services to the community. At the beginning of his tenure, Mr. Gamble helped to open a domestic violence shelter to provide a safe haven for those in need. And, in the early 1990s, he led the effort to open a much needed homeless shelter. To fund all of these critical services, Mr. Gamble opened a very successful thrift store and led many colorful and profitable fundraising events. In his spare time, Mr. Gamble served on the Durango City Council, including a term as the mayor of that proud city.

Madam Speaker, I commend Mr. John Gamble for his outstanding service and dedication to the residents of Southwest Colorado. Mr. Gamble clearly has a heart for service and the skills to get the job done. His community is a better place due to his efforts. While we will all miss Mr. Gamble's service and leadership, I ask that you join me in wishing him well upon his retirement.

PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATE

[Tacoma Emergency Intertie Booster Station]

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, the Fiscal Year 2010 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

(1) \$333,000 for the City of Buckley, WA for an emergency intertie booster station.

Requesting Entity: City of Buckley, PO Box 1960, 933 Main Street, Buckley, WA 98321

Agency: Environmental Protection Agency

Account: STAG

Funding requested by: Rep. DAVE REICHERT

The City of Buckley will construct an emergency intertie booster station to allow the City to use water from the City of Tacoma in an emergency. The City of Tacoma water system in this area operates with a hydraulic grade line of 810 feet. The City of Buckley water system operates with a hydraulic grade line of 882 feet. Therefore the booster station is required to overcome a static head of approximately 72 feet. The City's largest water source is the S. Prairie Creek surface water source. The City's water right for this source is 900 gpm. To allow the system to operate effectively with the S. Prairie Creek source out of service, the booster station will have a capacity of 900 gpm. The booster station will be constructed in right-of-way in a location close to existing City of Buckley and City of Tacoma water infrastructure.

Finance Plan:

City of Buckley, Budget Details: This request is for federal funding in the amount of \$550,000 to construct an emergency water intertie and booster station between the City of Tacoma's transmission main and the City of Buckley's water system. As illustrated below in the engineering cost estimate, approximately, \$121,000 is for administration & engineering; and \$485,000 for construction. The City of Buckley is currently working on a major flood damaged repair to our primary transmission water main, but will be able to allocate \$57,000 as a match towards this project.

	Item	Quantity	Unit price	Amount
1.	Mobilization/Demobilization	Lump sum	\$34,000	\$34,000
2.	Site Work	Lump sum	15,000	15,000
3.	Erosion Control	Lump sum	2,500	2,500
4.	Locate Existing Utilities	Lump sum	2,000	2,000
5.	Intertie	Lump sum	25,000	25,000
6.	Booster Pumps (2 x 450 gpm)	Lump sum	32,000	32,000
7.	Booster Station Building (12' x 16')	Lump sum	52,000	52,000
8.	Piping, Valves, and Appurtenances	Lump sum	80,000	80,000
9.	Site Fencing	200 LF	28	5,600
10.	Surface Restoration	Lump sum	5,000	5,000
11.	Electrical, Telemetry, and Instrumentation	Lump sum	105,000	105,000
12.	Primary Power Service	Lump sum	15,000	15,000
	Subtotal			373,100
	Sales Tax (8.4%)			31,340
	Subtotal			404,440
	Contingency (20%)			81,060
	TOTAL ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST			485,500
	Engineering and Administrative Costs (25%)			121,000
	R.O.W., Easement and/or Land Acquisition			—

PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATE—Continued
[Tacoma Emergency Intertie Booster Station]

Item	Quantity	Unit price	Amount
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST (2008 Dollars)			607,000

2) \$2,150,000 for Mt. Rainier National Park for Land Acquisition.

Requesting Entity: U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, Room 7256, Washington, DC 20240

Agency: Department of Interior

Account: National Park Service

Funding requested by: Rep. DAVE REICHERT, JIM McDERMOTT

This land acquisition will ensure visitors' access to Mt. Rainier National Park at the northwest entrance. The Carbon River Road has frequently been washed out, preventing visitors from reaching the Ipsut Creek campground and picnic area, as well as day-use parking for access to the Carbon Glacier and Wonderland Trail. To address this problem, and to eliminate the considerable maintenance costs necessitated by the frequent flooding, Congress passed an expansion of the park's northwestern boundary three miles along the Carbon River Valley. The addition of these lands will allow the National Park Service to establish a new campground with associated roads and parking, new hiking trails, and river-front fishing areas. The expansion will also afford much needed protection to the beautiful Carbon River Valley, conserving habitat for endangered and threatened species. The valley contains one of the last inland old-growth rainforests in the United States, and connects wildlife corridors from the park to Puget Sound. Among the property included within the newly expanded park boundary is the 240-acre Carbon River Gateway. This parcel lies adjacent to Forest Service lands that link current Park Service lands with the privately owned parcels within the expansion area.

Finance Plan: The National Park Service will use these funds to cover the fair market value (FMV) of two properties located within the expanded boundaries of Mt. Rainier National Park in Washington State. The actual amount to be expended will depend on federally approved appraisals of the parcels. \$2,500,000 is the best estimate of the cost at this time. Due diligence costs for the Carbon River Gateway property will be borne by the The Trust for Public Land and the acquisition management account of the National Park Service. There is no cost-share requirement for this program. This request is consistent with the authorized purposes of the Land and Water Conservation Act and Public Law 108-312, which authorizes land acquisition in this area of the park.

This office conducted site visits to meet with representatives from both of the projects listed above.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the fol-

lowing information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996—Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (AL)

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: EPA, STAG account, \$275,000

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: East Alabama Water Sewer and Fire Protection District

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 37, Valley, Alabama 36855

Description of Request: "Wastewater System Planning" Taxpayer justification—It is my understanding that the funding would be used to map the District's entire sanitary sewer system, analyze specific areas within the existing sanitary sewer system and, identify areas within the system where modifications and upgrades must be performed.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (AL)

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: NPS, Save America's Treasures account, \$100,000

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Talladega College, Talladega, AL

Address of Requesting Entity: 627 West Battle Street, Talladega, Alabama 35160

Description of Request: "Swayne Hall Historic Restoration and Renovation" Taxpayer justification—It is my understanding that the funding would be used to restore and upgrade Swayne Hall, the original building that housed Talladega College (built in 1852-53).

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996—Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. This legislation appropriates \$500,000 in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, for land acquisition for the Florida Trail Association. The entity to receive this funding is the Florida Trail Association, 5415 SW 13th St., Gainesville, FL.

Funding will be used for the acquisition of land to protect 16 critical segments of the Florida National Scenic Trail. Designed by Congress in 1983, the Florida National Scenic Trail is an essential part of maintaining Florida's natural beauty for future generations and serves as an inspirational, educational tool for conservation efforts in the state.

BOULDER, COLORADO'S SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 150th birthday of my home town, Boulder, Colorado.

Boulder is a special place. When I meet people from other parts of the country who have passed through our fair state, the very mention of Boulder always brings a smile to their face. On February 10, 1859, settlers from the Nebraska Territory (the beginnings of a world renowned college football rivalry perhaps) founded the "Boulder City Town Company." From its birth, our city has been a shining example of what is possible with a civic minded populace.

From our humble beginning as a supply town for miners, to the national leader in smart growth and environmental stewardship we are today, Boulder has always been dedicated to the careful balance of entrepreneurship and wise land use.

The beauty of our natural surroundings has caused generations of Boulderites to value our town and to embrace a life of grace rather than greed. Over the years, Boulder residents have taken extraordinary measures to mesh the human environment seamlessly with our natural environment. Through a citizen initiative, we brought Frederick Law Olmstead to Boulder at the beginning of the 20th century to craft a vision plan for our city designed to highlight our natural treasures such as Boulder Creek and the Flatirons. In 1959, our residents took action to create the "blue-line" to preserve the mountain backdrop, and made Boulder the first city in the nation to impose a tax for land conservation. We purchased the Arapahoe Glacier to ensure a source of drinking water for our residents and agricultural uses. Boulder was also the first community to adopt a "carbon tax" to deal with the crisis of climate change. Today, our open space program has made Boulder the envy of many an over-crowded community and is now a model duplicated state and nationwide.

Boulder's commitment to the environment is equaled by its commitment to the community and especially to education. The Colorado Territory's first class of high school seniors graduated in Boulder. When Colorado became a state in 1874, Boulder citizens pooled their resources and raised \$15,000, a fortune in those days, to build the state's first public university. The vibrant culture surrounding this top tier institution of higher learning—full of philosophical debate, football, and foreign exchange—has created the colorful lifestyle that makes our town unique.

Our highly skilled workforce has attracted world class employers, such as IBM, Ball Aerospace, and Roche Pharmaceuticals Boulder, as well as some of the nation's premier research institutes, such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA), the

National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR).

The heart of Boulder is our award winning Downtown. Boulder's small businesses are the life blood of our community and give Boulder the special sense of place that is loved by residents and visitors alike. For more than 50 years, Boulder residents have relied on the Boulderado, McGuckins Hardware, and The Sink. The Pearl Street Mall and our Downtown, both easily accessible by pedestrians, drivers and bicyclists, are national models of smart urban development. The eclectic mix of housing, independent retailers and commercial enterprises give Boulder an economic driver that many larger communities envy.

I congratulate my fellow Boulderites on 150 years of progress and prosperity, and look forward with great anticipation of what the future holds for our diverse and vibrant community.

Happy Birthday, Boulder.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. LOBIONDO. Madam Speaker, as per the requirements of the Republican Conference Rules on earmarks, I secured the following earmarks in H.R. 2996:

Requesting Member: Congressman FRANK LOBIONDO (NJ-02) (along with Reps. ADLER, SIRES and ROTHMAN)

Bill Number: HR 2996

Account: Fish and Wildlife Service, Land Acquisition

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: New Jersey Audubon Society

Address of Requesting Entity: 11 Hardscrabble Road, Bernardsville, NJ 09724.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$1,100,000 for a land acquisition project at Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge.

Requesting Member: Congressman FRANK LOBIONDO (NJ-02) (along with Reps. SIRES and ROTHMAN)

Bill Number: HR 2996

Account: Fish and Wildlife Service, Land Acquisition

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: New Jersey Audubon Society

Address of Requesting Entity: 11 Hardscrabble Road, Bernardsville, NJ 09724.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$2,000,000 for a land acquisition project at National Wildlife Refuge.

HOMAGE TO MR. GEORGE A. DALLEY

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today extremely humbled and privileged to pay homage to Mr. George A. Dalley, who will retire as

Counsel and Chief of Staff to the Honorable CHARLES B. RANGEL of the 15th Congressional District of New York. Chairwoman, anyone who has worked with Mr. Dalley, knows that he is extremely fond of CONGRESSIONAL RECORDS. So it is more than appropriate that I submit my sentiments and testimony about him into the RECORD for posterity.

George A. Dalley is not only a highly-successful leader and an amazing human being, he has been a true supporter and friend to all who have crossed his path. I especially feel blessed to have him serve as my mentor and advisor, who was integral in helping me acclimate and adapt to the rigors of Congress, even before I arrived in D.C. I am also blessed to share with Mr. Dalley a rich Jamaican heritage and common lineage. The pride he exhibits in heritage and his work with the Caribbean American community has truly been an inspiration and motivation for my advocacy on behalf of Caribbean Americans across this nation and their countries of origin.

General Douglas McArthur once said, "A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the quality of his actions and the integrity of his intent."

Mr. George A. Dalley, your example has been a guide to us here on Capitol Hill and your leadership is an example for generations to come. I wish you all the best in the next stage of your life. Your presence on the Hill will sorely be missed.

THE AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY AND SECURITY ACT OF 2009

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, the Congress would be unwise to sit by and simply allow the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, as the agency has been mandated to do by the Supreme Court. Similarly, it would be a mistake to sit back and allow other countries to devise international rules that will affect America's economic and energy interests.

I do not agree with those who advocate for sitting on our hands and just saying NO to everything, sight unseen. The international community has no interest in protecting American businesses, and the Environmental Protection Agency is not required by the Supreme Court to consider the views of our constituents or the economic consequences to our communities.

I believe America is the one nation best equipped to lead such a multinational effort and, in doing so, to strike a balance between environmental preservation and the preservation of jobs. The hands-off approach of recent years did nothing to help promote new energy technologies, or to advance carbon capture and sequestration, or to protect American jobs.

It is evident that wishing that this complex issue would simply go away will not lead to

better results for our Nation or the people we represent. And "just saying no" to any and all proposals, sight unseen, is unrealistic and irresponsible.

For those reasons, I chose to work with my colleagues and with numerous stakeholders—including the coal industry, manufacturers, and labor—to positively influence this bill and America's climate change strategies. And for those reasons our coal miners and responsible industry members have been at the table, too, rather than on the sidelines.

I thank Chairman WAXMAN, who has made many concessions in this bill, and I thank leadership for listening to my concerns about this legislation and moving to help address them.

As well, I commend my colleague RICK BOUCHER, from southwestern Virginia, who serves on the Energy and Commerce Committee and worked in determined fashion to make improvements to the bill that we both sought. I am grateful that he has been so welcoming of my views and supportive of our interests—such as ensuring the availability of \$10 billion to advance carbon capture and sequestration technologies and other changes that are beneficial to the people of our neighboring districts.

While this bill is greatly improved from the discussion draft that was first circulated in March of this year—and opponents were saying NO even before that draft was written—more improvements are needed to gain my support.

Coal does much more than keep the lights on in big cities across America. In my district, it covers the mortgage, puts food on the family dinner table, and keeps open the doors of small businesses. While the emissions target in the early years of this program has been lowered from the 20% cap initially contained in this bill, there remains widespread concern that even the reduced cap—17% in 2020—is still too high and too soon to incentivize rapid development and deployment of carbon capture and sequestration technologies, so as to ensure coal mining jobs for the future. We must allow time for expensive clean coal technologies to come on line.

These technologies are critical to lowering emissions across multiple sectors of our economy. And they are necessary for keeping hardworking coal miners in the jobs they want, providing power for the country they love.

Madam Speaker, today, I cannot cast my vote for this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, on June 25, 2009, I was absent for eight rollcall votes because I was in a meeting at the White House with President Obama on immigration reform. If I had been here, I would like the RECORD to reflect that I would have voted:

Yes on rollcall vote 453, Yes on rollcall vote 454, No on rollcall vote 455, No on rollcall vote 456, Yes on rollcall vote 457, Yes on rollcall vote 458, No on rollcall vote 459, and Yes on rollcall vote 460.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2010 (H.R. 2998).

My Congressional District received \$500,000 for the City of Omaha Public Works Department, located at 1819 Farnam Street, Suite 600, Omaha, NE 68183. This money is from the State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) account, and will be used by the City of Omaha for the design and construction of improvements to portions of the City's combined sewer system. These projects will allow the City of Omaha to reduce the amount of sewage overflowing to receiving streams. These efforts are consistent with the latest requirements from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) to achieve the goal of improved water quality in the United States.

A TRIBUTE TO MAJOR EARL G. ANDERSON, JR.

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and military service of Major Earl G. Anderson, Jr. who was recently named the 2009 Aviator of the Year at the Indianapolis Air Show.

Born in Rockford, Illinois in 1920, twenty-two-year old Earl Anderson, Jr. enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps in April of 1942 leaving behind his wife Geraldine to serve his country in its time of need. By September 1943, Aviation Cadet Anderson had completed his State-side training and was assigned to the United States 15th Air Force flying The Consolidated B-24 Liberator bomber over Europe. The B-24 was an American heavy bomber that still holds the record as the most produced U.S. military aircraft.

Between December 1943 and June 1944 Major Anderson flew fifty-one successful combat missions against enemy targets before being shot down. He spent the remainder of the war as a Prisoner of War (POW) in a camp outside Munich, Germany. For his heroic and courageous flying, Major Earl Anderson, Jr. was awarded by order of the President of the United States the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with 6 clusters, and the Distinguished Unit Badge with one cluster.

Earl's prison camp was eventually liberated by allied troops in 1945 and after debriefing Earl was sent back to the United States to spend some time on furlough before returning to duty. Major Anderson continued serving both on active duty and as a member of the Reserves until he was Honorably Discharged in 1961.

Fortunately for all Hoosiers, Earl's passion for aviation stayed with him after he left the service and he's been an active part of Indiana's aviation community for many years. Earl and his wife Geraldine (Gerrie) have been married for 67 years. They have two daughters, Marilyn and Barbara, and five grandchildren.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me now to thank Major Earl Anderson, Jr. for his service and his sacrifices for our country, and to congratulate him on being named the 2009 Indiana Aviator of the Year.

HONORING LT. COLONEL CHARLIE PARNELL

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an unsung hero from Southwest Colorado; Lt. Colonel Charlie Parnell of Durango. Charlie Parnell has selflessly and tirelessly been serving the veterans of Southwest Colorado for many years and it is time that he is recognized for this service.

In 1988, Lt. Colonel Parnell retired from the United States Air Force after 26 years of honorable service, including tours of duty in Germany, Thailand, Vietnam, Korea, Turkey and Saudi Arabia. He is the proud recipient of the Bronze Star.

After struggling for 15 years to receive the disability benefits he had earned from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Lt. Colonel Parnell dedicated himself to helping his fellow veterans wade through the challenging VA benefits system so they too would receive the compensation they had earned. Since then, he has helped over 1000 veterans receive their benefits, and has done so completely at his own expense.

It is this type of above the call-of-duty service that makes this nation great. And it is this kind of service that deserves all of our recognition. When asked why he does what he does for his fellow disabled veterans, Lt. Colonel Parnell says simply, "Because I can."

Madam Speaker, today I rise to join the 1000 veterans in Colorado's Southwest region to thank and honor Charlie Parnell for his service to this country and to my constituents in the Third Congressional District.

Thank you, Lt. Colonel Parnell for your hard work and dedication to our nation.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding an earmark I received as part of H.R. 2996, the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. This legislation appropriates \$500,000 to the Department of the Interior National Park Service account for the Castillo de San Marco National Monument in the City of St. Augustine, Flor-

ida, which is in my district. The entity to receive this funding is the U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, Castillo de San Marco National Monument located at 1 South Castillo Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32084.

The City of St. Augustine, founded 444 years ago in 1565, is our nation's oldest enduring settlement of European design. Prominent within the Historic Spanish Colonial District, which features thirty-six original colonial buildings, is the majestic Castillo de San Marcos stone fortress that began construction in 1672.

As the only existing 17th century fort in North America, the Castillo de San Marcos is an important historical and cultural landmark that features the oldest surviving masonry in our nation. About 538,500 people visited the Castillo in 2008, hosting as many as 3,751 tourists in just one day.

Authorized by Public Law 108-480, this funding will be used for the planning and design phase of the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument Restoration Project, as outlined in Alternative C of the March 2007 Final General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

This planning will help preserve and expand the Castillo by constructing a visitor center in the Spanish Quarter of St. Augustine and removing a portion of the visitor parking lot to restore the glaci.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2647) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Chair, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Chairman SKELTON and his Committee for the important work they have done on this legislation and the strides they have made to ensure that individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI) are identified and afforded the benefits that they deserve.

TBI is the signature injury of our current conflicts overseas. As many as 20 percent of the 1.8 million deployed troops—or an estimated 360,000 soldiers—have sustained traumatic brain injuries while in Iraq and Afghanistan. Unfortunately, many of these men and women in uniform are falling through the cracks. We must ensure that these individuals are properly identified and provided with the world class health care that they deserve. H.R. 2647 takes important steps to achieving both of these goals.

First, I applaud the inclusion of language submitted by myself and Congressman TODD PLATTS, who is both a member of the Armed Services Committee and serves as my Co-Chair on the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, that calls on the branches of the Armed Services to implement long-term tracking for

blast exposures, as the Army National Guard (NG) has already done. The NG initiative records the exposure to blasts in troops' personnel records in order to document the incident in the event of problems associated with traumatic brain injury or exposure to contaminants. This database will help determine eligibility for appropriate treatment, care, and disability entitlements. A comprehensive blast tracking system will also assist in efforts to research blast injuries and mild TBI and improve outreach, education, and follow-up for injured personnel who might otherwise fall through the cracks.

Second, I am appreciative of the inclusion of language that I submitted regarding the awarding of the Purple Heart to individuals who have sustained traumatic brain injuries, which calls on the Secretary to review its policies and procedures for determining eligibility and awarding of the Purple Heart as it relates to TBI. Media reports and anecdotal evidence have suggested that Purple Hearts may have been awarded inconsistently to service personnel who have sustained combat-related TBIs, suggesting that individuals with more severe TBIs may be eligible for the distinguished Purple Heart while individuals with less severe ones often receive refusals.

We believe that the Purple Heart criteria set out in regulation encompass soldiers who sustain a TBI or concussion as the result of enemy action. The Department of Defense's own Legislative Affairs has, however, stated that a brain injury that requires minimal medical attention would not suffice. I would caution against the use of such absolutes in the face of uncertainty about the effects of blast-related TBIs. Because the field of science still knows relatively little about effective interventions and the long-term consequences of traumatic brain injuries, particularly mild ones and those caused by blasts, the Department of Defense' interpretation of treatment should not preclude injured soldiers who fulfill all other Purple Heart criteria from receiving the recognition and benefits they deserve.

Third, I am pleased to see the inclusion of legislation introduced by Congressman WALTER JONES, of which I am an original co-sponsor. This important language permits separated service members to seek a review of their discharge if their post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or TBI was not taken into consideration when determining their separation and mandates a physical exam for active duty service members before an administrative separation proceeding if the service member had been diagnosed with PTSD or TBI. The effects and prevalence of PTSD and TBI have become too harsh and too widespread for our military leaders to overlook, and ensuring that the full facts of soldiers' injuries are considered upon discharge is the least we can do to ensure these individuals receive the care and benefits they deserve.

Finally, I praise the Committee for its recognition of the need for civilian and military collaboration in the science of the brain by providing for a Visiting NIH Senior Neuroscience Fellowship Program. This will provide an important opportunity for the military to learn from the work occurring at the National Institutes of Health on neuroscience and vice versa.

Thank you again to Chairman SKELTON, and I look forward to continuing to work with the Committee as we make further improvements

to the care and benefits that we provide to the brave men and women that put their lives on the line for our freedom.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY E. REIDER

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Larry E. Reider, a resident and community leader from Bakersfield, California, on his retirement as Kern County Superintendent of Schools and to recognize his remarkable and distinguished leadership while serving the students of Kern county. Over the last 44 years, Larry has been instrumental in advancing Kern County's public education system.

Larry was born in the State of Washington and was raised on his family's farm. In 1965, he earned his bachelor's degree from Central Washington State University and made the move to Kern County to teach in the Arvin Union School District. A dedicated math teacher, Larry spent 19 years in Arvin schools' classrooms and later as a school administrator. He also earned advanced degrees from the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and the University of Southern California.

In 1984, Larry joined the Office of the Kern County Superintendent of Schools as a district advisory consultant. Recognizing his dedication and commitment to the schools, students, and parents of the community, the Kern County Board of Education tapped him to be the Kern County Superintendent of Schools in 1999.

Since becoming Kern County Superintendent of Schools, Larry has been integral to a plethora of local initiatives and projects designed to enhance the reading, writing, and mathematical skills of elementary school students in the county. For instance, he partnered with the Bakersfield Californian to develop the Community Reading Project, which places volunteer reading tutors throughout various classrooms in the county to aid second graders in becoming more proficient readers. Additionally, he developed the Kern Reading Collaborative, an association that analyzes which reading programs are productive and investigates ways those programs can reach more students. Larry also established the Do The Math program, a bi-weekly television homework help channel where teachers assist students in both English and Spanish with their math problems both on and off the air, as well as Ready to Start, a summer pilot program that prepares pre-kindergartners to learn more efficiently as they begin their academic career.

As a former teacher, Larry was always cognizant that highly qualified and effective teachers in the classroom are the best recipe for successful students. To that end, he co-chaired a task force which formulated various approaches to recruit and retain highly qualified teachers in Kern County schools and get them in the classroom. This initiative has been highly successful, and our schools have some of the best and brightest teachers in the region. He also recognized that new generations of students are exceedingly technology savvy,

and so opened a learning center that helps teachers integrate technology into the classroom to better teach and engage their students. This not only helps teachers be more effective, it also helps ensure their students continue to develop the skills necessary to be successful in the technology-driven workplace of today.

Not only has Larry harnessed cutting-edge technology in the classroom, he has also been an advocate to use technology to help keep our environment clean. Under Larry's leadership, Kern County schools are in the process of converting their current diesel school bus fleet to clean burning Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). More than half of the diesel buses have already been replaced. As part of this initiative, in 2006, the Superintendent of Schools opened a CNG fueling station, which serves Kern County school buses and is open to the public. As Kern County unfortunately has some of the dirtiest air in the United States, this initiative is extremely important to helping clean the air in the Central Valley.

Larry is also active in several community organizations, including the Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce, Kern County Network for Children, United Way, Rotary Club of Bakersfield, and Vision 2020. He has also been honored by several local and state organizations over the years for his leadership by organizations such as the Community Action Partnership of Kern, California State University-Bakersfield School of Education, Association of California School Administrators, California Teachers Association, Kern Council of Governments, and Kern Reading Association.

Larry exemplifies how one can serve their community with great enthusiasm, fortitude, and dedication. Over the years, I have enjoyed working with Larry and always found his perpetual optimism infectious. There was never an obstacle he did not challenge head-on in his amiable, but no-nonsense style, and fight for the best interests of the students of Kern County. After 44 years in public service, I know that Larry looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Sandy, a retired junior high language arts and drama teacher, and his daughter Mikhail. I know that Larry will be missed in the Kern County public education system, and I salute his lifetime of service and wish him the best as he begins this new chapter in his life.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, The FY 2010 Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act:

Agency: Environmental Protection Agency
Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Amount: \$500,000

Project: Railroad Avenue/Main Street stormwater improvements, Borough of Califon, NJ

Recipient: Borough of Califon, 39 Academy Street, Califon, NJ 07830

The funding would be used for reconstruction of the storm water conveyance system to reduce flooding, meet storm water management standards, and to enhance storm water quality in the Borough of Califon, New Jersey.

Much of the historic core of the Borough of Califon was developed during the mid-late 19th century. Drainage systems were constructed to collect and deliver stormwater to waterpower sites. Considerable segments of the original drainage infrastructure remain and are antiquated. The current drainage ways are susceptible to frequent flooding. During flooding events, recharge to groundwater is reduced, suspended solids and floatables bypass normal catchments, and septic systems are inundated. The quality of receiving waters is degraded.

A reoccurring flooding problem exists along an unnamed tributary which traverses a natural, wooded area between Academy Street and Main St. Severe flooding occurs as flows overtop the existing channel and then sheet overland along Railroad Avenue and Main Street. Flooding along the area reoccurs on a regular basis and results in the degradation of water quality of the downstream receiving watercourses.

In general, the problem is inadequate capacity of the conveyance system of open channels, pipes and culverts. Reconstruction of the system is needed to reduce flooding, meet current stormwater management standards and to enhance stormwater quality.

This project is consistent with environmental criteria established by the State of New Jersey to improve stormwater systems and water quality. Since the stormwater from the area of this project enters the South Branch of the Raritan River, which flows directly through the center of the Borough of Califon, the benefits of this project are far reaching.

IN REMEMBRANCE AND RECOGNITION OF TIMOTHY MICHAEL ELLIOTT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Timothy Michael Elliott and in recognition of his service to our country and his dedication to the City of Cleveland, Ohio. Tim lived and worked in the Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood of Cleveland's west side in my district. He sought to preserve Cleveland's historic housing one house at a time and devoted his time to ensuring the historic integrity of each home he restored.

As a young man, Tim served in the U.S. Army and worked as a draftsman for Hauserman Inc., and B.F. Goodrich. He also worked for Century 21 Real Estate and led the Nolasco Housing Corporation, a non-profit development organization affiliated with the neighborhood Catholic Church, Our Lady of Mount Carmel. In addition to his work, he dedicated his life to the City of Cleveland. He was proud of the west side neighborhood in which he lived and became concerned about deteriorating conditions. He began to buy and repair neighboring homes to improve the housing of the neighborhood. He rarely worked on houses he could not walk to from

his Herman Avenue home. "He could walk into a place that was falling apart and not see it as it was but what it could be," said Judge Ray Pianka, a neighbor and friend as well as Cleveland's municipal housing judge. "He has taken some homes that appeared to be beyond saving and made them showplaces."

Also within walking distance of their home was Edgewater State Park, a beautiful park along the Lake Erie shore with beaches, boating, picnic areas, and other recreational activities. Tim and his wife Mimi, along with other neighbors and local officials, started the Friends of Edgewater Park to promote and preserve this wonderful amenity in their neighborhood. Tim is survived by his wife Mimi, his son Timothy Michael Jr., his granddaughter Brooke Elliott, and his many friends.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating the life of Tim Elliott, and in recognizing his dedication to the betterment of our community. His service and leadership in the west side neighborhood of Cleveland inspired us all to work toward neighborhood preservation.

TIMOTHY ELLIOTT, 63, FIXED UP OLD HOMES ON THE WEST SIDE—OBITUARY
(By Grant Segall)

Tim Elliott helped to turn around the West Side. The painstaking renovator and Realtor helped revive Ohio City and Detroit-Shoreway in the past four decades, boosting a couple of hundred properties and winning over skeptical investors, bankers and officials.

Elliott died Friday in his West Side home, one of his pet projects, a 3,200-square-foot Italianate from the 1860s. He was 63 and had struggled for several years with strokes.

"He could walk into a place that was falling apart and not see it as it was but what it could be," said Raymond Pianka, Cleveland's housing judge, a neighbor and the employer of Elliott's widow, Mimi. "He has taken some homes that appeared to be beyond saving and made them showplaces."

Elliott liked not just walking into a place but walking to it. He'd turn down a project if he and his small crew couldn't walk there from their homes.

He hoped each project would ripple through the neighborhood. He preferred corner homes, helping two blocks instead of one.

He liked to install modern conveniences such as whirlpools while highlighting history.

"There's not a newer old house in the city," he boasted about one salvage job.

He bought homes suffering from water, waste and vandals and sold them for several times his purchase price. He'd comb rural Ohio for replacement parts or make them himself, from tiles to spindles.

Elliott said he'd decided at age 7 to spruce up old homes. He was born on the East Side, the seventh of eight children. His father was an engineer, and several brothers followed suit.

He left Cleveland at 12 and graduated from Willoughby South High School. He enlisted in the U.S. Army, making photographs and maps, serving partly in South Korea.

Elliott returned to Cleveland in the early 1970s and helped Hauserman Inc. draft work for projects such as the Americana high-rise in Euclid. He later drafted pipes and buildings for Goodrich in Solon.

On the side, he got an associate's degree in arts at Cuyahoga Community College.

He started renovating West Side homes about 1978. He owned about 16 buildings over the years and handled many others as well.

He worked for Century 21 and led Nolasco Housing Corp., a development group affili-

ated with Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, in the 1980s.

Elliott was honored by Cleveland Magazine and the Cleveland Restoration Society.

On the side, he liked to bicycle, raise terriers and sail. He put together a 27-foot boat from a kit.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the Fiscal Year 2010 Department of Interior and Environment Appropriations request.

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF MILLER

Project Name: Santa Rosa County for Navarre Beach water clarifier

Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Santa Rosa County, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 6495 Caroline Street, Milton, FL 32570

Description of Request: \$220,000—Santa Rosa County for Navarre Beach Water Clarifier, Milton, Florida. I requested these funds to allow for Navarre Beach residents to have a safe and reliable source of water. Currently there is no reliable backup beyond three days for citizens. It would also increase compliance with both State and Federal regulations. The entity to receive funding for this project is Santa Rosa County, Florida, located at 6495 Caroline Street, Milton, FL 32570. The funding would be used to complete the Navarre Beach Water Reclamation Facility clarifiers to protect the area's water quality. I certify that this project does have a direct and foreseeable effect on the pecuniary interest of my spouse or me. Consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I hereby certify that this request (1) is not directed to any entity or program named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2) is not intended for a "front" or "pass through" entity; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2892, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2010:

Requesting Member: Congressman TED POE

Bill Number: H.R. 2892, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2010

Account: FEMA, Predisaster Mitigation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: CHRISTUS St. Elizabeth Hospital

Address of Requesting Entity: 2830 Calder Street, Beaumont, TX 77702

Description of Request: I have secured \$250,000 in funding under FEMA's Predisaster Mitigation account to allow for the purchase of a 2.5 megawatt diesel generating plant to ensure sanitary and safe conditions for both current and potential patients during disasters. Although the Hospital has basic generator capabilities to sustain life support, Hurricanes Rita and Ike have proved that this basic capacity is insufficient. During Hurricane Ike, 190 patients were unable to be evacuated and as commercial utilities were shut down, basic hospital operations were compromised. The generator will make certain that the Hospital remains serviceable by ensuring that power and water are functional; thus, allowing the Hospital to maintain its mission of providing essential medical care to the residents of southeast Texas.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. CALVERT of California. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman KEN CALVERT

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: Environmental Protection Agency, STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Western Municipal Water District

Address of Requesting Entity: 450 Alessandro Boulevard, Riverside, CA 92508

Description of Request: H.R. 2996 provides \$500,000 for the Western Municipal Water District for Arlington Desalter Bionitrification project. The funding will be used to build a biological denitrification facility for drinking water. The process, called "Fixed-Bed Biological Treatment" (FXB) uses an innovative bio-reactor to remove multiple contaminants from groundwater. Western Municipal Water District has completed pilot testing of the FXB process at the Arlington Desalter and has already received conditional approval from the California Department of Public Health for a full scale facility. This new facility will consist of a series of large biofilter, polishing and backwash equalization tanks as well as supply pumps and a new groundwater well. It will be built at the site of the Arlington Desalter in Riverside, California. The project benefits the City of Norco, portions of the City of Riverside, unincorporated areas of Riverside County, and any entity within the Arlington Groundwater Basin by cleaning the area's water supply and creating up to 3.7 million-gallons-per-day of new water.

Requesting Member: Congressman KEN CALVERT

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: Environmental Protection Agency, STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of San Juan Capistrano

Address of Requesting Entity: 32400 Paseo Adelanto, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Description of Request: H.R. 2996 provides \$500,000 to the City of San Juan Capistrano for ground water recovery plant expansion and regional distribution facility. The funding will allow the city to expand the current capacity of the existing treatment facility to 7.3 million-gallons-per-day from 5.6 million-gallons-per-day. During the ongoing drought, water that is produced locally can be conveyed to surrounding water agencies thereby reducing the demands placed on the Sacramento Bay Delta and the Colorado River. In the event of a natural disaster or other emergency, the treatment plant will have the ability to function as a regional distribution facility to neighboring water agencies and helping to provide a reliable source of safe drinking water.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, the Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2010:

Rep. WALTER B. JONES

Project: Rural Water Technical Assistance, National Rural Water Association

Recipient: National Rural Water Association, 2915 South 13th Street, Duncan, OK 74544

Account: Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Programs and Management

Amount: \$13,000,000

Explanation: The funding will be used to provide rural water technical assistance, including source water and ground water protection, to help small rural communities across the nation protect their drinking water quality and comply with federal mandates.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding an earmark I received as part of H.R. 2996, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010:

Congressman SAM GRAVES, (MO-6), Department of the Interior, EPA/STAG Account—\$500,000 to the City of St. Joseph for Stormwater and Wastewater Infrastructure (1100 Frederick Avenue, St. Joseph, MO 64501)

The federal funding I obtained will be utilized by the City of St. Joseph, MO, to repair and update its aging stormwater and wastewater system. The community's sanitary and stormwater collection system is divided into two components: a large combined sewer system and a separated system. Specifically, the

funds will support the development and implementation of a county-wide Stormwater Management Plan to make improvements to the system to comply with EPA requirements and operational needs resulting from new regulations, system conditions and community growth in the City of St. Joseph and Buchanan County, MO. This federal funding has the potential to create new jobs with the increased sanitary waste capacity, as well as have a positive impact on ratepayers thanks to more efficient operations with improved water quality.

HONORING THE EFFORTS OF MR.
RUSS DAVIDSON

HON. DENNY REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. REHBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Russ Davidson of Colstrip, Montana, for 25 years of dedicated service to the Close Up Foundation. On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and Montana, it's a privilege to thank Russ for his many years of service.

As a high school teacher of history and government, Russ has traveled to Washington, D.C. with his students many times over the course of his career. According to his students and all who know him, Russ is an excellent teacher with years of experience in the classroom. Each year, I enjoy meeting with hundreds of Close Up students in Washington, D.C., and I appreciate the extent to which Close Up sponsors promote informed participation in the democratic process. Close Up gives students the unique opportunity to learn about the democratic process as they are introduced to lawmakers, public interest groups and personnel from all branches of government.

Thanks to people like Russ, students from across America are able to meet with their elected leaders and understand how they can make a positive difference through democratic participation. Once again, I thank Russ for his dedication as an educator and Close Up sponsor, and it's a privilege to formally recognize his efforts.

CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF MARTHA
POFFENBERGER MCKINLEY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my colleagues, Representative DEVIN NUNES and Representative JIM COSTA, to acknowledge, congratulate, and celebrate the 100th Birthday of Martha Poffenberger McKinley.

Martha has always been an active member of the Fresno community. She worked for the State of California Department of Industrial Welfare for many years, where she was involved with a number of business and professional organizations. She also founded and became the first president of the women's section of the Fresno County Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs. McKinley now lives with her daughter and son-in-law. She enjoys spending time with her three grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren, and is looking forward to the birth of her first great-great grandchild.

Martha has been a remarkable mother not only to her own daughter but also to her other daughter Sally Lewis. In 2000, Martha was recognized by the Fresno County Women's Chamber of Commerce as Mother of the Year. She is well-deserving of this award.

My colleagues and I want to take this opportunity to not only wish Martha a happy birthday, but to express our admiration and gratitude for her service to the people of Fresno County. It is truly an honor to celebrate such a remarkable lady.

Below is a letter submitted by her long time friend, Sally M. Lewis.

"On July 17th, a remarkable lady will celebrate her 100th birthday. Martha Poffenberger McKinley was born in Portsmouth, Ohio, on July 17, 1909, the only child of Edward Daniel and Claire Kennedy Poffenberger.

Her life is a long list of accomplishments, but most of all she was a loving wife to Pete before his death and she is a remarkable mom to her daughter Monna and a true blessing in my life for treating me as a daughter since I was a child.

After graduation from Ohio State, Martha began her professional life in Ohio as the private secretary to Governor Bricker. Following her marriage to Peter B. McKinley they moved to northern California. Not much for staying at home, she went to work at Mare Island Ship Yard and quickly moved up from secretarial pool to department head. The family moved to Fresno after Monna was born and once she started school Martha went to work for the state of California Department of Industrial Welfare. While working there she was active in many business and professional organizations. Among them she founded and was the first president of the women's section of the Fresno County Chamber of Commerce (now The Fresno County Women in Chambers of Commerce).

She lived in her own home and washed her own car until she lost her vision well into her 90's. She now enjoys living with her daughter and son-in-law surrounded by her three grandchildren, 8 great children and soon her first great-great grand child.

Even though she is now blind, she still keeps up on current events, manages her own investments and has voted in every election.

Martha has a wonderful mind and fantastic memory. She is never without a joke and a smile. Always the life of any gathering, Martha has always enjoyed her evening cocktail and visits with family and friends. An evening with Martha is one you're not likely to forget.

It's an honor and a privilege to have her as my "other mother." From: Sally M. Lewis"

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY'S HERMISTON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER

SPEECH OF

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw my colleagues' attention to the historic

June 30, 2009, centennial of Oregon State University's Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center, located in the corner of northeast Oregon near the mighty Columbia River.

Few areas in the world can match the quantity or quality of crop production of the Columbia Basin region that straddles the Oregon-Washington border. This center has been in the middle of it all for 100 years, helping farmers, ranchers, and researchers find ways to better grow and steward crops ranging from dry land wheat to watermelons; from sugar beets to wine grapes; from beef cattle to dairy cows.

Established in 1909, the "Umatilla Experiment Farm" initially served farmers trying to make a living on 20,000 acres of semi-arid northern Oregon desert as part of a federal government reclamation program. By the 1930s, farming expanded to well over 160,000 acres and the demand for the center's research reached levels far surpassing its initial 40 acres. The center moved and expanded to its current 300-acre location to better serve the region's agricultural communities. Today, the work done at this center serves well over 500,000 acres of irrigated and non-irrigated crop land.

The West is dominated by nutrient-deprived, semi-desert soils. The Columbia Basin is no different. So at the beginning, the center set upon helping farmers and ranchers overcome the fundamental challenges posed by an annual rainfall rate of eight inches. Researchers determined which types of organic matter, when put into the soil, would produce the best crops. They worked with farmers, ranchers, and communities to identify more efficient water use, based on soil type, topography, and micro-climate.

Madam Speaker, it is summertime, and if you enjoy a refreshing slice of watermelon this time of year, chances are you have the great work at this center to thank for it. The Columbia Basin is renowned for its delicious watermelons, and the center's researchers helped increase their production from 30-tons per acre under center-pivot irrigation to 70-tons per acre with drip irrigation and weed control. In the process, they made more efficient use of the water and decreased the amount of herbicide needed during production of the watermelon crop.

The center's researchers are in the middle of the battle against crop disease. Tuber worm has emerged as a threat to root crops in recent years. Late blight, the same fungus that caused the great potato famine, has resurfaced. Researchers are on the cutting edge of identifying new methods to fight diseases that cost producers thousands of dollars each year to control.

And if all that work were not enough, researchers at the center are helping improve the quality of the country's food supply. This is one of the only centers of its kind in America with a molecular biologist working to increase the nutritional quality of our food.

The center's research is so valuable to the region that the many producers who benefit from its research return their thanks generously, donating over \$1 million to the center in the past two decades. Growers also funded the building of two large insect houses at \$40,000 each that facilitate research on which pests carry crop damaging diseases.

Today's challenges require innovative thinking and solutions. New crop varieties devel-

oped at the center help overcome the present challenges facing old crops. Many of the solutions that producers and individuals in the region see as major milestones are all in a day's work for the researchers of the center. As described by the station superintendent, Philip Hamm, "Our staff are just doing their job, and looking for the next challenge."

Madam Speaker, this center has played a vital role in helping farmers, ranchers and agricultural communities thrive on the sandy soils that have presented many challenges over the past 100 years. Today, the region served by the center is one of the most important agriculture production areas in the Northwest and produces some of the highest yielding, highest quality crops in the United States.

I congratulate Oregon State University's Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center leadership, its board members, area farmers and ranchers, and the community on reaching this remarkable milestone. I am confident the center's next 100 years will be as successful as 1909–2009 has been.

ON THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOURTH BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an institution in Richmond, the capital of the Commonwealth of Virginia. On Saturday, June 27, 2009, the members of Fourth Baptist Church are celebrating their 150th anniversary, and I would like to take a moment to highlight the rich history of this church and its contribution to our community.

Fourth Baptist Church, the first black Baptist church in the Church Hill community in Richmond, began in 1859 as a regular assembly of slaves for prayer. The group met regularly on Chimborazo Hill until the outbreak of the Civil War, when the white congregation of the Leigh Street Baptist Church granted permission for the slaves to hold their services in the church basement.

In 1865 the Reverend Scott Gwathmey, one of the group's prayer leaders, gained permission for the group to meet in a Union barracks on Chimborazo Hill. There, on December 2, 1865, the Fourth Baptist Church was formally organized, with Reverend Gwathmey serving as the first pastor.

The barracks were eventually demolished, but the congregation salvaged lumber from the debris and constructed their own church building. In 1875 this church was replaced by another one of frame, on the northern side of Church Hill, near what was to be the site of the present church. The present building was completed in 1884, three months after the former church was destroyed by fire.

The church has grown considerably from these humble beginnings. Major expansion was conducted under the direction of current Pastor Emeritus, Dr. Robert L. Taylor. Dr. Taylor served as Pastor of Fourth Baptist for 34 years. He was responsible for instituting many of the programs that still exist at the church, and oversaw the building of the addition to the church building now known as Taylor Hall.

Fourth Baptist has vibrant Men's and Women's programs that enlighten and assist the

young people as they participate in the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and the Youth Usher programs. Fourth Baptist also participates with the Baptist General Convention of Virginia to conduct outreach ministries throughout Greater Richmond and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I would like to congratulate Chairman of the Board of Deacons Gerard A. Dabney, Interim Pastor Dr. Marion Tapscott, and the entire congregation of Fourth Street Baptist on the occasion of their 150th anniversary. I would like to wish them another 150 years of service to their community.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I secured as part of H.R. 2996, the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman GEOFF DAVIS

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: STAG

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Wurtland

Address of Requesting Entity: 500 Wurtland Avenue, Wurtland, Kentucky 41144

Description of Request: Appropriate \$500,000 for the Wurtland/Greenup/Lloyd Regional Sewer project. This project will extend sewers to underserved areas and decommission one WWTP consolidating service with a more modern regional facility. The project serves approximately 3,200 people and will accommodate growth and expansion. Completion of the project will improve health and environmental conditions in the region. In addition, it will eliminate two package plants & approximately 520 septic systems. The Kentucky Infrastructure Authority and the Greenup County Fiscal Court have committed \$1.37 million to this project. This project is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it will reduce pollution in local streams that flow into the Ohio River and will help the community comply with federal environmental standards.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING OF DAN MCKENZIE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dan McKenzie, a Northwest Florida community leader and businessman who passed away on June 22, 2009. Mr. McKenzie spent his entire life serving his community and family. I am proud to honor his life of dedication and service.

Mr. McKenzie grew up in Pineapple, Alabama, the son of a sawmill owner. He chose to branch out and not follow in the family business, instead trying his hand at ranching. As

a young man, continuing health issues forced him to seek medical care in Foley, Alabama where he was told he would have to leave the area completely in order to regain his health. He spent the night in Milton, Florida and said he was never sick again. Milton became his permanent home after his miraculous recovery, where he became entrenched in the local business community.

Upon settling in Milton, Mr. McKenzie began a new career in the automotive industry. His first day on the job, he sold a brand new Mercury sedan for \$3,000. From there, he built a family owned automotive business that still stands to this day. For over 40 years, McKenzie Pontiac GMC Buick has provided for the automotive needs of the people of Northwest Florida. Billing themselves as a hometown dealership, their motto of "We will treat you like family" was a promise and not just a slogan.

Mr. McKenzie was not only a businessman, but a dedicated family man. In 1945, he married his childhood sweetheart, Mary Till, and often credited her as his inspiration. They were the parents of five daughters. Sadly, Dianne passed away at the age of 9, but left to cherish his memory are Janet, Linda, Lisa and Dana.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor Mr. Dan McKenzie as a man reflective of the true spirit of Northwest Florida. Mr. McKenzie will be remembered by all as a loving husband and father, a successful businessman and an important part of our Northwest Florida community.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996—FY 2010 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

In the Environmental Protection Agency STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project account, an earmark for the City of Andrews arsenic filtration pilot project was included on my behalf. The entity to receive this funding is the City of Andrews, Texas. Andrews City Hall is located at 111 Logsdon, Andrews, TX, 79714. The funding would create a pilot program for demonstrating an alternative method to achieve EPA mandates for arsenic mitigation in rural public drinking water systems through the use of under-the-counter reverse-osmosis filtration systems.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part

of H.R. 2996, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2010.

City of Reading Wastewater Treatment Plant, Reading PA—\$500,000 for upgrades to address environmental issues as required by Department of Justice Consent Decree.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, the fiscal year 2010 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill:

Requesting Member: Congressman DON YOUNG

Bill Number: H.R. 2996, FY10 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill

Account: Fish and Wildlife Services/Fisheries.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Alaska Sea Otter and Stellar Sea Lion Commission.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 142, Old Harbor, Alaska 99643.

Description of Request: \$200,000 for the Alaska Sea Otter and Stellar Sea Lion Commission. The Alaska Sea Otter and Stellar Sea Lion Commission is an Alaska Native organization that works to ensure conservation, co-management, education, and artistic development of sea otters and sea lions. It is my understanding that this funding would facilitate the development of a co-management plan for sea otters and sea lions by local communities in the interest of sustainable populations and increasing involvement in subsistence management.

Requesting Member: Congressman DON YOUNG

Bill Number: H.R. 2996, FY10 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill

Account: Fish and Wildlife Service/Resource Management.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Alaska Sealife Center.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 1329, Seward, Alaska 99664.

Description of Request: \$350,000 for the Sealife Center's Eider Research Program. It is my understanding that the funding for this project would be used to integrate the Sealife Center's marine research facilities with field research to help recover the Stellar and Spectacled Eider, and support the Recovery Team mandated by the Endangered Species Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NORTHEAST OHIO SIERRA CLUB

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Northeast Ohio Sierra Club and applaud their efforts to raise

awareness about the dangers of coal and its contributions to global warming. As the nation takes strides towards more environmentally sound ways of producing energy, it is important that we recognize the danger of trading one harmful fuel for another. If we hope to have a stable climate, we must refrain from the use of strong and toxic pollutants like coal.

Americans are known for their determination and innovation when faced with a challenge. Let us rely on these qualities in our transition to cleaner energy, rather than choosing an easy way out represented by coal. The health of our children and our planet is too big of a price to pay for our continued dependence on coal.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the efforts that the Northeast Ohio Sierra Club has taken in raising awareness of the dangers of coal. As the nation works towards cleaner energy policies, organizations such as the Northeast Ohio Sierra Club are working tirelessly to keep the American public accurately informed on energy issues.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010:

Requesting Member: Congressman TED POE

Bill Number: H.R. 2996, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Account: Environmental Protection Agency's STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Baytown, TX

Address of Requesting Entity: 2401 Market Street, Baytown, TX 77522

Description of Request: I, and Rep. Ron Paul, have jointly secured \$500,000 in funding under the Environmental Protection Agency's STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project account for the city of Baytown, TX to help them fund a six-year, \$140 million Capital Improvement Project that will rehabilitate and upgrade the city's wastewater and water infrastructure to comply with increased federal and state regulations, maintain its condition and reliability and save costs. This project rehabilitates portions of the Central District Wastewater Treatment plant. The work includes redesign of critical components to elevate structures out of the floodway and to reduce the storm surge impacts suffered as was suffered during Hurricane Ike. These include the influent lift station, blower building, administration/laboratory building, and grit removal process. The internal piping needs to be replaced to improve energy and operating efficiency, along with the chlorine contact basin and plant pumping/transfer systems. Installation of post-storm emergency power systems are also a part of this project.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: Fish and Wildlife Service, Land Acquisition

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The Conservation Fund, Chesapeake, VA

Address of Requesting Entity: US 17, Chesapeake, Virginia, 23323, USA

Description of Request: Provides \$150,000 to fund the acquisition of 50 acres that has been identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as the preferred site for the construction of a new visitor's center for the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: National Park Service, Save America's Treasures

Legal name of Requesting Entity: Chesterfield County, Chesterfield, VA

Address of Requesting Entity: 9901 Lori Rd, Chesterfield, VA, 23832, USA

Description of Request: Provides \$150,000 to repair and preserve five historical structures in Chesterfield County.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman BRETT GUTHRIE

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Recipient: Owensboro-Daviess County Regional Water Resource Agency, 1722 Pleasant Valley Road, Owensboro, KY 42303

Description of Request: Provide \$220,000 to install a sewer system in the Locust Hill Subdivision, which is currently without sewer services.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2892) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 2892, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

This legislation provides \$44 billion for the Department of Homeland Security to continue its work to keep Americans safe, keep our borders secure, and ensure our communities are prepared for any disaster—whether natural or man-made.

At a time when our state and local governments are strained in the current economic downturn, this legislation continues our federal commitment to support local efforts that keep our communities safe. It provides \$3.55 billion for first responder grant initiatives, including \$810 million for Fire Grants, \$950 million for State Emergency Preparedness Grants, \$330 million for Emergency Management Performance Grants, and a total of \$90 million for interoperable communications and emergency response centers.

H.R. 2892 will help secure our border and improve the enforcement of our nation's immigration laws. The measure would fully fund 20,019 border patrol agents with \$3.5 billion and provide \$732 million for border fencing, infrastructure and technology. It would provide \$5.7 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to enhance our ability to identify and remove immigrants who have illegally entered the country, and \$248 million for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to improve the processing of visas for those eligible to enter the country. This funding includes \$112 million to operate and improve E-Verify, the DHS initiative that empowers businesses to screen potential employees' immigration status.

As North Carolina is a prime hurricane state, I am pleased that this bill makes important investments in all-hazards disaster preparedness. It provides \$2 billion for Disaster Relief, \$220 million to continue flood map modernization and to maintain modernized maps, and \$200 million to address the increasing needs for emergency food and shelter, recognizing that the current economic downturn is a disaster in its own right.

Madam Chair, this is a strong bill that enhances our ability to keep our nation secure and our citizens safe. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. SCHOCK. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the Republican adopted standards

on earmarks, I submit the below detailed explanation of the Village of Hopedale, Village of Hopedale, IL.

Bill Number: H.R. 2996 Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Provisions/Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Name and Address of Requesting Entity: entity to receive funding for this project is the Village of Hopedale, located at Box 387, Hopedale, IL 61747.

Description of Request: The funding would be used to conduct preliminary work on a new wastewater treatment plant.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2996) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 2996, the Fiscal Year 2010 Interior Appropriations Act.

This bill provides the much needed funding to protect and preserve our natural resources for future generations.

I applaud the Chairman for providing robust funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund in this legislation. I have long been a supporter and a leader in Congress for increasing the funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Since its creation in 1965, LWCF has provided funding to four federal agencies including the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service to acquire public lands.

In July of 1999 during my first term in Congress, I secured passage of a key amendment to resurrect the state-side portion of LWCF, providing funding for that program for the first time in five years. To date, the stateside program has preserved over 73,000 acres of land in my home state of New Jersey. I strongly support the Manager's amendment which would increase the funding for the state-side matching grants to \$40 million, which is over double the amount that it received in Fiscal Year 2009.

I strongly oppose the amendment of the gentleman from Utah, Mr. CHAFFETZ, that would strip funding from the state side portion of the LWCF. This amendment would be detrimental to the ability of states to preserve at risk open space and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

TRIBUTE TO MARINE GUNNERY
SERGEANT CHARLES "BRANDON"
BAILEY

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Marine Gunnery Sergeant Charles "Brandon" Bailey from Florence, Kentucky, who was wounded in an improvised explosive device attack on January 23, 2009, while serving in Afghanistan.

Gunnery Sergeant Bailey is a true patriot. Having felt the call to serve his country since childhood, Brandon sold his small business and selflessly joined the Marine Corps when he was twenty-four years old. He served his first combat deployment in Iraq and was a member of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit. In April, 2008, Brandon married his childhood friend, Kristie. He was deployed to Afghanistan as a member of the Marine Special Operations Command shortly after the wedding. Without any hesitation, he left his new wife to serve his country once more in harm's way, ultimately to be severely wounded in action.

Gunnery Sergeant Bailey is undergoing rehabilitation with recovery in the distant future. He and Kristie are expecting their first baby this December. Gunnery Sergeant Bailey stays positive and says he is happy he had the opportunity to do the job that he loved and serve his country. Brandon's life and character epitomize the Marine Corps Motto—Semper Fidelis, Always Faithful.

Gunnery Sergeant Bailey is an inspiration to us all. Today, Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to recognize Gunnery Sergeant Bailey's unwavering dedication to the Marine Corps and to thank him for his service to our great nation.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2647) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense; to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal-year 2010, and for other purposes.

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Chair, ensuring that our nation remains safe and strong is the top priority for this House. Because of the real and increasing nuclear threat from countries like North Korea and Iran, I agree with my colleagues who are offering this amendment that cutting funding for missile defense is the wrong choice for our country right now.

While I certainly support efforts to increase funding for missile defense, I am unable to support the amendment offered by my colleagues. The significant decrease in funding for the Environmental Management included

as an offset in the amendment will have a serious impact on the ability of our nation to fulfill its obligation to clean up our defense nuclear waste at several sites across the country, including one in my district, the Savannah River Site (SRS).

For over fifty years, sites like SRS have played an indispensable role in keeping our nation secure. Now, the federal government has the responsibility to fulfill the commitment it made to the communities and the states that have hosted these sites by cleaning up the legacy nuclear materials that remain and providing a safe environment for future generations. The cuts made by this amendment will significantly delay the progress being made in cleanup efforts at these sites and will undoubtedly impact the highest risk activities—processing and disposing of tank waste, special nuclear materials, and spent nuclear fuel—across the complex.

Additionally, failure to fully fund the Environmental Management program will result in missed regulatory milestones in many states where the sites are located, resulting in substantial fines and penalties from state and federal regulators. These fines will ultimately be paid by the American taxpayer.

During my time in the House, I have proudly worked alongside my Nuclear Cleanup Caucus colleagues as well as the entire South Carolina delegation to ensure the safe and timely cleanup of Cold War-era nuclear waste. And I will continue to advocate for full and stable funding for the Environmental Management Program to keep nuclear waste cleanup on track.

Consequently, even though I support my colleagues' efforts to restore funding for our nation's important missile defense program, I cannot support this amendment because of the detrimental effect the funding reduction will have on the Environmental Management program. We must remain committed to cleaning up our defense nuclear waste now for the benefit of generations to come.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman BRETT GUTHRIE

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: Save America's Treasures

Recipient: Breckinridge County Fiscal Court, Hardinsburg, KY

Description of Request: Provide \$150,000 to help preserve the historic Holt House. Judge Joseph Holt served as Judge Advocate General, and then later as Secretary of the Interior and Attorney General in President Lincoln's administration. The house has been on the National Register since 1976, however has not been properly maintained. Restoring the home would be key to helping develop regional tourism.

RECOGNIZING FRANKIE BRETHERICK
HONORING AMERICA'S
FIRST FLY GIRLS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASP) were the first women in American history to fly military aircraft. Between the years 1942–1944, women were recruited to fly non-combat missions, so that every male pilot could be deployed in combat. These women piloted every kind of military aircraft and logged 60 million miles flying missions across the United States. They were never awarded full military status and were not eligible for officer status. It was not till 1977 that the WASP pilots were granted veterans' status. Of the 1,102 WASP pilots, just under 300 are living today. One of these living legends resides in the Third Congressional District, Frankie Bretherick. I'd like to thank her personally for her service to this great nation for being a pioneer of flight.

Frankie Lovvorn was born September 19, 1914, in Cranfills Gap, Bosque County, Texas. Her parents were Francis Marion Lovvorn and Primrose Smith. She graduated from high school in Meridian, Bosque County, Texas. She graduated from Providence Hospital Nursing School in Waco, Texas, in 1937. She worked for five years at various veteran's hospitals in Texas and Louisiana. She began flying lessons at an airport south of Dallas, Texas.

By the time she applied and was accepted into the WASP program, Class of 44W–6, she had acquired a commercial pilot's license and had logged over 200 hours of flying time. While stationed in Greenville, Mississippi at Greenville Army Air Base until deactivated on December 20, 1944, she flew BT–13s and UC–78s and slow-timed repaired aircraft.

After deactivation, Frankie was asked to join the Army Nurse Corps in May 1945. She was sent to Mitchell Field, New York where she worked at a hospital for three weeks. She was then sent to Randolph Field in San Antonio, Texas to attend the School of Aviation Medicine where she received training to become an air evacuation nurse. After World War II, she went to business school and attended Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. She also worked part-time as a nurse while in school.

Frankie met Joseph Harry Bretherick while both were stationed in Greenville, Mississippi. They married in 1949 and lived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for 19 years. Frankie continued working as a part-time nurse after their marriage.

They moved to Sarasota, Florida in 1968. After moving to Sarasota, Florida, Frankie became involved with the Sarasota Garden Club. She also acquired her Real Estate license. Frankie's husband, Joe, died in 1999. About three years ago Frankie moved to Plano, Collin County, Texas, to be close to family.

Through their actions, Women Air Force Service Pilots were a catalyst for revolutionary reform in the integration of women pilots into the U.S. Armed Services. Just as the Navajo Code Talkers served with distinction and were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, it is

also appropriate for Congress to recognize and honor the service of the WASP with the Congressional Gold Medal. The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest and most distinguished award that the U.S. Congress can award to a civilian. Finally, these women will receive that long-overdue recognition now that the House and the Senate have passed the bill granting these women.

This Congressional Gold Medal honors mothers, grandmothers, teachers, office workers, nurses, business women, photographers, dancers, one was even a nun. But before that, they were pilots for the US Army Air Corps during World War II. Finally, this Congress has recognized their sacrifice and considers them all heroes because these trailblazers and true patriots served our country without question and with no expectations of recognition or praise. That is what being a true hero is all about! The Congressional Gold Medals will be awarded to all 1,102 pilots and/or their surviving family members.

To the brave and selfless women like Frankie, our nation owes them a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice. I am so very proud of them. God bless them and God bless America! I salute them one and all.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2892) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 2892, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2010.

The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill makes fundamental investments that are vital to our nation's security. It tightens our nation's borders, allows for installation of the latest explosive detection systems at airports nationwide, protects our ports and critical infrastructure, and provides grants to meet the needs of our first responders. It also increases funding for the Urban Areas Security Initiative, which is very important to my home city of New York, by almost \$50 million, matching the President's request, for a total allocation of \$887 million.

In the months following the September 11th attacks, I spearheaded the creation of the High Threat Urban Area Account Program, which later became the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). I undertook this effort because, at the time, there were no Federal domestic security grant programs that provided funding solely on the basis of threat and risk. While I recognize that the threat of terror lingers everywhere, there are, unfortunately, several cities and areas that are more vulnerable to attack. New York, my home city, is one of them.

This is not a distinction we are proud of, but it is a reality we face. Al-Qaeda has already attacked my city twice. And, for me, it became

all the more personal when my cousin, a New York City fireman, died during the September 11, 2001 attacks trying to help people out of Tower 2 at the World Trade Center.

What happened on September 11th can never happen again, and that is what the UASI program is about. The grants go to cities and states under the greatest threat of attack. In New York City, the grants have been used to train and better equip first responders, and provide them with better communication systems to assure preparedness, in addition to improved monitoring of critical infrastructure.

Late last month, four men were arrested in a plot to bomb two Bronx synagogues. According to authorities, they had planted bombs in cars outside the two synagogues, and were planning to shoot down military planes at an Air National Guard base in upstate New York. New York's Office of Homeland Security later provided Urban Area Security Initiative Non-profit Security Grant Program (NSGP) funds in order to resolve the vulnerabilities of the synagogues. Additionally, it was Federal homeland security dollars that assisted the New York Police Department in their excellent investigative work to stop this act of terror before it occurred.

Madam Speaker, the threat of terrorism remains very real, making it essential for cities that face the greatest risk to have the tools and resources necessary to stop attacks before they occur. Cities, like New York, remain a major target for terrorists, and programs like UASI help us fight terrorism and ensures that our first responders have the equipment they need to protect the American people.

I would like to thank the gentleman from North Carolina, Chairman of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, for his leadership, hard work, and dedication to the urban area initiative and I urge adoption of the bill.

HONORING THE MILITARY SERVICE OF THE LOTHSPICH FAMILY

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the military service of the Lothspeich family of North Dakota. North Dakota has a proud military tradition and has sent many of its sons and daughters into the service of their country. Amongst this proud history and tradition the Lothspeich family is unique. Edward and Rose Lothspeich were the parents of nine boys and one girl. From this family all nine of the Lothspeich brothers have bravely answered the call of a grateful nation when it was sorely needed.

These brave men served across several critical periods in our nation's history. Eugene, Harold and Edward served at the height of World War II. Donald, Gerald, Lyle, Marlin served during the Korean War and the beginning of the Cold War. Franklin and Leon served in Germany during a period in which the Soviet Union was increasing the isolation of East Germany.

Next week as we gather to celebrate the birth of our nation, the City of Park River, North Dakota will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. As a part of that celebration, Park

River will honor those brothers who are still with us, Edward, Lyle, and Marlin, and those who are not Eugene, Harold, Edward, Donald, Gerald, Franklin and Leon.

The United States is what it is today because of the sacrifices of families like the Lothspeich's who gave so selflessly and served so bravely. These brothers helped win World War II and kept watch during the cold-est nights of the Cold War.

The sacrifices of the Lothspeich brothers are worthy of our highest respect and I can think of no greater duty of a member of Congress than to honor our nation's heroes. I stand today to honor their service as the city of Park River will next week.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD F. MELL

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of Richard F. Mell. Alderman Mell, who is celebrating his 35th year of service, is a vital part of the Chicago community.

Born in Muskegon, Michigan, Dick Mell began his career in public service shortly after moving to Chicago, starting as a precinct captain with the 33rd Ward Regular Democratic Organization and working closely with a variety of neighborhood organizations. Knowing he could do more to help the community by taking on a larger role, in 1975, he ran to be Alderman of the 33rd Ward and won. A year later, he became the Ward Committeeman and took his seat on the Democratic Central Committee of Cook County, representing his community on Chicago's Northwest side.

Alderman Mell has continued to take on important and influential roles throughout his successful career. He held the office of Vice Mayor of the City of Chicago for eight years and currently serves as Chairman of the Committee on Committees, Rules and Ethics. He is also a member of the Committees on Budget and Governmental Operations, Finance, Health, Housing & Land Acquisition, Human Relations, and Traffic Control and Safety.

As Alderman, Mr. Mell has always put his community first, remaining accessible to his constituents with an open door policy and frequent attendance at community meetings. He celebrates his multi-ethnic, multi-racial community and understands that diversity stimulates growth in all of its residents. He consistently strives to protect his entire community and has helped make possible social programs to assist the less fortunate.

Alderman Mell's list of accomplishments is longer than this statement will allow and includes setting new ethic codes for elected officials, fighting absentee slum landlords in housing courts, initiating an Adjacent Neighborhood Program that rids the city of vacant lots, and fighting to decrease graffiti in the city by banning spray paint and passing an ordinance that allows judges to sentence graffiti vandals to community service work.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Alderman Richard Mell and his extraordinary career, and thank him for his many outstanding contributions to the City of Chicago and its citizens. His commitment to public service stands as an example to us all.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2996) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 2996, the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY2010.

This legislation provides a 17% increase over FY09 levels for critical programs that protect our public health and environment.

Among other provisions, the legislation provides \$605 million for the Superfund program which will assist sites across the country clean up hazardous substances, including potentially the San Jacinto River Waste Pits site.

It also provides \$3.3 million to help EPA monitor air toxics outside schools, which I hope will ultimately include schools in our district in East Houston, as well as \$5 million to fund four new centers of excellence to study toxin and chemical impacts on children.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to highlight two important projects I requested funding for in this bill, but did not receive funding.

The first is the Mickey Leland National Urban Air Toxics Research Center to continue air quality public health research on air toxics in urban areas as directed by the U.S. Congress. The Center is a 501(c)(3) institution authorized by Congress in the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

Americans want to know whether they are at risk from pollutants in the air that they breathe. People who live near sources of air toxics such as major roadways, industrial facilities, or small businesses, are often especially concerned about their risk.

The purpose of air quality regulation and research is to protect public health. High quality air toxics research is the only way to assess peoples' risks and give policymakers the tools they need to protect public health. The Center develops and manages air toxics research with a focus on understanding the air toxics that people are exposed to in their daily activities, and how those compounds may impact their health.

The Houston Exposure to Air Toxics Study (HEATS) is an on-going project designed to study the relationship between personal exposures—the air people breathe as they go about their daily activities—and fixed site monitored concentrations of air toxics by measuring personal, residential indoor, and outdoor concentrations.

HEATS studies residents who live in the 29th district of Texas, in close proximity to an industrial neighborhood near the Houston Ship Channel and a comparison group with similar demographics in Aldine. Because it has been conducted according to rigorous statistical principles, study results will be applicable to the study participants, their neighborhoods,

and other, similar neighborhoods in Houston and nationwide.

Federal support for this project is critical to ensure this research continues and I hope to work with the Chairman as this bill goes forward, and with EPA to get funding for this research in the budget as Congress intended when it created the Center.

We also sought funding for a six-year Capital Improvement Project that will rehabilitate and upgrade the City of Baytown, Texas's wastewater and water infrastructure to comply with federal and state regulations, maintain its condition and reliability and save costs. The City has implemented an asset management program to assess equipment condition, optimize work practices and ensure funding remains in place to sustain infrastructure improvements over time.

The funding we requested under the State and Tribal Assistance Grant would help rehabilitate portions of the Central District Wastewater Treatment Plant to include elevation of redesign of critical components to reduce the storm surge impacts suffered during Hurricane Ike. These include the influent lift station, blower building, administration/laboratory building, and grit removal process. The internal piping needs to be replaced to improve energy and operating efficiency, along with the chlorine contact basin and plant pumping/transfer systems. Installation of post-storm emergency power systems are also a part of this effort.

This is an important project to help Baytown recover from damage caused by Hurricane Ike and overall to upgrade their wastewater system, and I look forward to working the Chair as we move forward to find assistance for this project.

I do have some concerns, however, with provisions of the bill and report language.

The bill defers \$50 million in funding from the Ultra-Deepwater Research Fund that was a part of the 2005 Energy Policy Act of 2005. The ultra deepwater fund provides \$50 million annually for research for recovering oil and gas from ultra-deepwaters in the Gulf of Mexico.

It also includes report language urging EPA to "review the risks that hydraulic fracturing poses to drinking water using the best available science, as well as independent sources of information."

I understand the concerns and desire to adequately protect the environment when developing our domestic resources, but hydraulic fracturing is a well-tested technology that has been used to develop energy for over 60 years.

First used in 1947, hydraulic fracturing has become a standard practice for improving the process of natural energy extraction. The practice involves the pumping of fluid into wells at high pressure to create fractures in rock formations that allow for complete production of oil. Hydraulic fracturing is responsible for about 30 percent of our domestic recoverable oil and natural gas. About 90 percent of currently operating wells use this technology. Hydraulic fracturing, as used to produce natural gas from shale formations, has created new opportunities for clean energy and employment without causing environmental damage.

Recent studies on fracturing conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2004 found no confirmed evidence of contamination

of drinking water. The study concluded that the injection of hydraulic fracturing fluids poses "little or no threat" to humans or the environment (EPA). The EPA did not find a single incident of the contamination of drinking water wells by hydraulic fracturing fluid injection.

The subject of hydraulic fracturing is adequately regulated by the states and needs no federal intervention. Hydraulic fracturing is a vital and safe technology that helps drive the United States towards energy security and independence. Congress should not restrict a technology that plays such an integral part of our nation's energy strategy.

H. RES. 543, DESIGNATING JUNE
AS HOME SAFETY MONTH

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I am proud to be a cosponsor of this of this legislation, which recognizes June as Home Safety Month.

I would like to thank Congresswoman HALVORSON for her leadership in introducing this resolution and her commitment to the safety of America's homeowners.

At a time when we are encouraging homeowners to stay in their homes and increasing our efforts to spur new homeownership, we must also recognize the importance of ensuring the safety of homeowners within their homes.

Each year, 20,000 deaths and an average of 21 million medical visits result from unintentional injuries in the home, according to the Home Safety Council. The top five causes of unintentional home injury deaths include, falls, poisoning, fires or burns, choking or suffocation, and drowning. Such home injuries can cost employers up to \$38 billion dollars a year.

Many of these deaths and injuries could have been prevented if homeowners were equipped with the knowledge of simple and inexpensive steps to reduce the injury of risk in each area of the home.

Furthermore, children and older adults have increased rates of unintentional home injury. We must encourage adults, parents, caregivers to take greater actions to reduce unintentional injuries to protect the most vulnerable family members.

H. Res. 543 encourages manufacturers to develop innovative safety products and features to help lessen home injuries and accidents and encourages all levels of government to support funding for critical home safety education programs to reduce the risks from home injuries.

I strongly support H. Res. 543 and cannot stress enough how home safety education and awareness can help save lives and money.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important resolution.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
COLONEL KIRK W. HYMES

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Colonel Kirk W. Hymes, U.S.M.C., the director of the Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate. After 26 years of honorable and distinguished service to our great nation, Colonel Hymes will be retiring.

Colonel Hymes is a native of Altoona, Pennsylvania and graduated from the United States Naval Academy. After attending the Basic School, he trained at the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He also attended the Amphibious Warfare School in Quantico, Virginia and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Colonel Hymes served in a number of different places and in a variety of capacities, including the Recruiting Station in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania where he served as the Operations Officer and Executive Officer and Twentynine Palms, California where he served with the 5th Battalion, 11th Marines. He also carried out a Unit Deployment to Okinawa, Japan and deployed with the 31st MEU (SOC). Following his return he became the Director of the 11th Marines Artillery Training School.

Subsequently, Colonel Hymes became the Fire Support Operational Test Project Officer at the Marine Corps Operational Test and Evaluation Activity, Quantico, Virginia. After transferring to the 2d Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina he served with the 10th Marine Regiment where he was the Operations Officer and Executive Officer for 2d Battalion, 10th Marines and then the Regimental Operations Officer.

After reporting to Okinawa for duty with III Marine Expeditionary Force, he served in the G-3 Exercise Branch as the South East Asia Exercise Branch Head and Tandem Thrust Exercise Planner. He then returned to Twentynine Palms, California for duty as the Commanding Officer, 3d Battalion, 11th Marines where he deployed the battalion to support Operation Enduring Freedom and then Operation Iraqi Freedom. Colonel Hymes was later assigned to the Expeditionary Force Development Center at the Marine Corps Combat Development Center as the Integration Branch Head and Deputy Director for Operations.

Madam Speaker, throughout his career, Colonel Hymes received many personal awards including the Bronze Star with Combat "V", the Meritorious Service Medal with four Gold Stars, the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon. Upon his retirement, I commend him for his outstanding service and wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on ear-

marks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996—the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010:

H.R. 2996 includes \$500,000 for a State and Tribal Assistance Grant to the City of Rose Hill, Kansas, for improvements to the city drainage system. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Rose Hill, 125 W. Rosewood, PO Box 185, Rose Hill, Kansas 67133.

This funding will facilitate the installation of a 48-inch drainage pipe, which will allow the area to handle up to a 10-year storm event, protecting homes in the area.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

The House Is Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2647) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense; to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. SCHRADER. Madam Speaker, I want to take a moment and thank Chairman SKELTON and Ranking Member MCHUGH for their tireless work on behalf of the men and women of our Armed Services. I would also like to congratulate Congressman MCHUGH and wish him luck as he transitions to his new post as Secretary of the Army.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Skelton en bloc amendment which includes legislation I introduced requiring the Department of Defense to notify any member of the Armed Forces who is exposed to a potentially harmful material or contaminant and inform them of the health risks associated with that exposure. In the case the exposed soldier is a member of a reserve component, the Secretary of Defense will be required to notify the State military department.

Back in March I spoke with one of my constituents, Larry Roberta, a member of the Oregon National Guard who is suffering the health effects of being exposed to toxic chemicals on the battlefield. In 2003, while serving in Iraq, Oregon National Guard Members like Larry were unknowingly exposed to Hexavalent Chromium while assigned to protect contractors rebuilding a water treatment facility near Iraqi oil fields. The problem with chemicals like Hexavalent Chromium is they can cause severe illnesses that may not appear until months or years after the exposure.

Their exposure to this cancerous agent was withheld from them while they were in the theater, and many of our soldiers are still unaware the symptoms they are experiencing may be related to a toxic exposure. Fast forward six years and the Oregon Guard is still having a difficult time tracking down all the soldiers they feel may have been exposed.

The estimated number of exposed Oregon soldiers is in the hundreds—many of these soldiers are still unaware they may have been exposed to toxic substances that are impacting their health. Had there been a notification

requirement and protocol in place it is very likely these soldiers would be identified, aware of their situation, and able to seek the appropriate care they need.

We're within days of sending 3,000 of Oregon's finest to the Middle East. This amendment provides them with added security and protection they need, and frankly deserve. I'd like to thank Chairman SKELTON and Ranking Member MCHUGH for their support to address this critical issue that has impacted so many of Oregon's citizen soldiers, and I urge my colleagues to support the adoption of this important amendment.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the policies and standards put forth by the House Appropriations Committee and the GOP Leadership, I would like to list the congressionally-directed projects I requested in my home state of Idaho that are contained in the report of H.R. 2996, the FY2010 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

Project Name: City of Buhl Wastewater System Improvements

Amount: \$500,000

Account: EPA/STAG

Recipient: City of Buhl

Recipient's Address: 203 North Broadway, Buhl, ID 83316

Description: The city is periodically exceeding the NPDES limitations under the Clean Water Act and was recently fined by EPA for non-compliance of their pH, Total Suspended Solids (TSS), and Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) limitations. IDEQ and EPA have mandated that the city build a new wastewater treatment center. Buhl, a town of less than 5,000 residents, recently passed a bond election for \$15 million to help pay for the required improvements to their water system. The loan funds will be a burden to the residents—many of whom are elderly (19% of the community) and the majority of whom are low to moderate income—and will increase monthly water bills by over \$100, but even this will be unsustainable without additional assistance. Funding for this project will enable the city build a new wastewater treatment center that would meet the Federal and State mandates imposed on the community.

Project Name: Historic Old Pen Site Stabilization Project

Amount: \$150,000

Account: National Park Service/Save America's Treasures

Recipient: Idaho State Historical Society

Recipient's Address: 2205 Old Penitentiary Road, Boise, ID 83712

Description: This project will provide stabilization to the Old Idaho State Penitentiary historic site, which is operated by the Idaho State Historical Society. The Old Pen is one of the West's most significant prison sites and one of the most visited cultural facilities in Idaho. It thus plays a key role in the economic vitality of Boise and the Treasure Valley. Funding would be used for work needed immediately to stabilize the site. In addition,

funding would be used for a historic structures report to help better anticipate future maintenance and repair needs before they become emergency situations.

Project Name: Idaho Sage-Grouse Management Plan

Amount: \$500,000

Account: Fish and Wildlife Service/ESA Resource Management

Recipient: Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation

Recipient's Address: 300 N. 6th Street, Boise, ID 83702

Description: Sage-grouse are on the verge of being listed under the Endangered Species Act, with a decision on listing expected this spring. Idaho is taking proactive steps to recover this species before a listing is required. The management plan, which is a partnership with private landowners, is an attempt to be wise stewards of the nation's wildlife without being compelled to do so by law.

Project Name: Piva Parcel Land Acquisition

Amount: \$400,000

Account: USFS/Land Acquisition

Recipient: U.S. Forest Service, Sawtooth National Recreation Area

Recipient's Address: 5 North Fork Canyon Road, Ketchum, ID 83340

Description: Funds will be used to enable the Forest Service to acquire the 160-acre Piva parcel from a willing seller so that it can be used for public recreation and access to the Redfish Lake recreation area from the town of Stanley. The Forest Service currently has a conservation easement on the property, but acquiring the land is necessary to carry out planned improvements.

Project Name: SNRA Trail Maintenance and Improvements

Amount: \$1,200,000

Account: Capital Improvements and Maintenance (Trail Construction)

Recipient: U.S. Forest Service, Sawtooth National Recreation Area

Recipient's Address: 5 North Fork Canyon Road, Ketchum, ID 83340

Description: Funds will be used for trail construction, maintenance, and improvement in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. Of the funds appropriated for trail maintenance and improvement in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, \$500,000 is for trail improvements; \$500,000 is for maintenance of existing motorized trails and areas; and \$200,000 is for the improvement of two existing trails to provide primitive wheelchair access at Murdock Creek and Phyllis Lake.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide a list of congressionally-directed projects in my district that have received funding in the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY2010 and provide an explanation of my support for them.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. SCOTT F. LARGE

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man of great integrity, intelligence and insight, Mr. Scott F. Large, on the occasion of his retirement after 23 years of

distinguished service to the Intelligence Community.

I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Large throughout his tenure as the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office. When he assumed this role in 2007, the organization was undertaking significant transformation that he helped initiate in earlier leadership roles. He carefully guided changes to strengthen his organization's role as the nation's primary source of space reconnaissance for military and intelligence forces.

Mr. Large's prior assignments prepared him well for this leadership role. He served as the Principal Deputy Director of the National Reconnaissance Office from April, 2007 until his appointment as Director later that year. He also served as Director of the Imagery Systems Operations and Acquisition Directorate from 2003 to 2006, during a period of significant technological and programmatic challenges.

Mr. Large has carried out leadership assignments in two other intelligence community organizations. He was Director of the Source Operations and Management Directorate at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. He also served in the Central Intelligence Agency's Directorate of Operations and as Associate Director of the Science and Technology Directorate, leading technology development programs. Mr. Large made fundamental contributions to these programs and helped establish them as some of the nation's premier intelligence efforts.

Mr. Large's determination to lead fundamental changes in his organization, his willingness to assume leadership roles in other intelligence organizations, and his ability to facilitate collaborative partnerships with other elements of the Intelligence Community are testament to the quality of his leadership.

In announcing that he was stepping down as Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, Mr. Large reminded his workforce of the critical role of space reconnaissance to the nation: For nearly 50 years the NRO has provided this nation with an undeniable intelligence and operational advantage. Today the NRO continues to provide mission critical information to all of our end users. We are clearly on the verge of taking our mission to the next level and have set in motion strategic initiatives which will clearly demonstrate the importance of what you do.

The nation's space reconnaissance workforce and systems are better positioned to contribute to the nation's defenses as a result of the leadership of this public servant. For this, we thank Mr. Large and wish him continued success in all of his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I regret that I missed rollcall vote No. 297, 389, 392, 394 and 405. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all rollcall votes No. 297, 392, and 394. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes No. 389 and 405.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2996) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chair, I rise in support of this FY 10 Interior-Environment Appropriations bill for the investments it makes in our infrastructure, natural resources and cultural life—as well as its commitment to tackling the ongoing challenge of global climate change.

This legislation provides \$10.46 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency to safeguard our nation's land, air and water. Of that amount, \$2.3 billion will go to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and \$1.4 billion will go to the Drinking Water State revolving fund to help over 1500 communities improve their wastewater and drinking water systems. One and a half billion dollars will go to clean up hazardous and toxic waste, including \$605 million for our nation's most toxic Superfund sites and \$100 million for brownfields cleanup and redevelopment. And \$601 million is provided at President Obama's request to enable the EPA to enforce our nation's environmental laws.

Our national parks receive \$2.7 billion, which includes \$100 million to support the park service's 10-year initiative to upgrade park facilities before the National Park System's Centennial Anniversary in 2016. Our national wildlife refuge system is provided \$503 million for its conservation efforts. And the U.S. Forest service is allocated \$2.77 billion to manage of (Air federal forests—including targeted support for the Legacy Road and Trail Remediation program protecting streams and water systems from damaged forest roads, as well as the Forest Legacy Land Conservation Program to help protect environmentally important, privately owned forest lands.

To support our nation's cultural heritage, this legislation invests \$340 million, split evenly between the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. And the Smithsonian will receive \$774 million for reducing its backlog of deferred maintenance and the planning and design of the new National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Finally, this bill provides a total of \$420 million on climate change related initiatives—including \$50 million for the EPA's Energy Star program, \$17 million for the development of a Greenhouse Gas Registry necessary for monitoring greenhouse gases and \$10 million for new grants to empower local communities to find innovative ways to cut their, greenhouse gas emissions.

Madam Chair, I commend Chairman DICKS, Ranking Member SIMPSON and the rest of the subcommittee for developing this thoughtful bill, and I urge my colleagues' support.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TENTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
OLMSTEAD DECISION SUP-
PORTING CIVIL RIGHTS FOR
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I want to take this moment to recognize the tenth anniversary of a monumental United States Supreme Court decision that represented a great advance in our contemporary civil rights struggle. On June 22, 1999, the United States Supreme Court asserted the right of individuals with disabilities to reside in their community via a 6–3 ruling. The Olmstead v. L.C. decision stated that making services for disabled individuals available only in institutions, thereby forcing them out of their homes, went against the Americans with Disabilities Act. Essentially, the Olmstead decision clarified the fact that the Americans with Disabilities Act gives individuals with disabilities the right to choose to receive their care in the community rather than in an institutional setting. Provision of care within one's community via personal care assistants is cost-effective and improves the quality of life of persons with disabilities. Studies show the cost of providing services in the community is much lower than in institutionalized settings, thereby allowing more individuals to receive services for the same cost. In addition, the ability to receive community based services and supports improves the ability of persons with disabilities to lead independent lives, work, and participate in their communities.

The federal government bears the responsibility of restructuring our current health care system. The inequities that exist in our health care system are profoundly disturbing. It is essential that we take the steps necessary to create an overhaul of the health care system that is both moral and practical. As Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said: "Of all the forms of inequality injustice, health care is the most shocking and inhumane." In this spirit, I urge concerned citizens to mobilize to help us create a system that best serves those in our society who have limited resources.

As a policymaker who is adamant about improving health care for persons with disabilities, I believe it is imperative that the health care reform legislation that Congress intends to enact this year take a substantial step forward in requiring that all Medicaid-eligible individuals with disabilities have a choice between receiving care at home or in an institution. The option to receive care in one's community is critical to conforming to the goal of the Americans with Disabilities Act and with the Olmstead decision.

The Olmstead decision was a great step forward in allowing persons with disabilities the option to receive care in their own community. The tenth anniversary of the Olmstead decision symbolizes the struggle to create more options in our current health care system. We must strive to include the tenets of the Olmstead decision in our health care reform plans. Including provisions that provide choice in location of care to Medicaid-eligible persons with disabilities in comprehensive health care reform legislation would be a wonderful way to

mark the tenth anniversary of the Olmstead decision.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COM-
PREHENSIVE COMPARATIVE
STUDY OF VACCINATED AND
UNVACCINATED POPULATIONS
ACT OF 2009

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today, I am reintroducing bipartisan legislation that I hope will resolve the question of whether there is any link between the increased incidence of neurological disorders, including autism, and the use of certain vaccines and/or multiple vaccine schedules. Vaccines have been instrumental in reducing the incidence of many once-common diseases. However, there continue to be questions raised in numerous media reports, and by medical professionals, regarding the safety of vaccines and multiple vaccine schedules while there have been no comprehensive studies comparing the health outcomes between vaccinated and unvaccinated populations.

We owe it to parents and children to study and resolve the question of a possible link between vaccines and neurological disorders. The comprehensive national study comparing outcomes between vaccinated and unvaccinated children mandated by this legislation would help resolve this controversy once and for all. As the most scientifically advanced country in the world, we should be jumping at the chance to conduct a comprehensive national study and help ensure absolute trust in our nation's vaccine program. Parents deserve answers, and children deserve no less than absolute certainty and safety when it comes to their health, which is why I am pleased to reintroduce this legislation today.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SE-
CURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT
2010

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2892) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2009 and the employees of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The service and dedication of the men and women that work to ensure the safety of our country is admirable.

This bill responds to the public safety needs of our communities in a time of hardship by providing \$800 million in grants to fire departments, of which \$380 million is provided for the Assistance for Firefighters Grants program used to train, hire and retain our local firemen

and women. It funds an increase in the number of border patrol agents to 20,019, providing additional jobs and better national security. I also support the provisions requiring DHS to monitor the medical care of all detainees held in immigration detention facilities and to direct Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to report to Congress on steps it has taken to ensure that all detainees are receiving proper medical care and attention.

I remain concerned about provisions in the bill regarding prisoners held in the Guantanamo Bay detention facility. I commend President Obama's pledge to close Guantanamo Bay, but this bill fails to ensure that the rule of law and our commitment to universal human rights are being upheld for detainees.

Section 522(a) of the bill requires the Department of Homeland Security to conduct extensive threat assessments for all detainees held at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility as of April 20, 2009, and to place all detainees on the "no-fly" list unless there is Presidential Certification to exclude them on such a list. This section also prohibits any funds in the act from being used to provide detainees with any immigration benefits, including refugee or asylum classification. The treatment and detention of hundreds of foreign nationals held indefinitely and illegally without charge at Guantanamo Bay has violated our most basic democratic principles. The burden to right this wrong by ensuring due process for the remaining 245 falls on the U.S. The detainees held at Guantanamo Bay must be afforded habeas corpus protections. We must have the confidence in our own U.S. system of justice to try the detainees.

I will continue to work to ensure all have equal protection under the law. I urge my colleagues to support passage of this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GLOBAL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION, COORDINATION AND ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, as our understanding of human impacts on the environment grows, so too, must our commitment to the protection and conservation of the world's fish and wildlife resources. The United States is largely regarded as the global frontrunner in international fish and wildlife conservation. Our nation has a longstanding history of sharing our knowledge, technical abilities, and experience gained through the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation to aid other countries in the conservation of their wildlife and wildlife habitat. Unfortunately, wildlife conservation resources, including trained wildlife professionals and basic logistical and communication tools, still commonly remain unavailable in many foreign range states that are home to globally significant species.

Notwithstanding the many successful conservation initiatives implemented by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service around the world through its programs such as Wildlife Without Borders Program, there remains a glaring need to improve coordination and col-

laboration within the Federal government. In addition, improving cooperation between the Federal Government and non-governmental organizations to increase public awareness about illegal and unsustainable wildlife trade, to raise awareness about the implications of global biodiversity loss, to enhance assistance to range states in the conservation of their wildlife, and to close existing gaps in current conservation activities, is necessary and long overdue.

The Global Wildlife Conservation, Coordination and Enhancement Act of 2009, which I have introduced today, would address these needs by consolidating and enhancing the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to specifically conduct fish and wildlife conservation activities internationally. This legislation reflects the solid input gained through two oversight hearings conducted by the Committee on Natural Resources during the 110th Congress. The bill also benefits from extensive dialogue with wildlife conservationists, zoo and aquarium professionals, law enforcement experts, animal health and welfare organizations, and other stakeholders.

Title I of the bill would create an Institute for International Wildlife Conservation within the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, through which the Department of the Interior's international conservation initiatives would be coordinated and collaborative partnerships built. The Institute, which would enhance and strengthen the Service's existing International Affairs Office, would have authority to carry out a targeted public education and awareness campaign to better inform U.S. consumers of the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products, and most important, what they can do to limit the United States as a market for illegal contraband.

The Institute also would be empowered to provide financial, educational and technical assistance to range states and other partner institutions to support capacity building, to create and enhance locally adapted wildlife management programs abroad, and to develop professional cadres of wildlife conservationists in the United States and abroad. In addition, the Institute, through its Center for International Wildlife Recovery Partnerships, would provide a forum for the active collaboration of federal, state, tribal, local, and non-governmental entities regarding wildlife conservation and the care, rehabilitation and recovery of threatened and endangered wildlife species.

Title II of this bill would create a Global Wildlife Coordination Council within the Executive Branch in recognition of the fact that international wildlife conservation is a multi-dimensional issue that requires the broad involvement of the Federal Government to be successful. This Council, which is patterned after the highly successful United States Coral Reef Task Force, would be comprised of various Federal agencies with a responsibility and stake in global wildlife conservation. To comprehensively address the myriad threats confronting global wildlife, this Council would be tasked to develop a cross-cutting strategy to better utilize existing resources to increase Federal coordination without creating new bureaucracy.

In closing, the illegal wildlife trade, which has received considerably less public attention than the illegal trade in narcotics and weapons, is an increasing challenge threatening not only the conservation of biodiversity but also

the social, political and environmental stability of range states throughout the world. Congress must act to ensure that the Federal Government has the authority and tools it needs to promote the conservation of wildlife resources abroad, to protect the environmental health and security of the United States today, and ensure that we pass on those resources to future generations.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to advance this legislation and to strengthen the abilities of the Federal Government to provide critical wildlife conservation support around the world and to maintain the United States' leadership role internationally in wildlife conservation.

TRIBUNE TO FRANK REYES

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to honor the career and contributions of a longstanding community activist, dear friend, loving husband, and father—Frank Reyes.

After 32 years of loyal service to the Inland Empire of Southern California, Frank recently announced his retirement from his post as Executive Director of Governmental Relations for the San Bernardino City Community College District (SBCCD).

Frank has made San Bernardino, California, his home since first immigrating to the United States from Guadalajara, Mexico, at age 12. He attended San Bernardino High School and Valley College before earning his degree in business from Cal State San Bernardino.

While Frank's academic background is in business, his true passion lies in the field of education. Before joining SBCCD, Frank worked as both a professor and a student counselor. During his tenure at SBCCD, Frank's strong leadership helped secure over \$100 million in grant money for both Crafton Hills College and San Bernardino Valley College.

Frank has received numerous Community Awards, from myself and many others for his excellent work in the areas of education, county safety, and community leadership.

Frank has been an active member of many distinguished professional organizations, including, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, the California Teachers' Association, the California Community College Counselors Association, the Association of Mexican American Educators, and the Inland Empire Latino Business Council.

In addition, Frank has been involved in numerous philanthropic activities in the San Bernardino area. He is a board member with Hands of Mercy, which builds homes for the needy in Ensenada, is an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater San Bernardino, and has been very involved with the Jerry Lewis Fire Training Facility. I know Frank will continue to work tirelessly, even in retirement, to support the causes he believes in.

I have had the great privilege of becoming close, personal friends with Frank, his wonderful wife, Eloise, and their son Christopher. In addition to being an outstanding husband and father, Frank has always been a strong supporter to me and my family, and for that—I am forever grateful.

My wife Barbara and I, my sons Councilman Joe Baca Jr. and Jeremy, and my daughters Natalie and Jennifer cherish their friendship, and are appreciative of all they have done over the years to create positive change in the Inland Empire.

In fact, I gave Eloise Reyes a "Woman of the Year" award in 1993, when I was in the California State Legislature. She was recognized for all her great work in the community, and for being a true trailblazer as the first Hispanic, female attorney in the Inland Empire.

Madam Speaker, my good friend Frank Reyes has lived a true life of service. He is a perfect example of what one can achieve with hard work, dedication, faith in God, and love in family and friends. My family and I congratulate him on a wonderful career, and wish him nothing but the best in retirement.

WHITMAN HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER OF COLVILLE, WASHINGTON

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Whitman Hospital and Medical Center in Colville, Washington. Whitman Hospital, founded in 1893, has carried out its mission of providing medical care to members of the rural community in Northeast Washington for over 115 years.

Whitman Hospital and Medical Center is dedicated to assuring medical service is provided in accordance with its core values of respect, compassion, teamwork, stewardship, and responsiveness to the community. In addition to emergency services and surgery, the Medical Center operates a variety of clinics to support non-critical community health, such as allergy, cardiology, neurology, and ear, nose and throat conditions. The Whitman Hospital and Medical Center also provides opportunities for health education through classes, programs, and training seminars. The hospital proved its resilience by winning the "Top 100 Benchmark Hospital" award in 1994 and 1995 despite nearly closing due to financial difficulties in the late 1980s. Whitman Hospital and Medical Center's employees have contributed to providing the rural counties of Northeast Washington the kinds of healthcare options often only available in large urban centers.

Currently in the second stage of a \$19 million building and expansion project, the hospital and medical center continues to strive to provide better and more varied healthcare options. In its first stage of construction, the hospital constructed a new facility to house a 25-bed inpatient center, labor and delivery rooms, and radiology clinic. The current construction stage, scheduled for completion in late summer, 2009, involves remodeling several current operations, such as the respiratory therapy clinic and pharmacy.

Madam Speaker, I believe the ongoing efforts to provide excellent medical assistance to the counties of Northeast Washington make the Whitman Hospital and Medical Center worthy of recognition before this body. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Whitman Hospital and Medical Center by observing over 115 years of continuing dedication to community health services and education.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2996) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of the manager's amendment put forth by Chairman DICKS to H.R. 2996, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010. This manager's amendment incorporates an amendment I offered to allow funds appropriated to the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) to be used as the non-Federal share of the cost of certain environmental restoration projects that repair acid mine drainage from coal abandoned mines.

For many years, the Interior Appropriations bill authorized OSM to provide matching funds for federally-funded projects related to treatment or abatement of acid mine drainage from abandoned mines. The language was inadvertently removed from the appropriations bill several years ago and today I am pleased that Chairman DICKS agreed to collect this oversight by restoring this important provision in the fiscal year 2010 legislation.

Communities that are impacted by environmental damage related to abandoned mines tend to be in economically distressed areas of the country. These communities have small budgets and little, if any, money for environmental restoration projects. Furthermore, the economic downturn has caused budget shortfalls for many municipalities and providing basic services such as police and fire protection takes precedent over environmental restoration.

Permitting OSM to use these funds to serve as the local match will help meet the department's mission of ensuring that citizens and the environment are protected during mining and that the land is restored to beneficial use when mining is finished. This provision will not cost the federal government any additional dollars.

In closing, I would like to thank Chairman DICKS for including my amendment in this legislation and urge my colleagues to support this manager's amendment.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROOKFIELD ZOO, COOK COUNTY, IL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the Chicago Zoological Society's Brookfield Zoo, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary. Located in Cook County,

just outside Chicago and in my district, Brookfield Zoo has consistently been a leader in cutting edge animal science, zoo management and education programs. The zoo has been and will continue to be a wonderful resource for the people of metropolitan Chicago, the State of Illinois and beyond. I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Brookfield Zoo on the occasion this distinguished anniversary.

Brookfield Zoo, owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and managed by the Chicago Zoological Society, has a stated mission to "inspire conservation leadership by connecting people with wildlife." It plays host to 2.1 million visitors annually, and cares for 3000 animals representing 450 different animal species.

Brookfield Zoo first opened to the public in 1934. Following the overwhelming approval of a referendum by the people of Cook County, construction began on the Zoo in 1926. While the onset of the Great Depression hindered progress, the federal Civil Works Administration (CWA) assisted in completing construction of the Zoo, and today many of the original, historic CWA buildings remain in use at the Zoo.

Brookfield Zoo has been an innovative leader among zoos. Notably, the zoo was one of the first "bar-less" zoos in North America. A revolution among zoos began in Europe in 1900, where cramped cages were disdained in favor of spacious enclosures, surrounded by moats and landscaped in natural settings. This was based on the belief that 'animals should be exhibited in as near natural conditions as possible', for the benefit of both the animal and the viewing public. Brookfield Zoo was designed with this modern concept in mind, and creatively overcame the challenges involved in maintaining safe, cageless environments in the northern climate of Chicago. Today, exhibits maintain their modern approach through a focus on ecosystems, incorporating native plants into animals' habitats.

Another "first" was the creation of a specific Children's Playground at the Zoo in 1937, which was later formalized into the Children's Zoo in 1953. This facility provided children not only with a location to play, but also enabled them to interact with animals, including goats, ducks, and lambs. Following the successful development of these facilities, Brookfield Zoo became the first zoo in North America to exhibit giant pandas in 1937, to breed black rhinos (1941) and okapi (1959) in captivity, and created the first inland "Dolphinarium" in 1960. It was also among the first to open a zoo animal hospital and to launch animal nutrition programs.

Just like millions of others, I have fond memories of Brookfield Zoo from my childhood. Growing up in Chicago, I was a member of the zoo for many years when I was in grade school and high school. It was a fun and safe place to go at all times of the year. Although I did not think about it at the time, I received a great education at Brookfield Zoo, including learning about not only animals and habitats around the world, but also the environment and environmental stewardship.

Education is something that Brookfield Zoo is strongly committed to. Last year, 250,000 students participated in school field trips to Brookfield Zoo, and more than 1,700 teachers participated in training and certification programs there as well. Facilities such as Brookfield Zoo are important sources of informal

science education, which can develop interest among children in future technological and scientific scholarship and careers. Brookfield Zoo has a remarkable research and professional training program organized under the Center for the Science of Animal Well-Being. Through the Chicago Zoological Society, field programs are sponsored and undertaken, now including long-term research on bottle nose dolphins, western lowland gorillas, and African lions, among other species.

I would like to commend Brookfield Zoo, as well as the Chicago Zoological Society, on their successful completion of 75 years of operation, and their continuing efforts to promote conservation leadership through education, research and family enjoyment. Congratulations on this notable anniversary, and I wish Brookfield Zoo and its dedicated staff and leadership many more years of success, effective research, and valuable education and outreach.

STATEMENT ON JANE MARGARET
O'BRIEN AND TORRE MERINGOLO

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the efforts of two individuals who have been key in the success of St. Mary's College of Maryland. Unfortunately, both of them have chosen to move on to new challenges and will be leaving this summer, so I wanted to reflect on the incredible contributions they have both made to the College.

Jane Margaret O'Brien leaves as the president of St. Mary's College of Maryland, having served in that capacity since 1996. Maggie is a personal friend and I want to salute her years of leadership as President, along with Torre Meringolo, who has served during much of that time as Vice President for Development. Together, they brought to St. Mary's College a strong reputation for excellence in scholarship, research, and community engagement.

Dr. O'Brien received her bachelor's degree from Vassar College in 1975 with a major in biochemistry. She completed a Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Delaware in 1981. In her early academic career she was a member of the chemistry and biochemistry department at Middlebury College where she also served as dean of the faculty. She was president of Hollins University from 1991–96.

Dr. O'Brien received a Kellogg National Leadership Fellowship from 1989–92, served as an International Fellow with the American Association of Colleges and Universities in 1990–91, and was an Eisenhower Fellow to Malaysia and Hungary in 1999. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and the science honors society Sigma Xi. After stepping down as president, Dr. O'Brien will continue to work for the College with the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies in Oxford, England.

Dr. O'Brien assumed her post in July 1996 and dedicated herself and the College to the newly adopted Honors College Curriculum. She provided critical guidance to the College's external relations and fundraising, which included the \$40 million Heritage Campaign in support of the faculty's academic leadership, the extension of the residential college, and

the enhancement of community programs. Fundraising during Dr. O'Brien's tenure reshaped the College's scholarships, professorships, lecture and learning series, and arts, athletic, and community programs. External support made possible the Paul H. Nitze Scholars Program, the annual River Concert Series, over 40 new scholarships, nine endowed professorships and chairs, and many student and faculty awards presented at the annual Awards Convocation.

The Center for the Study of Democracy was established with a \$2 million NEH grant and challenge matches. Private funds now support the William Donald Schaefer Internships, the Ben Bradley Lectures, the Andrew Goodpaster Lecture Series and the Patuxent Defense Forum.

In honoring the successful accomplishments at St. Mary's College under Maggie's leadership, we should also recognize the accomplishments of Torre Meringolo, who has been instrumental in carrying out much of Maggie's vision for the College. Torre also leaves this month after serving most of his 15 years at St. Mary's College as the Vice President for Development. He has accepted the position of vice president for university advancement and external relations at the University of Maryland Washington.

Torre leaves a proud record of accomplishment at St. Mary's. Hired originally as director of the library and information services, he directed a comprehensive modernization effort that encompassed library partnerships with the University of Maryland System, raised \$2 million for library endowment, and provided the foundation for a contemporary IT system. Torre's previous employment at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Penn State University, and UNC Charlotte brought a strong knowledge of information systems to St. Mary's, which he deftly adapted for a smaller-scale campus with modest resources.

In concert with Trustee Terry Rubenstein, chair of the board's development committee, Torre led a professional development team that successfully completed a \$40.4 million campaign. During his time, endowment funds at the College grew to over \$24 million. Torre worked to create a modern, professionally run Foundation, which granted over \$16 million for the College's programs over the past 10 years. His passion for supporting students with financial needs made possible the graduation of many alumni.

Under Torre's leadership, the Alumni Office now serves 11,000 proud alumni with regular events and mailings to keep alumni involved and informed. His work has led to the creation of major campus events such as Reunion Weekend, Governor's Cup, Madrigals, and now the River Concert Series on the Townhouse Greens, all successful programs that bring thousands of alumni and friends to the College annually.

As Maggie O'Brien and Torre Meringolo depart, St. Mary's College is today a nationally recognized leader. Newsweek has called it "an Ivy-level College with a public-school price tag." It is now consistently ranked as one of the best liberal arts schools in the nation by U.S. News and World Report, and the Princeton Review named it a "best value college" this year.

I want to congratulate Maggie and Torre for their contributions to higher education. Their accomplishments at St. Mary's College of

Maryland have greatly benefitted their community and our State of Maryland. Both of them will be sorely missed.

HONORING CAPTAIN MARK GINDA
FOR HIS LEADERSHIP OF NAVAL
SUBMARINE BASE NEW LONDON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Mark S. Ginda, who, after three years of service as Commanding Officer at Naval Submarine Base New London, will be moving on to his new position at the Defense Liaison Division in Washington, DC.

Captain Mark Ginda has served our nation through his service in the Submarine force since 1982, when he graduated from the United States Naval Academy. He went on to serve on the USS George C. Marshall (SSBN 654), USS Alexander Hamilton (SSBN 617), USS Sand Lance (SSN 660) and commanded the USS Pasadena (SSN 752). Back on shore, Captain Ginda served as an instructor at Naval Nuclear Power School, flag aide to the Commander of the Atlantic Fleet, directed readiness preparations at Submarine Squadron FIFTEEN in Guam, helped to coordinate intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) resources at the United States Strategic Command.

In August 2006, Captain Ginda became the 48th Commanding Officer of Naval Submarine Base New London. Since then, he has overseen one of our nations most historic and important naval bases, which covers 680 acres, serves as home to 70 tenant commands, and supports the officers and crew of nearly one-quarter of our attack submarine fleet. He has done so with enthusiasm, with passion and with a dedication not only to strengthening the base for the future, but with a renewed commitment to our nation's most important asset: the young Americans who serve our nation.

In his three years there, Captain Ginda has overseen a flurry of activity unmatched in the recent history of SUBASE New London. From a new crane facility at the waterfront, to a long-needed renovation of the Liberty Center for bachelor sailors, the completion of an initiative to improve housing options and a number of other critical projects, there isn't a corner of the base where Captain Ginda hasn't had an impact. Under his leadership, SUBASE embarked on one of the most ambitious demolition projects in the Navy, pulling down more than 35 buildings and structures through a more than \$18 million undertaking of projects that will trim down the excess infrastructure at the base and lower operating costs. He's also been a commander who takes things into his own hands, and recently manned the controls of a backhoe and helped demolish buildings.

More important than the bricks and mortar, however, has been Captain Ginda's efforts to improve the quality of life for the sailors, and their families, stationed at SUBASE New London, and breath new life into the base not just as a military facility—but as a home to its residents and a contributing member of the southeastern Connecticut community.

Not too long ago SUBASE New London was threatened with closure. While advocates and

supporters from across the state joined together to reverse this decision and keep the base open, there hung over the base a sense that it was a "relic," that it was somehow an outdated and gloomy place in which to serve. Each and every day since arriving at the base, Captain Ginda worked to reverse that perception by reconnecting the base with the community around it, by looking forward at what the base could be, and by ensuring that the base is able to accomplish its most important goal—the support of the sailors and families who make up our submarine force.

Not too long after Captain Ginda took command of the base, I was honored to be elected as the representative of the second Congressional district of Connecticut. As a new member from the other side of the district, it was important for me to get up to speed fast on the needs of the base and the challenges it faced. From day one, Captain Ginda made sure to reach out to me, and take the time to walk me through his vision for the base and ensuring that no question of mine went unasked. His help, and counsel, was instrumental in making sure I had the knowledge I needed to come to Washington to advocate on behalf of the base and its importance to our nation. I am so grateful for his assistance and the close working relationship he has had with me and my office. I am also especially thankful for the warm friendship that he and his wife, Terry, have shown and their efforts to ensure that I felt at home as a member of the SUBASE New London community.

Madam Speaker, it has truly been an honor to work with Captain Ginda, and I have no doubt that his legacy will be felt at the base and in the region for some time to come. He has been a terrific resource for me and my office, a trusted advocate for his base, and a respected partner in the southeastern Connecticut community. I ask all my colleagues in joining me in thanking Captain Ginda for his service to the Navy, recognizing his tireless efforts at SUBASE New London, and in wishing he and Terry good luck as they prepare to move on to this next step in their lives.

**TRIBUTE TO CHARLES PRATHER,
FIRE CHIEF ORANGE COUNTY
FIRE AUTHORITY**

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Orange County, California are exceptional. Orange County has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Fire Chief Charles "Chip" Prather is one of these individuals. Chief Prather is retiring from the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) and today I honor his years of public service.

Chief Prather became Fire Chief for the Orange County Fire Authority on October 1, 1997. In this capacity he is responsible for the daily operation of one of the largest fire organizations in the State of California. Under Chief Prather's direction are a total of 1,500

firefighters, reserves and professional staff. The OCFA serves 22 cities and unincorporated areas of Orange County, with a total population of more than 1,300,000, from 62 fire stations and has an annual operating budget of 260 million dollars.

In addition, Chief Prather currently serves on the Orange County Emergency Council, Chairs the Orange County Emergency Operational Area Council, Fire Scope Board of Directors, Co-chairs an Orange County Joint Law/Fire/Health anti-terrorism advisory committee and is a member of the California Fire Chiefs Association Executive Board of Directors. In 2002, Chip was appointed by Governor Davis to the State Emergency Council which advises the Governor on policy matters during times of disaster and served on the states 2003 Blue Ribbon Fire Commission.

Chief Prather is also a member of The Raise Foundation's Advisory Board (formerly Prevent Child Abuse Orange County), serves as a member of the Salvation Army Advisory Board and the Trauma Intervention Program Advisory Board and numerous other boards and commissions. Chief Prather was honored as the recipient of the Boy Scouts Spurgeon Award 2000 for his involvement in Explorer Scouting and in 2002 was selected as the Fire Chief of the Year by the California Fire Chiefs Association.

Chief Prather is a member of the following organizations: Orange County Chambers of Commerce, International Association of Fire Chiefs, Metropolitan Fire Chiefs' Association, California Fire Chiefs' Association, California State Firefighters' Association, the Orange County Fire Chiefs' Association and the National Fire Protection Association.

Chip holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Management and has completed the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government Program for Senior Executives in state and local government. He has also attended the United States Fire Administration National Fire Academy, completing the Executive Fire Officer Program.

Chief Prather and his wife Katie live in San Clemente California with their two children.

Chief Prather's tireless passion for community and public service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Orange County, California. I am proud to call Chip a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

**MT. CARMEL HOSPITAL OF
COLVILLE, WASHINGTON CELEBRATES 90TH ANNIVERSARY**

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mt. Carmel Hospital in Colville, Washington. Mt. Carmel Hospital was founded in 1919 as a non-profit, critical access, Catholic hospital and is currently run by the Sisters of Providence. For 90 years, the hospital has carried out its mission of providing medical care to members of the rural community in the Stevens, Ferry, and Pend Oreille counties of Northeast Washington.

Mt. Carmel Hospital is dedicated to assuring medical service is provided in accordance with its core values of respect, compassion, justice, excellence, and stewardship. In addition to its operating emergency services, a surgery center, rehabilitation, and diagnostic imaging, Mt. Carmel serves the community's underprivileged and provides education to professionals and laymen alike. Through their partnership with various other regional nonprofits, such as Christ Clinic and Project Access, Mt. Carmel compassionately reaches out to those who have limited or no health insurance. Additionally, the hospital's Resident Physician program offers training for new medical personnel while its Community Health Education Center provides classes and support groups on awareness and health improvement opportunities. The excellent care and community support contributed by Mt. Carmel Hospital offers the rural counties of Northeast Washington the kind of healthcare options often only available in large urban centers.

In early June, 2009, Mt. Carmel Hospital completed its renewal and expansion project, which doubled the hospital's size and renovated the existing building. Construction of the new hospital building will increase the hospital's area by 70,000 square feet, which will include a new inpatient facility and an expanded outpatient area, emergency room, and laboratory, as well as other additions.

Madam Speaker, I believe the ongoing efforts to provide excellent medical assistance to the counties of Northeast Washington make Mt. Carmel Hospital worthy of recognition before this body. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Mt. Carmel Hospital and the Sisters of Providence by observing and celebrating 90 years of dedication to wellness and health education in the community.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE THIRTY-
SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF
TITLE IX**

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I wish to take a moment this week to recognize the thirty-seventh anniversary of Title IX. When I think of this historic legislation that champions equal rights for women, I am reminded of something Betty Friedan said in her book, *The Feminine Mystique*. She said, "The problem that has no name—which is simply the fact that American women are kept from growing to their full human capacities—is taking a far greater toll on the physical and mental health of our country than any known disease." Ms. Friedan—a leader of the women's rights movement and a founding member of the National Organization for Women—described an ongoing battle; a battle that has plagued our country for far too long.

Title IX was enacted with the purpose of removing the barriers that could negatively constrict the potential of over 50% of our population. This monumental advance in equal rights for women was passed on June 23, 1972, with the goal of prohibiting gender discrimination in education programs, especially concerning athletic opportunities for young men and women. I have time and time again

commended this milestone in U.S. legislation for empowering women to engage and contribute positively to society as well as for encouraging women to make responsible decisions.

Upon celebrating the thirty-seventh anniversary of Title IX, it is only right to recognize what has thus far been accomplished since the enactment of Title IX in 1972. In the arena of athletics, we have seen tremendous increases in the participation of women in sports. In 1972, there were merely 294,000 female high school athletic participants, in contrast to the 3.6 million male participants; now, looking at 2006, there has been a 904% increase with just under 3 million female high school athletes. In 1972, only about 30,000 women continued on to collegiate athletic participation, compared to 170,000 male participants. But in 2006, that number also increased exponentially, by 456%, to 167,000 female collegiate participants. In the world of business, the percentage of women general counsels in Fortune 500 companies rose from 4% to 15% between 1994 and 2002. Within the legal profession, the percentage of women in tenured positions at law schools increased from 5.9% in 1994 to 25.1% in 2006. In addition, I am certain that Title IX laid the foundation for other advancements in equal rights for women, such as the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 that President Obama signed into law this January and that I proudly co-sponsored.

Even with this progress, the United States still has quite a journey ahead toward the goal of equality for women. There still exists resistance to efforts to treat women and men equally. Even now there is still a remarkably large gap between the number of female and male high school and collegiate sports participants. Beyond athletics, there still exists gender inequality in the work force on multiple fronts, including: the ratio of male to female professionals; the difference in the earnings of male and female employees; and the ratio of male to female leadership positions in the work force. It is true that in 2003 female professional earnings had risen to 76% of what their male counterparts were making; nevertheless, 76% is still far less than 100%.

So, I celebrate the advances made during the thirty-seven years since Title IX was enacted, and I promise to continue to dedicate my time and efforts to champion equal rights for women.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2647) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense; to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 2647, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2010.

As the representative of Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base, I am pleased that this bill makes important investments to support our national security and recognize the contributions of not only our men and women in uniform but also the families that support them. It provides for a 3.4 percent pay raise for service members and authorizes \$1.95 billion for family housing programs. It expands support for those who are injured in battle, with enhancements for the medical "mission to heal" and funding to help friends and family visit or otherwise support recovering service members. It also expands TRICARE health coverage for reserve component members and their families.

H.R. 2647 improves military readiness and authorizes additional funds for equipment depleted by the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. It authorizes the president's request for 15,000 more Army troops, 8,000 more Marines, 14,650 more Air Force personnel, and 2,477 more Navy sailors, and also includes funding for force protection to keep those troops safe in theater. It recognizes the toll on our Army National guard and reserves by providing new battle gear and construction projects in our communities.

While I am pleased that this resolution provides authorization of \$50 million for Impact Aid funding, with additional \$15 million for BRAC-affected areas, these levels are inadequate for the pressing needs our school districts have as they care for military-connected students. As the former superintendent of North Carolina's schools, I know first-hand that we cannot provide a high-quality education without high-quality facilities. In North Carolina, the BRAC process has swelled enrollment in the counties around Fort Bragg—Cumberland, Harnett, Johnston, and Sampson—without increasing the tax base that supports the local schools. Impact Aid funding has barely increased in the last five years. We must renew our commitment to support these students and give local schools the support they need to provide them a quality education, especially in the current economic downturn that is straining state and local budgets.

Mr. Chair, despite this shortfall, this is a strong bill that supports our men and women in uniform, and their families, and enhances our national security. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE BUDGET REFORM AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1016—To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide advance appropriations authority for certain medical care accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs. This bill would ensure sufficient, timely, and

predictable veterans funding so that the Department of Veterans Affairs would have the federal funding to better serve veterans' medical needs and improve health care services. This is a very timely and important measure as many of our troops today are returning home in need of accessible and adequate health care services. Therefore I strongly commend my colleague BOB FILNER for bringing this measure before the floor.

This bill would authorize Congress to provide investments in the Department of Veterans Affairs medical care one year in advance so the department can have sufficient time to plan how to deliver the best care to an increasing number of veterans with increasingly complex medical conditions.

My military constituents often turn to me for support in confronting the many challenges they face when working with the Department of Veterans Affairs. We have come to understand, that many of the challenges in efficient health care services are attributable to the Department of Veterans Affairs' inadequate funding. For most of the past two decades, the appropriated funds for medical care have not been provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs in a timely manner. This has resulted in the department's problems in planning and managing care for enrolled veterans. Accordingly, this bill addresses this budgetary problem and allows for advance appropriations to ensure the department has the Federal backing to effectively address the medical needs of our nation's veterans.

As a vocal advocate for veterans' rights, I am pleased to add my voice of support for H.R. 1016. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that we continue to provide the necessary resources towards improving our Department of Veterans Affairs' health care programs and administrative services.

IN RECOGNITION OF OFFICER GARLAND C. THOMPSON

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Garland C. Thompson's retirement from the United States Capitol Police after thirty-five years of service.

Founded in 1828, the Capitol Police have protected countless lives and secured our nation's historic Capitol complex. Officer Thompson first joined the Capitol Police on June 6, 1975. His deep sense of patriotism and dedication to upholding the rule of law is evident to all. Known as a strict enforcer, Officer Thompson has ensured the safety of elected officials, staffers, journalists, and tourists alike and the corner of First and C Streets will not be the same without his friendly face. I have had the pleasure of knowing him and am proud to call him my friend. I know he will be greatly missed.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude for Officer Thompson's thirty-five years of dedicated service to the Capitol Police and this great Nation. I wish him and his family all my very best.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY INFORMATION

HON. DAVID R. OBEY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today, as a member of the House of Representatives who has been intimately involved with the area of biomedical research and health care, to draw the attention of the Congress and the nation to the 20th anniversary of the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), a national resource for molecular biology information located at the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health (NIH).

I am reminded at this time of our late distinguished colleague Claude Pepper who, in 1987, introduced H.R. 393, a bill to establish a National Center for Biotechnology Information. As he eloquently described it, the Center would deal "with nothing less than the mystery of human life and the unfolding scroll of knowledge, seeking to penetrate that mystery, which is life itself." A quick study, Claude early on concluded there was a growing need to fit together the pieces of the genetic puzzle so as to benefit humankind. Although the term biotechnology was relatively new at that time, there was clear evidence that the whole biotechnology information infrastructure was overloaded and there was an urgent need for developing a central repository for storing and sharing the data resulting from the explosive growth of research in molecular biology. The information-handling organization envisioned in the bill, the National Center for Biotechnology Information, became a reality with the signing by President Reagan of the Health Omnibus Extension Act (P.L. 100-607) on November 4, 1988.

I remember well those early years when a group of Nobel Laureates appeared before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and laid out a vision that revolutionized our understanding of biology and genomics. Chairman Bill Natcher and those of us on the subcommittee enthusiastically supported the Genome Project. Its magnitude was nothing short of President Kennedy's vision of landing a man on the moon for it launched a grand national challenge of utmost importance to human health. NIH Director James Wyngaarden testified that year that we had sequencing data on less than one-tenth of one percent of the human genome. He said then that while the pace of biology research was rapidly accelerating, the ability to analyze and share information was severely constrained and that if we were going to understand the disease process we would need new and better information approaches. Clearly, the organization defined in Claude's bill fit that need and so the Appropriations Committee readily provided the necessary funding for NCBI.

Today molecular biology and genomics are the primary drivers of medical progress. And, under the innovative leadership of Dr. David Lipman, NCBI's first and current director, NCBI's molecular biology information resources are empowering hundreds of thousands of researchers around the world to

identify disease-related genes and develop strategies for treating and preventing disease. It's amazing that each and every week researchers are downloading data from NCBI that is equivalent in size—I am told—to the entire contents of the Library of Congress.

The U.S. Congress has encouraged and generously supported the more than 40 database resources developed by the NCBI. The recent legislative requirement that the results of NIH-funded research be made available through NCBI's PubMed Central database will, we believe, accelerate scientific progress and the discovery of new treatments.

Over the past 20 years, the management of biological information has progressed rapidly and has become an integral part of the scientific process. It is now virtually impossible to think of an experimental strategy in biomedicine that does not rely heavily on the kind of resources and tools developed by the NCBI for analyzing molecular and genomic data.

In summary, Madam Speaker, under Dr. Lipman's careful planning and creative stewardship the NCBI has responded successfully to the challenge of the mandate of the 1988 legislation by effectively developing a major national resource for molecular biology information that is greatly benefiting medical researchers, practitioners, educators, and the general public.

I believe that the era of "personalized medicine"—including highly targeted individualized treatments—will soon be upon us, and NCBI clearly will be a driving force in making that a reality. So I want to offer my congratulations to NCBI's visionary leader, Dr. David Lipman, to NLM's excellent director, Dr. Donald A. B. Lindberg, and to the bright and dedicated staff of the NCBI for 20 years of outstanding public service to the nation and to the world.

HONORING MAYOR WILLIAM HICKS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the remarkable achievements of William "Bill" Hicks, the beloved mayor of Romney, West Virginia.

Bill is a veteran of the Second World War's Pacific Theater where he was involved in navigation and sighting for secret bombing missions. Just fifteen days after returning home from the war, he married Thelma Elizabeth Berg on December 27, 1945.

Together, they made Romney their home on July 1, 1964 and have lived there ever since. Bill worked for Western Union Telegraph Company where he played a key role in setting up the first transcontinental microwave relay communications in the U.S. His work involved implementing communications infrastructure for private and government entities located throughout West Virginia and the surrounding areas. Through his work, Bill also developed a passion for public service.

He was first elected to the Romney City Council in 1968 and later was elected as Mayor of Romney in 1991. After more than 40 years of service, Mayor Hicks recently stepped

down, but still remains committed to serving his community. He has been involved in numerous community organizations. He also serves on the Hampshire County Development Authority, the Potomac Valley Transit Authority, the Romney VFW, and the American Boy Scout Committee, just to name a few.

Bill and his wife Thelma remain committed to their community and their family. They raised five children, boast eight grandchildren and now have five great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Romney's beloved Mayor and long-time distinguished public servant, William "Bill" Hicks for his years of service and contributions to Hampshire County and the State of West Virginia. Mayor Hicks is a friend and a fellow West Virginian. I wish him all the best in the years to come.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PETE'S HAMBURGERS

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Pete's Hamburgers of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin and to recognize their 100th anniversary.

It is reassuring to see that despite these tough economic times many American small businesses are still thriving. It was 100 years ago when Pete Gokey opened Pete's Hamburgers as a small, humble stand selling pan-fried hamburgers. Pete Gokey's life embodies the hard work, dedication, and commitment that have made our country great.

Although we recognize it today for achieving the feat of keeping its doors open for 100 years, the story of Pete's Hamburgers is one founded upon an individual's commitment to public service and hard work. Before opening his stand to sell hamburgers, Pete Gokey was a member of the volunteer fire department in Prairie du Chien. As fate would have it, Pete was selected to be the chef for one of the fire department's community events, at which he was expected to serve fried hamburgers with onions. The hamburgers were a huge success and became the catalyst for Pete Gokey's successful stand.

Gokey was able to turn his stand into a fixture of the Prairie du Chien community. Whether serving hamburgers or volunteering as a fire fighter, Pete Gokey was a man who lived a life based on hard work and service to his community.

Pete's Hamburgers and its quality product have stood the test of time and I proudly stand before this chamber to recognize the success of Pete and his family who have dedicated their lives to something they love: hamburgers.

I applaud the efforts of Pete Gokey and his family members who now run the business and I am proud to see their hard work rewarded by 100 years of business and 100 years of service to the Prairie du Chien community. May their success continue for many more years to come.

CONGRATULATING PAIGE EPLER
ON HER GRADUATION FROM THE
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
HIGH SCHOOL

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Paige Laura Epler from Woodbridge, Virginia, on her graduation from the University of Oklahoma High School. Twelve year old Paige graduated on June 5, 2009 as the youngest girl to earn a high school diploma from an accredited high school. Paige had a 4.0 grade point average; however, she excelled in other areas as well. An extremely accomplished violinist, in addition to playing at her graduation, she was the selected violinist for NASA's 50th Year celebration and at President Obama's Inaugural Luncheon.

My colleagues also may know Paige from her passionate efforts to Save the Sharks. Starting at age eight, she has worked to educate people about sharks and dispel the myths that have led to a number of species becoming endangered. Paige has given briefings at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, the Science Museum of Virginia, and to the United States Congress.

Madam Speaker, Paige Epler represents the best this country has to offer, and her dedication to her studies bespeaks of the bright future before her. I congratulate her on her wonderful accomplishment and wish her well in all of her future endeavors.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE LATE AUBREY EMMITT FALLIN

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of a truly great American, Aubrey Emmitt Fallin. Aubrey was a courageous veteran, a dedicated citizen, and a fiercely loyal friend and father.

Aubrey was a patriot by anybody's definition. He served as a marine during WWII, landing on Iwo Jima February 19, 1945. He demonstrated indestructible bravery and strength, enduring a grueling 24 hours in which 2,721 of his fellow patriots lost their lives. Within the following 36 days, over 7,000 American soldiers were killed in action. His presence during this historic struggle put him in one of the bloodiest battles in World history. If it were not for brave men like Aubrey the war would have been lost. Risking and overcoming much, Aubrey emerged from the war with deeply rooted pride, admiration, respect, and love for his America.

After his completion of service, Aubrey was not only a veteran, he was a veteran's veteran. Beyond his recollection and stories of this era he would also give lectures on how to apply yesterday's lessons to today and tomorrow. In peacetime, he was just as fierce of a freedom fighter as he was when bullets were flying all around him. Even as his health failed him, he kept a vigilant eye out for the best in-

terest of America. He used his devotion to our great nation to spur and awaken that very same passion within every individual he knew.

Beyond the battlefield, Aubrey served on the front lines of his local political community through his active leadership. He was a member of Coffee County Board of Registrars, The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign War, past chairman of The Coffee County Republican Party, former president of Douglas Hobos & Shriner Clowns, a member of the Masons and Shriners, and a past president of the Exchange Club. He manifested his faithful love for our country through continuing to sacrifice his time and serve his fellow citizens. His unwavering service, vigilance, and outspoken nature secured freedom for all.

Aubrey was an unquestionably loyal friend. I never left Coffee County without at least one bag of peanut brittle. Enjoying a treat made by such patriotic and loving hands was an honor. We will miss Aubrey as a friend and companion, and we will always be appreciative of the freedom we enjoy because of his and others' sacrifice. His life undoubtedly impacted all who came in contact with him for the better. Aubrey has left a lasting legacy of compassion, strength, and service. May God bless his memory forever!

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOMAS RAE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Thomas Rae and in recognition of his dedication to his family and country.

Thomas was born on March 2, 1930 in Cleveland Ohio as one of five siblings. Upon graduating from high school, Thomas joined and served in the United States Army for three years before being honorably discharged. After returning to Ohio, he married Mildred Dziak, and they had four daughters who were raised in Strongsville, Ohio. While raising a family, Thomas worked as an inspector for Terex General Motors and later as a supervisor at NASA. Thomas enjoyed his later years in the company of his children and their families. He was fortunate enough to spend time with all thirteen of his grandchildren and especially enjoyed watching them participate in sports. Thomas also took pleasure in the outdoors, playing golf, and handy-work after retirement.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Thomas Rae, who lived his life with the enduring support of his family and in recognition to his dedicated service to our country. I offer my deepest sympathies to his wife, Mildred; children, Denise Kucinich, Karen Vraja, Arleen Miciunas and Cheryl Vanderwyst; and grandchildren, Gary, Matt, Ryan and Michael Kucinich, Amanda, Samantha and Tommy Vraja, Lukas, Alyssa and Alec Miciunas, Lindsey, David and Nicole Vanderwyst.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. LUJÁN. Madam Speaker, due to scheduling conflicts, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 431. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING EUROPE'S BLACK POPULATION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution recognizing Europe's Black population and expressing solidarity with their struggle.

Last year, on April 29, 2008, I chaired the U.S. Helsinki Commission hearing entitled, "The State of (In)visible Black Europe: Race, Rights, and Politics" which focused on the more than 7 million people who make up Europe's Black or Afro-descendant population.

Despite their numerous contributions to European society, like African-Americans here, many Black Europeans face the daily challenges of racism and discrimination.

This includes being the targets of violent hate crimes, many of which have resulted in death. Existing inequalities in education, housing, and employment remain a problem and racial profiling is a norm. Few Black Europeans are in leadership positions and political participation is also limited for many, providing obstacles for addressing these problems.

In an effort to raise public awareness of these issues at the national and international level, the Black European Women's Council (BEWC) was launched on September 9, 2008 at the European Union's headquarters. More than 130 Black women from across Europe came to "insist on the recognition and inclusion of Black Europeans economically, politically, and culturally."

This resolution supports BEWC's fight for equality and urges European governments to implement anti-discrimination legislation and other plans of action, including a fund for victims incapacitated as a result of a hate crime.

Given the history of our own country, an increase in transatlantic cooperative efforts between our government and European governments, U.S. and European based civil rights groups, and within the private sector would also provide useful partnerships and assistance in combating racism and discrimination abroad and at home.

This resolution therefore also calls on the U.S. Government to increase support for public and private sector initiatives focused on combating racism and discrimination in Europe as part of our efforts to support global human rights.

It is for this reason that on April 15–16, 2009, I also co-hosted the "Black European Summit: Transatlantic Dialogue on Political Inclusion" at the European Parliament in Brussels with Black and other European minority parliamentarians to exchange information on the roles of racial and ethnic minority policymakers in developing and supporting policies

and initiatives to address racism, discrimination, and inequality.

As I continue to work on these initiatives, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this Resolution Recognizing Black Europeans and encourage them to review the statements and submissions from the Helsinki Commission's Black Europe Hearing at www.csce.gov.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MARY FALLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Ms. FALLIN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2647, "The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010."

Title of Project: Advanced Autonomous Robotic Inspections for Aging Aircraft

Amount of Project: \$2,000,000

Account: Air Force, Operations & Maintenance

Project Recipient: Veracity Technology Solutions, LLC 2701 Liberty Parkway, Suite 311, Midwest City, OK 73001

At my request, \$2,000,000 was included in the FY10 NDAA, H.R. 2647, for Veracity Solutions in Midwest City, OK, to implement a fully automated autonomous robotic vehicle that has the capability to inspect for corrosion, as well as crack detection around fasteners for the KC-135 aircraft. Current inspection methods are both antiquated and time consuming, which has increased maintenance downtime and unnecessary refurbishment. A state-of-the-art nondestructive inspection system and training, which decreases maintenance costs and improves safety, will have the ability to detect corrosion and cracking on the KC-135 wing skins (and other aging aircraft). This system will allow for condition assessment of aircraft structures, as well as continuous assessment through the historical comparison of previous and present inspection results.

Specifically, the funding will be used for the technical personnel, facilities, and equipment required to develop an integrated system that includes a medical grade ultrasonic inspection system, an advanced impedance plane analysis eddy current unit, and an autonomous inspection vehicle that will allow engineers and depot crews to accurately and instantly identify defects and that are currently undetectable with traditional nondestructive inspection methods. The end product will provide a permanent record of the structural member which can be stored on the network for future comparison.

Title of Project: E-6B Strategic Communications Upgrade Block 1A (VLF-TX & HPTS)

Amount of Project: \$4,000,000

Account: Navy, Research, Development, Test & Evaluation

Project Recipient: Rockwell Collins, 400 Collins Road, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52498

At my request, \$4,000,000 was included in the FY10 NDAA, H.R. 2647, to provide modifications to the Navy's E-6B Mercury TACAMO. The E-6B Mercury TACAMO is a manned airborne communications relay platform designed to provide a survivable, reliable, endurable airborne Command and Control communications link between the President,

Secretary of Defense, and U.S. strategic and non-strategic forces, especially in the time of crisis or national emergency. In performing the TACAMO mission, the platform's primary purpose is the relay of messages via survivable Very Low Frequency transmission (VLF-TX).

This funding will provide for the modification of the VLF-TX, in addition to the High Power Transmit Set (HPTS) subsystem. The current VLF-TX is becoming unsupportable for the mission at hand. The money requested would provide for an encryption function which extends the development cycle for deployment of new equipment. In addition, it would be used to upgrade improvement in the HPTS system and improve the wire control system and operational availability.

These upgrades are critical to the E-6B execution of the TACAMO mission located at Tinker AFB and provide communications to the nation's strategic ballistic missile submarine force as a part of the Minimum Essential Emergency Communication Network (MEECN).

Title of Project: FIDO EXPLOSIVE DETECTOR

Amount of Project: \$7,000,000

Account: Army, Other Procurement

Line Number: 135

Project Recipient: ICx Nomadics, 1024 S. Innovation Way, Stillwater, OK 74074

At my request, \$7,000,000 was included in the FY10 NDAA, H.R. 2647, for the FIDO Explosive Detector, which will provide soldiers in combat theater the ability to identify and disable explosive devices and those who manufacture these devices by detecting explosive vapors and residues. Over 1,500 FIDO systems have been fielded in support of current military operations.

The small, lightweight, handheld devices provide the soldier the ability to screen persons, packages, cargo, equipment, vehicles, and buildings and report vapor detections in real time with audio and visual feedback to the operator. The small detection devices can be mounted onto a unit's organic Unmanned Ground Vehicle (UGV) to provide additional force protection, while protecting the safety of the unit. Current FIDO systems have been successful in the field, and advances have been made to increase the ability of the sensor to detect additional substances in use today and into the future. This funding will accelerate the fielding of FIDO's in combat theater and providing explosive detection and protection to men and women in uniform.

Title of Project: Joint Fires and Effects Trainer System Enhancements

Amount of Project: \$2,500,000

Account: Army, Research, Development, Test & Evaluation

Project Recipient: Creative Technologies, 6255 West Sunset Boulevards, Suite 716, Los Angeles, CA

At my request, \$2,500,000 was included in the FY10 NDAA, H.R. 2647, to provide upgrades to the Joint Fires and Effects Trainer System (JFETS) located at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. The current immersive simulation training capability suffers from one significant drawback—the one-to-one instructor/student requirement. The funding provided for this project would increase the ability for this program to upgrade the voice recognition technology of JFETS and allow a single instructor to manage nine concurrent call for fire training sessions in the Open Terrain module simulta-

neously and improve efficiency by 800%. Additionally, the project will develop an interactive application to drill soldiers in the five essential elements of accurate predictive fires to prepare them before they train in the immersive environment and reinforce the training before the deploy.

Title of Project: T-9 Noise Suppressor Support

Amount of Project: \$5,100,000

Account: Air Force, Military Construction

Project Recipient: Tinker Air Force Base, 3001 Staff Drive, Tinker AFB, OK 73145

At my request, \$5,100,000 was included in the FY10 NDAA, H.R. 2647, to fund the construction of foundations and supporting facilities for two T-9 noise suppression systems at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma. This project would consist of the construction of reinforced concrete footings and slabs capable of supporting T-9 style engine testing facilities, a 20,000 gallon jet engine fuel storage and delivery system, utilities, access driveways, and a small office/restroom/break facility. Current engine test facilities are aging and unable to support the current test mission.

With the completion of the new Tinker Aerospace Complex (TAC) and the transfer of engine maintenance to this facility, construction of these test cells near the TAC will allow contiguous support of military jet engine repair, decrease maintenance downtime, and associated cost. This will allow the 76th Maintenance Wing and the 76th Propulsion Maintenance Group the capabilities to meet its mission of delivering engines on time and on cost and position Tinker AFB for increased mission capabilities in the future.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2047) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense; to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 2647, the National Defense Authorization Act and encourage its passage. Earlier this Congress I introduced H.R. 1267, "Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Act of 2009, which provides legislative authority to the Navy and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to jointly operate the new "Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center." In the other body, Senator DICK DURBIN has been working to include similar language in the Senate version of the National Defense Authorization Act.

After completion, the Lovell Federal Health Care Center will be the first health care facility in the nation to be operated jointly between the VA and the Navy saving taxpayers millions of dollars that would otherwise have been needed to rebuild or renovate the Navy's nearby hospital. Without this legislation, the Center will not be able to provide essential services to

thousands of military beneficiaries in the region. Beneficiaries who had previously received care at the Naval Health Clinic Great Lakes would either be ineligible for care or would be charged a significant co-pay for certain care, including emergency, hospitalization, outpatient, and behavioral health services. The facility is scheduled to begin joint operations on October 1, 2010.

While my legislation was not included in the underlying bill, it is my understanding that Senator Durbin will be able to include similar language in the Senate NDAA. I will continue to work with my colleagues in the Senate on its inclusion, and encourage passage of the underlying bill.

**“A VISION FOR HEALTH CARE”
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS BY
SENATOR RICHARD T. MOORE**

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, my friend, Senator Richard T. Moore was honored recently at the commencement of the New England College of Optometry. I wanted to share his remarks, as his address justly paid tribute to the school, its faculty, and graduates for their commitment to public service.

A VISION FOR HEALTH CARE

President Chen, Chairman Manfredi, Vice Chairman Ferrucci (my friend and personal Optometrist), Members of the Board of Trustees, parents, alumni, friends, and most especially, my fellow graduates of the Class of 2009 . . . I'm honored to share in your celebration today and to receive a degree from this prestigious institution with its well-deserved reputation for improving access to care, enhancing the quality of life by preventing blindness, and developing innovative, economically viable models of eye care.

Visus per mentem, vision through the mind, has long been the motto of this great College. It is a phrase that reflects a sincere commitment to learn the skills and knowledge necessary to serve others, as well as a deeply felt belief that you can help people to see the world with more clarity and purpose—to give in a way, the gift of sight—or at least improved vision. Hopefully, your clinical experience working at the New England Eye Institute and in community health centers and school or elderly vision clinics, has kindled in you to a desire to devote some portion of your time, treasure and talent to bring quality eye care to the underserved of our society.

Few, if any of you, in the Class of 2009 could have attended New England College of Optometry for four or more years without deriving from your studies, from your outstanding instructors and most of all from your own inner hearts some sense of inspiration and idealism as well as an appreciation of your social responsibility as a newly-minted health care professional.

CONTINUE THE LEGACY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

Graduates of New England College of Optometry who preceded you have blazed a trail of community service through vision research and care that is almost legendary! They left an inspiring legacy upon which you and your classmates can now build. With your OD degree in hand, challenge yourselves to follow in the footsteps of exemplary alumni such as Charlie Mullen OD ‘69 (who

addressed you a few moments ago) and Kenneth Myers OD ‘74, who firmly established vision care as a focus of the U.S. Veterans Administration. Their pioneering work is, today, helping wounded veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to see beyond the trauma of war and return to productive lives in our communities.

Then, there's Edward Goodnig OD ‘76. He brought his knowledge and skills to underserved regions expanding primary care opportunities for Alaska's Native American settlements and schools. You may also know of Frank Thorn OD ‘79, today's Commencement Marshal and an expert on the causes and development of Myopia, who has shared his professional knowledge and restless energy from this campus on the banks of the Charles River to remote villages in the Amazon Rain Forest and—in Marco Polo fashion—from Europe to China. Their exciting and fulfilling careers, chronicled in the College's 2008 Annual Report, offer a glimpse of the potential that awaits you as today's graduates.

Such stories of successful graduates can teach, they can offer hope, they can provide inspiration. But they cannot supply the courage to follow your own path. For that each of you must look into your own hearts. Accept your degrees today with the same pride, enthusiasm, and commitment that launched those pioneers of Optometry into rewarding lives of caring service.

CONTINUE TO LEARN AND SHARE KNOWLEDGE

Never be too busy to keep from learning how to better serve your patients. That includes sharing your real world knowledge of your patients and the condition of their eyes with those involved in academic research here at New England College of Optometry and elsewhere. It also means staying informed about the rapidly changing science of your profession. Each of you, my fellow graduates, as our newest health care professionals, have a responsibility to continue your education by maintaining competency in vision care and in the technology necessary to deliver the best quality of care to all who seek better vision.

Whether your career takes you to remote regions of America or the world, or takes you back to wherever you may call “home,” remember one of the basic concepts that you learned here in the Back Bay, that eye care professionals are an integral part of the team of primary care providers, and deserve to be treated with the same degree of professional respect as any other health care professional! In this era of health care reform, each of you will play an essential role in not only diagnosing and treating conditions of the eye, but you will also serve as part of the team of professional caregivers who assist and support each other for the benefit of every patient.

MASSACHUSETTS AS A MODEL FOR THE NATION

For the past four years, as each of you have been immersed in becoming competent, dedicated vision care professionals in the classrooms at 424 Beacon Street, I've been learning the lessons of health care reform about a mile away in the State House meeting rooms at 24 Beacon Street. The grades are now in, and the results are clearly informing the growing national debate on health care. Massachusetts is leading the way in health care reform! We are:

First in the nation in health care access.

First in electronic health records and e-prescribing.

In the forefront of patient safety, quality improvement, and cost containment.

Leading the way in prescription drug ethics.

In just three years, 432,000 Massachusetts residents, who were previously un-insured,

have gained access to health care and the many stories of lives saved or improved are truly heart-warming.

**OPTOMETRY'S CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTH
REFORM**

One of the challenges facing Massachusetts and the Nation in fully realizing the health improvement and cost savings benefits of health care reform is the need to expand patient access to primary care. It is just as important—and less expensive—to keep people healthy, as well as to treat those who are ill. We have made great progress in expanding access to health insurance for the people of Massachusetts, but there is still an unmet need for easy access to primary care providers. I believe that optometrists, such as each of you, are ready—even anxious—to help to fill some of that void.

To address this challenge, those who pay for health care need to embrace new payment models that support wellness as well as coordinating care for those who suffer from illness, injury or less than good health. Any such wellness effort needs to include regular screening—such as vision screening—and be coordinated with health information technology such as through a centralized vision care registry.

Major stakeholders in health care reform obviously include the physician community. The Massachusetts Medical Society, the oldest, continuously operating state medical society in the United States, is the primary voice of physicians in the development of public policy. However, it sometimes seems to me that the society's policy positions have evolved far more slowly than the progress of science itself.

An old baseball player once said, “I don't question the integrity of an umpire, just his eyesight.” Similarly, I don't question the integrity of our state medical society, just their vision! As fewer medical doctors enter the field of primary care, the medical profession needs to embrace other health professionals who, with appropriate training such as that provided by the New England College of Optometry, can do much to provide safe, cost-effective care for patients needing attention.

It's high time for all Massachusetts physicians to rise above the tradition-bound guild mentality that confounds health care progress, and respect the education and experience of all health professions in treating the whole person. It's time for Massachusetts to embrace treatment regimens for optometrists that are already fully accepted in 49 other states, if we are to offer quality care that is convenient and affordable for patients. You, the Class of 2009, must make your voices heard as that debate unfolds!

It was Robert Kennedy who once challenged an earlier graduating class at another college—“to decide, as Goethe put it, whether you will be a hammer—or an anvil. The question is whether you are to be a hammer—whether you are to give to the world in which you were reared and educated, the broadest possible benefits of that education.” So I challenge you to get involved in writing the health care policy of your generation—be a hammer!

A VISION FOR HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA

You are graduating at a most exciting time in health care! As you begin your professional careers in vision care, health reform is about to take center stage in the national arena. National health reform is likely to include minimum standards for benefits, an individual insurance mandate, a guaranteed issue requirement for health insurance, a prohibition on excluding coverage of pre-existing conditions, the creation of an insurance exchange where people can sign up for coverage—all factors that are included in the Massachusetts health reform effort.

If we view health reform through the lens of the ongoing Massachusetts experiment, there are some fundamental principles to anchor the national effort.

1. Each of us has an individual responsibility to take care of our health—including screenings and check-ups, as well as maintaining health insurance to help pay for our care and that of our families.

2. Each of us has a collective responsibility, as citizens of a caring society, to support public policies that guarantee access to safe, high quality, affordable and patient-centered health care for everyone in society.

3. Each of us, in the field of health care, has a professional responsibility to strive for the highest level of competency, to ensure that we, and our colleagues in the patient care team, deliver the right care at the right time and in the right place.

These principles can serve as a shining beacon for health reform in the nation, much as this Commonwealth led the nation in propagating the principles of democratic government, social progress, and educational excellence throughout its proud history.

Massachusetts' first Governor, John Winthrop, wrote in 1630 about the social experiment being launched in this New World. He called upon his Puritan brethren and all their descendants to share their resources and gifts with others, "rejoice together, mourn together, labor and suffer together so that—"the world will say of succeeding plantations, may the Lord make it like that of New England . . . we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us." Sharing our gifts with others is the cornerstone of health care reform in Massachusetts and, I hope, it will be your personal cornerstone in your health care careers as well.

Truly, the eyes of all people in America are focused on the Massachusetts health reform experience as a framework for bringing expanded access to quality care to all Americans. But that's not all we're contributing to health care. This morning, Massachusetts is sending forth from this city upon a hill, a new class of highly skilled, and energized health care professionals with their degree in optometry in hand!

While past experience may teach us to be skeptical of the promises of any politician, to those of you who will dedicate your health care careers to the betterment of your state and all her people—I can promise a lifetime of challenge and opportunity, sometimes exciting and rewarding, sometimes slow and difficult, but always, always worthwhile.

And let me add one final bit of parting wisdom: No one ever injured his or her eyesight by looking on the bright side of things! The economy will improve! You'll earn a good living! And those of us in government can't wait to share in your success every April 15th!

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN MICHAEL
T. DOYLE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Captain Michael T. Doyle, upon his retirement from the Cleveland Police Department, following thirty years of dedicated service to the citizens of Cleveland.

Captain Doyle graduated from Normandy High School in Parma, Ohio, then went on to graduate with honors from Cleveland State University. Shortly thereafter, Captain Doyle

accepted a position in law enforcement as the Assistant Deputy Sheriff for Medina County. After four years, in 1981, he began his service to the City of Cleveland as a Cleveland Police officer.

Captain Doyle's service to our community extended across nearly every police district in the City and included work as patrol officer, detective, sergeant, lieutenant and captain. Throughout his tenure, Captain Doyle fostered trust, communication and cooperation among individuals throughout our community, from neighborhood block club members to elected officials at Cleveland City Hall.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Captain Michael T. Doyle for his unwavering dedication to protecting the citizens of Cleveland, Ohio.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the FY 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 2892

Account: FEMA, State and Local Programs

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of La Habra

Address of Requesting Entity: 201 E. La Habra Blvd., La Habra, CA 90631

Funding Secured: \$254,500

Description of Request: Currently, the City of La Habra's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is a very small conference room within the Police Station. The maximum occupancy is less than a dozen individuals, and there is not adequate space or equipment to serve as an Emergency Operations Center, particularly if there were a large-scale emergency such as an earthquake, wildfires, act of terrorism, etc. During the recent "Golden Guardian" earthquake exercise in California, the team evaluating the City's performance noted the inadequacy of the facility and its hindrance to the exercise. The problems would be even more pronounced should there be an actual emergency requiring the mobilization of our first responders and emergency personnel. This project would provide for necessary equipment and modifications to establish the various required components of an EOC (Planning and Intelligence, Operations, Communications, Public Information, etc.). I believe that it is critical for Congress to use taxpayer dollars responsibly by investing in Southern California communities to prevent, combat, and contain the devastating threat of fire and natural disasters that routinely ravage the Southern California landscape

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR.
DAVID GORDON PERSONS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Doctor David Gordon Persons on the occasion of his retirement from Wayside Presbyterian Church after thirty three years of leadership. It is my pleasure to recognize Reverend Dr. Persons and acknowledge him as an influential role model in the Western New York area.

Reverend Dr. Persons' leadership abilities were apparent at an early age. As a student of Sherman High School, he was lettered in both basketball and track and he was a member of the Top Math Team to represent Western New York at Boys Town. Upon graduating from Sherman High School in 1961, he received the American Legion Citizen of the Year award.

Reverend Dr. Persons' commitment to the Western New York community is evident by his leadership, devotion and dedication to the people in our community. His community service extended to the Lake Shore Volunteer Fire Department, where he served as Chaplain and Life Member for over thirty years. He was also a member of the Kiwanis Club from 1979 to 1986.

His belief that understanding and reaching out to the world can make a difference led to his co-founding of the Task Force to Reduce the Nuclear Arms Race at the United Nations, which later became the Peace Committee of Western New York. He has been a major influence and inspiration in the lives of young people. From 1979 to 1986, he led yearly youth group bike tours in Western New York and Southern Pennsylvania. Reverend Dr. Persons also led a youth group to the 20th Anniversary of Martin Luther King's speech.

Foremost, Reverend Dr. Persons has been integral to the life of his congregation. Over his religious career, he has officiated at some six hundred funerals, six hundred weddings and one thousand baptisms. His skills were recognized by his colleagues, and from 1965 to 1967, Reverend Dr. Persons was President of the Preaching Association in Seminary. In 1987, he was awarded grants to study meditation in ashrams in India. He is currently Moderator of Wright's Memorial Presbyterian Church—Native American Church in Irving, New York as well as Moderator of Presbytery of Western New York. He also holds the positions of the Chair of Presbytery Church and Society Committee as well as the Head of Presbytery Worship Committee.

Madam Speaker, along with his family, friends and great admirers who will join together today at the Wanakah Country Club, I am honored to pay tribute to the admirable accomplishments of Reverend Dr. Persons. His life of leadership, compassion and service to others is truly an example for us all on the enormous difference one person can make. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

WEB SITE INCLUSION OF VA
SCHOLARSHIPS

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1172—to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to include on the Internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs a list of organizations that provide scholarships to veterans and their survivors. This important measure would provide an invaluable resource for our veterans and their survivors. In an effort to increase information accessibility, this bill would create a convenient section within the Veterans Affairs Department website for veterans and/or their survivors to view all available veteran scholarship opportunities that various public and private organizations sponsor throughout the year. I commend Rep. JOHN BOOZMAN for bringing this measure before the floor.

My veteran constituents frequently contact me with reports on the many administrative failures and shortcomings of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Slow processes and backlogs have become the expectation rather than an exception in the level of service our veterans receive. This is unfortunate as we send these brave men and women to armed conflict, and yet, we cannot provide them with the necessary tools and resources to become re-oriented with society. This bill provides one solution to a relatively simple problem. I have no doubt, however, that many veterans and their families will appreciate this information, especially in light of the economic recession.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to add my voice of support for H.R. 1172. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that we continue to provide the necessary resources towards improving our Department of Veterans Affairs' administration and services.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA**HON. THOMAS S.P. PERRIELLO**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, today I recognize the First Baptist Church of Danville, Virginia, which celebrates its 175th anniversary on June 28, 2009. Since its founding in 1834, the First Baptist Church has been a source of fellowship, education, and service in its community and beyond.

Although the First Baptist Church has suffered from a terrible fire, moved its location several times, seen the town it serves grow from 1,000 to almost 50,000, and faced countless other changes throughout its long history, it remains true to its founding principles. Under the leadership of Reverend Stephen Cook, today the church is a community of strong relationships, where individuals bond over worship, meals, study, and music. Their affinity extends beyond just Sunday mornings to include weekly dinners, small group meetings, choirs and instrumental ensembles, programs for seniors and children, cultural outings, and

engagement in the larger community through service.

I commend the First Baptist Church and its leadership on this commitment to hands-on service, whether locally, elsewhere in our nation, or abroad. The church has stated, "When our worship together ends, our service truly begins," and it has undoubtedly abided by this principle. The numerous organizations that have benefitted from the dedication and generosity of the church's congregants include Hope Harbor, Hope Tree Family Services, God's Storehouse, Kloth's 4 Kids, the Danville Homeless Shelter, Habitat for Humanity, and Baptist World Aid. The efforts of the First Baptist Church to live out its mission in its works are an inspiring example: we should all strive to be so diligent in following the call to love and serve our fellow man.

The Book of Isaiah tells us, "And if you give yourself to the hungry, and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then your light will rise in darkness, and your gloom will become like midday." I congratulate the First Baptist Church on its tireless efforts to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of the Danville community, and I hope that its light will continue to shine for many years to come.

ARMY RESERVE ASSOCIATION'S
ENLISTED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I am honored today to speak on a wonderful program that impacts the lives of many great heroes and their families. The Army Reserve Association's, ARA United States Army Reserve, USAR Enlisted Scholarship Program awards a \$500 scholarship to assist qualifying enlisted reservists or their dependents attend an institution of higher learning.

Started in 2000 as an initiative of Command Sergeant Major Ray Lackey, this program has awarded a total of \$225,500 in scholarships. Through the generosity of the United Services Automobile Association, USAA, the administrative efforts of the ARA, and the support of the USAR, these patriots have the opportunity to pursue their dreams. The opportunity to further their education not only benefits these heroes, but the Army Reserve and the country as a whole.

I applaud the Army Reserve Association and all those responsible for this effort on behalf of our Army Reserve soldiers and their families. Additionally, I request that the following two letters regarding this program be inserted into the record: a letter from the Army Reserve Association and a letter from Lieutenant General Jack C. Stultz, Chief of the Army Reserve.

THE ARMY RESERVE ASSOCIATION,
Fort McPherson, GA, March 3, 2009.
Subject ARA Enlisted Scholarship Program Standards Approval.

Lieutenant General JACK C. STULTZ,
Commanding General,
U.S. Army Reserve

DEAR LIEUTENANT GENERAL STULTZ: This letter requests you approve the standards of the ARA Enlisted Scholarship Program listed below. Request approval of the following standards:

- (1) a member of the USAR not under flag or pending disciplinary action;
- (2) qualified in the MOS of their position of assignment;
- (3) attending or entering an institution of higher learning (2 or 4 year college, vocational school, bible college, etc.) that is regionally or nationally accredited;
- (4) military dependents must be registered in DEERS.

The applicant's chain of command CSM or SGM will certify that the applicant meets qualification standards (1) through (4), as applicable.

The ARA Enlisted Scholarships are for enlisted members of the United States Army Reserve and their dependent family members. Each year the ARA offers scholarships to each major command to which USAR members are assigned as designated by the Command Sergeant Major of the USAR. The annual goal of awarding fifty scholarships is predicated on the number of major commands participating and the number of scholarship applicants from each major command, as well as the amount of funds donated by the program cosponsor, the United Services Automobile Association (USAA).

The Army Reserve Association will create an announcement for the annual scholarship program and will transmit that announcement to the USARC G-1 with a request that the USARC G-1 forward the announcement to each major command. The announcement will include the approved standards and an application form that each command's applicants can use to apply for the scholarships. The calendar year program's closing date for receipt of all applications is 31 December, unless a waiver is granted.

We request the USARC G-1 to forward the scholarship program announcement to USAR commands with instructions on submitting the applications to the USARC G-1 together with submission dates specified by the USARC G-1, so that applications can be forwarded to the ARA in time for evaluation and award of scholarships.

The ARA will appoint a selection board with a board president from its existing association membership to select nominations for award of the ARA Enlisted Scholarship Award. Board members will serve in their private-citizen capacity and not in any military role and the board recorder may be a member of the Army Reserve Association. The selection list will be compiled, signed by the ARA enlisted scholarship selection board president and forwarded to the ARA for issuance of individual scholarship awards. The ARA may choose to either present or mail the awards to the Soldier's command or directly to the individual.

We appreciate your continued support and assistance in implementing this program. Sincerely,

MG KENT HILLHOUSE (R),
President, Army Reserve Association.

COL GEORGE M. LIND, (R)
Director, ARA Field Support Services.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, OFFICE
OF THE CHIEF, ARMY RESERVE,
WASHINGTON, DC, APRIL 24, 2009.
Major General KENT HILLHOUSE, RETIRED,
Winfield, Kansas.

DEAR GENERAL HILLHOUSE: This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 3, 2009, requesting approval of the eligibility standards for the Army Reserve Association (ARA) Enlisted Scholarship Program. I approve the following eligibility standards:

- a. an enlisted member of the U.S. Army Reserve not under flag or pending disciplinary action
- b. qualified in the MOS of their position of assignment

c. attending or entering an institution of higher learning (2 or 4 year college, vocational school, bible college, etc.) that is regionally or nationally accredited

d. Military dependents who are registered in DEERS

The ARA will submit any changes to the eligibility standards to this office for approval before implementation. It is understood that ARA is solely responsible for selection and notification of scholarship awardees.

The Army Reserve G-1 will make information available to the Army Reserve Major Subordinate Commands regarding the scholarships and forward all applications to ARA for processing as outlined in your letter.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Sergeant Major Gary Martz of the Army Reserve G-1, at (404) 464-9011.

Sincerely,

JACK C. STULTZ,
Lieutenant General,
U.S. Army Chief, Army Reserve.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2647) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chair, the amendment offered by Representative SCHIFF of California would allow a federally funded research and development center (FFRDC) under the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) to apply for grants made available by the Department of Defense. Of NASA's ten field centers, there is only one FFRDC—the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)—in Pasadena, California. The amendment would allow this NASA center to do the “research, development, demonstration, or transfer of technology . . . for activities including, but not limited to, those conducted by the center under contact with or on behalf of the Department of Defense.”

NASA is a civilian agency, doing civilian work that affects every American in various ways. It must not become too closely associated with the Department of Defense. NASA's mission is to pioneer scientific discovery, aeronautics research and space exploration, not to conduct research for the benefit of the Department of Defense.

At a time when these programs may be facing extensive funding cuts, allowing NASA's field centers to focus solely on carrying out NASA's mission could not be of more importance. Allowing JPL to apply for these grants would set a precedent that could pave the way for other NASA centers to follow suit. NASA is prohibited by law from accepting these grants from the Department of Defense for a reason. NASA should not be doing the work of the Department of Defense and should remain a distinct entity doing strictly civilian work for civilian benefits. It should be fully funded in order to allow it to do so.

HONORING THE MINUTE MAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, the resolution that I am introducing today with the gentlewoman from Massachusetts, Ms. TSONGAS, honors the Minute Man National Historical Park in Massachusetts on its upcoming 50th anniversary. Since being established in September 1959, the Minute Man National Historical Park has played a vital role in protecting and preserving the historic sites in the towns of Lexington, Lincoln, and Concord, where the American Revolution began. As the July 4th holiday approaches, it is fitting that we also have the opportunity to recognize Minute Man for its critical role in educating millions of Americans about the ideals of freedom and democracy that were embodied in the American Revolution and are the cornerstones of our Nation.

The Minute Man National Historical Park recognizes the people, places and events that have become enduring symbols of our shared American values. The park includes many important sites and landscapes along the historic 22-mile route from Boston to Concord, known as the “Battle Road” where British soldiers and American militia first clashed on April 19, 1775. The park includes the famed North Bridge in Concord, MA, where American militia were first ordered to return British fire. This heroic action was commemorated by the great American laureate Ralph Waldo Emerson in “The Concord Hymn” as “the shot heard round the world.” The park commemorates Paul Revere's “midnight ride” on the night of April 18, 1775, to raise the alarm for the residents of Concord, Massachusetts, that the British were marching to destroy military stockpiles.

The Minute Man National Historical Park continues to serve as a vital and enduring educational resource not only to the American people, but also to people all around the globe. The Minute Man National Historical Park plays a vital role in protecting these special places in Massachusetts where the fight for our democracy began and providing a true benefit to our Nation.

A TRIBUTE TO FRANK REYES FOR A LIFETIME DEDICATION TO EDUCATION AND PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to my good friend Frank Reyes, an exceptional educator who has helped the San Bernardino Community College District become a national leader in programs designed to meet a diverse student body.

Frank Reyes has been involved in education in San Bernardino County for more than three

decades, beginning with receiving a bachelors and masters degree from California State University, San Bernardino, and culminating in his current position as Executive Director of Governmental Affairs for the 16,000-student San Bernardino Community College District.

Prior to joining the district management team, Frank worked as a counselor, professor, Director of Community Services and Director of the Counseling Department. He has shown a dedication to his hometown, and the students there, which has paid huge dividends for the community college district. He is part of the team that has helped keep costs down, while improving the campuses and their quality of education. This has helped make the two colleges—Crafton Hills College in Yucaipa, and Valley College in San Bernardino—among the most diverse in the Nation.

In his current role in administration, Frank has been extremely successful at winning competitive government grants for the community college district. After a major earthquake in 1992 made nearly all of the buildings at the Valley College campus unsafe, Frank led a team that secured Federal Emergency Management Agency funds to build a new library, health and human services building, administration and student services building. Most recently, the campus has added a 37,000-square-foot campus center, a new art building and modern gallery.

I was proud to work closely with Frank in bringing funding to deserving projects for the colleges. Thanks largely to his hard work, the Federal Aviation Administration provided \$12.6 million for a new state-of-the-art fire academy that focuses on commercial aviation fires. Located at the San Bernardino International Airport, the facility attracts students from all over the country for real-life training on a jet fuselage. Most recently, I was delighted to work with Frank in winning the donation to Crafton Hills College of the swimming pool used in the 2004 Olympic Trials, which will be part of a recreation facility used by both the students and the community.

Frank has developed a national reputation for education excellence, serving on the International Development Team in Spain in May 2006, as well as the Defense Department's partnership with the Hispanic Associations of Colleges and Universities (HACU). Frank was also selected to be part of the U.S. Delegation to China in February 2006. The delegation continues its work on business, education and cultural exchanges. He has been a national leader with HACU, ensuring a significant federal funding increase for schools with significant Hispanic student bodies.

His community involvement beyond the colleges has been widely recognized—he has been listed in the Inland Empire Magazine as one of The Most Influential Hispanics and was named Latino of the Year by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He has been Chairman of the Board for the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center Foundation for two years, and is an active Board member of the Hands of Mercy, an organization which builds loft houses for the indigent.

Madam Speaker, after three decades of service to the students and people of San Bernardino County, Frank Reyes is retiring from the community college district. Please join me in thanking him for his hard work and dedication, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LARRY KISSELL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, June 24, 2009, I missed two rollcall votes as I was attending a White House briefing on the Energy bill. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall number 428, and "no" on rollcall number 429.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, due to a meeting at the White House, a Financial Services Committee Hearing and other commitments, I was unavoidably absent for certain votes this week. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 453, 454, 457, 458 and 460 and voted "nay" on rollcall votes 427, 455, 456, and 459.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF DON GILKEY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of an agricultural icon in California, Mr. Don Gilkey of Corcoran, California. Don passed away on May 24, 2009 at the age of 74. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Moonyeen Gilkey, three children and several grandchildren.

Don Gilkey was born on February 3, 1935 in Corcoran, California to Margaret and Ralph Gilkey. Don graduated in 1952 from Corcoran High School. In 1953 he left for the University of California, Berkeley, where he played football and rugby all four years of college. Don was a lineman and punter for the Cal Berkeley Bears and in 1956 was voted the team captain. He was named First Team All Pacific Coast and Second Team A.P. All-American. In August 1956, during his senior year, Don married the love-of-his life, Moonyeen Apperson, and they spent their first year of marriage in Berkeley while Don finished college. After graduating from Cal, Don spent a short period of time as an officer with the U.S. Army. Upon returning, Don declined several offers to become a professional football player, deciding instead to return home to Corcoran where he would become an integral part of the family farming business.

In 1958, Don became a partner with his brother Charles and brothers-in-law Don Riddle and Ken DeVaney in the family farming operation. Soon thereafter, the family partnership grew to include another brother-in-law, Bill Bondurant. During his farming career, Don farmed cotton, grain, alfalfa and raised turkeys. In 1962, the family farming operation

was such a success they decided to build their own cotton gin and the company went on to successfully bale 30,000 to 60,000 bales per year at their peak.

In 1966, one of Don's many community efforts became a reality when a new football stadium was built. In appreciation of Don's efforts, the following year the community of Corcoran overwhelmingly named Don Gilkey as their "Citizen of the Year". His community involvement was boundless. For many years, Mr. Gilkey served on the board of directors for Lakeland Dusters Aviation and Commercial Tire. He was a three-term board member and president of the Corcoran Unified School District board of trustees, president of the Corcoran Chamber of Commerce, member of the Corcoran Hospital Foundation, a lifelong member and trustee of the Corcoran First United Methodist Church, a long time member of Corcoran's Rotary Club, board member of the California Wheat Commission and the California Wheat Growers Association, past delegate to the National Cotton Council, member of Class V of the California Agricultural Leadership Program and for several years Don served as a board member of the California Ammonia Company. Don was honored as a member of the "65 Club", a select group of farmers chosen for their achievement in agriculture production, farm and community leadership. This special honor was given to him in 1982 in Washington, D.C. by then U.S. Secretary of Agriculture John R. Black during the National Agriculture Day ceremonies.

It goes without saying that Mr. Don "Donnie" Gilkey's dedication to his family, the family farm and his community have earned him a legacy of respect and enormous appreciation from Central Valley farmers, the Corcoran community and the agriculture industry. He will forever be remembered as "Don Gilkey, The Big Man with the Big Heart". I am honored and humbled to celebrate the life of this amazing man and agricultural icon.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2647) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise today as a cosponsor of this important amendment and urge of all of my colleagues to support it. I thank the Gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for his tireless advocacy on addressing human rights issues, and I would like to recognize Cindy Buhl on his staff and Jamila Thompson in my office for their hard work on this issue.

The McGovern-Sestak-Bishop-Lewis amendment would allow public access to the names of graduates and instructors at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation formerly known as the School of the

Americas. This military institution, based at Ft. Benning in Georgia, is known throughout the region for its questionable teachings and record of its graduates.

This amendment is simply about transparency. By revealing the names of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation attendees, we can shine the light of accountability and truth on an institution that is unnecessarily shrouded in secrecy. We can show our regional neighbors that we seek to be their partners in peace, and not co-conspirators of aggression.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the McGovern-Sestak-Bishop-Lewis amendment. Mr. Chair, with this amendment we can show that the intentions of the United States reflect a more cooperative foreign policy and a renewed commitment to international human rights standards.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. BOYD. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend to a vote on May 20, 2009. Had I been present, my vote would have been "yea" on H.R. 2352, Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LA SAGRADA FAMILIA FESTIVAL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of La Sagrada Familia Festival being held this June 26 through 28, 2009 and in remembrance of Reverend David F. Fallon, founding pastor of La Sagrada Familia Parish. This year's celebration is the twenty-fifth annual Latin American Festival and is being held at the Sagrada Familia Parish in Cleveland, Ohio.

The members of the La Sagrada Familia Parish in Cleveland have a long history of dedication to our community and to empowering Cleveland's diverse Latin American community. This year's celebration will feature live music, cultural dances, children's activities and a talent show that highlight the rich culture of the Latin American community. This year's honoree, Reverend David Fallon, became the founding pastor of Sagrada Familia on April 11, 1998 and continued in that role until his death on May 1, 2009. Under his direction, La Sagrada Familia became a source of strength and support for people of all ethnic and religious backgrounds. Father Fallon initiated numerous programs and organized church volunteers to serve the community through social service, employment and education initiatives.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the La Sagrada Familia Festival as they honor the memory of Reverend David F. Fallon at the 25th annual Latin American Festival. I offer my best wishes for a joyous celebration of culture and community.

TRIBUTE TO SGT. MIKE HEADRICK

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, the Volunteer State has done it again! Today, I rise to honor Sgt. Mike Headrick, a Tennessee National Guard soldier from Dunlap, Tennessee, who will be among seven National Guardsmen from across the entire United States competing for the prestigious title of Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year.

Sgt. Headrick has successfully competed against other highly talented National Guardsmen from our region for the opportunity to contend in the national finals. Competition begins in the hometown unit and becomes more difficult as the participant advances. In Sgt. Headrick's case, each unit in his Armored Cavalry Regiment squadron selected an NCO to compete at the Squadron level. Testing includes marksmanship, first aid, and warrior task training, along with proficiency on Army regulations and history. Squadron winners move up to regimental competition and face more difficult challenges including a physical fitness test, more warrior tasks, weapons qualification and a 10-mile road march. At the statewide competition, obstacles become even tougher with the addition of a land navigation course, another long road march and a mandatory appearance before a panel of Sergeant Majors.

The national competition begins at Fort Benning, Georgia, on July 30, and is packed with a grueling physical fitness test, five-mile run, day and night land navigation course, 12-mile road march with a 30 lb. rucksack, water survival, day and night weapons marksmanship, obstacle course, and hand-to-hand combat with little or no sleep. The competition concludes here in Washington, DC., one week later.

Sgt. Headrick is a member of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment's Det. 1, Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, in Gallatin, Tennessee, and has proudly served in our National Guard for six years. He volunteered for military service at the age 33, just before the age-limit cutoff, because he wanted future generations to have the ability to live in freedom without the fear of terrorists attacks.

In civilian life, Sgt. Headrick is a Certified Master Auto Technician at Bavarian Auto in my hometown of Chattanooga. He has been married to his wife, Audrey, for 20 years and they have one son, Alex.

Tennessee is very proud of the accomplishments and service of Sgt. Mike Headrick, and I am honored to recognize him today in the U.S. House of Representatives. This friendly competition sharpens the skills of our service men and women and better prepares them for the intensities of combat. We wish all seven soldiers the very best as they prepare to win the coveted title of Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year, but it's no secret that I hope Sgt. Headrick brings it home to the great State of Tennessee!

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on congressional-directed funding, I am submitting the following information regarding funding included in H.R. 2996, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman HAROLD ROGERS

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: Department of the Interior—National Park Service—Land Acquisition

Legal Name of Recipient: Cumberland Gap National Historic Park

Address of Recipient: US 25E S, P.O. Box 1848, Middlesboro, KY 40965

Description of Request: Provide directed funding of \$500,000 for Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. P.L. 108-07 gave the National Park Service authority to acquire the historic and pristine Fern Lake and surrounding 4500 acre watershed incorporating this area into Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. Fern Lake will eventually serve as a clean and reliable water source for the city of Middlesboro, Kentucky as well as enhance recreational opportunities at Cumberland Gap. In May 2009, using previously secured federal funds, over 2000 acres of this property were conveyed to Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. To date, 4021 acres of the watershed have been added to the park, and the ultimate goal is to acquire 4500 acres within the sightline of the park's popular Pinnacle Overlook.

Requesting Member: Congressman HAROLD ROGERS

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: Environmental Protection Agency—Science & Technology

Legal Name of Recipient: Consortium for Plant Biotechnology Research

Address of Recipient: 100 Sylvan Drive, Suite 210, St. Simons Island, GA 31522

Description of Request: Provide directed funding of \$1,000,000 for the Consortium for Plant Biotechnology Research, a non-profit organization whose membership includes 43 leading U.S. research universities and 39 agribusiness companies and trade associations. 92.6% of funding is utilized for researching plant biotechnologies that will improve the competitiveness of U.S. agriculture by developing technologies to lessen the country's dependence on foreign energy supplies. Federal funds are matched 130% on average. The University of Kentucky is a CPBR member.

Requesting Member: Congressman HAROLD ROGERS

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: Environmental Protection Agency—Environmental Programs and Management—National Programs

Legal Name of Recipient: Rural Communities Assistance Partnership

Address of Recipient: 1522 K Street, NW., Suite 400, Washington DC 20005

Description of Request: Provide directed funding of \$2,500,000 for the Rural Communities Assistance Partnership with the EPA. RCAP service providers work with federal and

state agencies to help small communities address their drinking water and wastewater treatment concerns. While small, rural communities are home to less than 25% of the nation's population, they account for over 85% of the nation's community water systems. Problems with EPA clean water compliance may arise when small communities lack the oversight capacity and technical expertise to deal with the complexities of maintaining a safe and clean supply of water, and communities with fewer than 10,000 residents are more than twice as likely to violate drinking water standards as are larger systems. Each year, the RCAP network delivers services to more than 2,000 rural communities, 90% of which have populations of 2,500 or fewer, while leveraging an average of \$25 in additional funding for every \$1 in federal investment. FY10 funding will be equally divided between technical assistance activities related to drinking water and clean water compliance.

Requesting Member: Congressman HAROLD ROGERS

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: Environmental Protection Agency—STAG Water & Wastewater Infrastructure
Legal Name of Recipient: Perry County Sanitation District

Address of Recipient: P.O. Box 1615, Hazard, KY 41702

Description of Request: Provide directed funding of \$500,000 to support the Perry County Sanitation District's ongoing efforts to provide sanitary wastewater treatment services for residents in the Chavies area. Funds will support the Sanitation District in developing a 150,000 gallon per day wastewater treatment plant and an enhanced collection system, which will ultimately serve 502 households. The project will initially construct approximately 24,900 feet of gravity sewer, 3,500 feet of force main and two pump stations to serve 109 new customers. The wastewater treatment plant will be constructed to accommodate future expansions as collection lines are extended to serve additional customers. The Perry County Sanitation District received a grant from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the design of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System, which covered the cost of a regional facilities plan, environmental assessment and design. An additional \$1.154 million in Environmental Protection Agency funds have also been secured to begin construction.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, June 24, 2009, I could not be present for votes due to a family funeral back in Michigan. I rise today to enter into the RECORD how I would have voted had I been able to vote.

House rollcall vote No. 424. I would have voted no.

House rollcall vote No. 425. I would have voted no.

House rollcall vote No. 426. I would have voted no.

House rollcall vote No. 427. I would have voted no.

House rollcall vote No. 428. I would have voted yes.

House rollcall vote No. 429. I would have voted no.

House rollcall vote No. 430. I would have voted yes.

House rollcall vote No. 431. I would have voted no.

House rollcall vote No. 432. I would have voted no.

House rollcall vote No. 433. I would have voted yes.

House rollcall vote No. 434. I would have voted no.

House rollcall vote No. 435. I would have voted yes.

House rollcall vote No. 436. I would have voted yes.

House rollcall vote No. 437. I would have voted no.

House rollcall vote No. 438. I would have voted yes.

House rollcall vote No. 439. I would have voted yes.

House rollcall vote No. 440. I would have voted no.

House rollcall vote No. 441. I would have voted yes.

House rollcall vote No. 442. I would have voted yes.

House rollcall vote No. 443. I would have voted no.

House rollcall vote No. 444. I would have voted no.

House rollcall vote No. 445. I would have voted no.

House rollcall vote No. 446. I would have voted no.

House rollcall vote No. 447. I would have voted no.

House rollcall vote No. 448. I would have voted no.

House rollcall vote No. 449. I would have voted yes.

House rollcall vote No. 450. I would have voted yes.

House rollcall vote No. 451. I would have voted yes.

House rollcall vote No. 452. I would have voted yes.

REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF THE CLASSIFIED ANNEX TO H.R. 2701, THE INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I wish to inform my colleagues that the classified annex to H.R. 2701, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, will be available for review by members during regular Committee business hours, beginning on Monday, July 6th, 2009.

Members will be required to complete the appropriate security paperwork to view any classified information.

Staff are requested to contact the Committee to schedule a viewing appointment for members.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRIBAL CHARITIES FAIRNESS ACT OF 2009

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the "Tribal Charities Fairness Act of 2009" with Representatives DEVIN NUNES, EARL BLUMENAUER, MICHAEL HONDA, DALE KILDEE, BEN RAY LUJÁN, BETTY MCCOLLUM, and JOHN OLVER. This legislation remedies an inequity in our tax code and will enhance the ability of tribal charities to provide essential services such as nutritional, educational and health care assistance for many in Indian country.

The economic and social needs of the Native American community are immense. Native American households are among the most economically disadvantaged in the United States. Over 25 percent live in poverty, with greater proportions of Native American children and seniors living in poverty compared with the general United States population. Health status is lower for Native Americans, who have a life expectancy that is 4.6 years shorter than all races considered together, and mortality rates from diabetes, tuberculosis, and alcoholism that are many times higher than in the general U.S. population. And although 76 percent of Native Americans have a high school diploma, just 13 percent go on to receive a bachelor's degree.

Tribal charities play an essential role in remedying these untenable circumstances by providing assistance to communities across Indian country. Their work and assistance ensure Native American children, working adults, and seniors have access to the same opportunities available to all Americans.

Unfortunately, the tax code currently treats tribes like corporations rather than like state and local governments when they provide support to charities that serve tribal members. This flawed tax treatment has significant implications, affecting tribal charities' ability to access tax-exempt financing, receive grants from private foundations, and operate in the governmental arena without being subject to additional tax rules and regulations.

The "Tribal Charities Fairness Act of 2009" will correct this inequity in the law by treating tribal governments the same as state and local governments when they provide support to charitable organizations. This simple change in our tax code will have far-reaching, positive effects for tribes and charities across the nation by increasing the availability of resources to address the poor economic and social conditions plaguing many in Indian country.

I encourage my colleagues to support this essential legislation that puts tribal charities on an equal playing field with other government-funded charities and increases their ability to carry out their necessary and important work.

TRIBUTE TO POLICE CHIEF WILLIAM "BILLY" WEBBER

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to pay tribute to William "Billy" Webber, a revered Chief of Police of the Town of Southborough, Massachusetts, who died too early at the age of 53 on November 11, 2008 after a courageous 18 month battle with pancreatic cancer.

Earlier this week, family members, friends and colleagues held a golf tournament in honor of Chief Webber—"dedicated to his memory, to his kind heart and to the courage he has given all of us to rise above the sorrow." All proceeds from the event went to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston to support research efforts to fight the dreaded disease that claimed his life.

The son of proud parents, Harry and Claire Webber, Bill Webber grew up in Milford, Massachusetts and joined the Police Department in nearby Southborough in 1980, beginning an impressive and distinguished 28 year career in law enforcement. He received his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Northeastern University in 1983 and earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Clark University in Worcester in 2003. He was also a graduate of the State Police Academy where he was President of his class. In 2004 he was appointed as Southborough's Chief of Police.

Chief Webber's career with the Town of Southborough was characterized by honor, courage and commitment. His professionalism and integrity made him a great role model for his fellow officers and law enforcement colleagues. Town Planner Vera Kolas said "Chief Billy Webber had all of the qualities that you can only hope for in one person: an accomplished, intelligent and caring professional, and a consummate gentleman who displayed integrity and sensitivity at every turn."

With Chief Webber's death, the citizens of Southborough have suffered a tragic loss. The love and respect felt by his neighbors and members of the community is reflected by the Town's dedication of its 2008 Annual Report to him. In presenting copies of the Annual Report to his family at a recent Board of Selectmen meeting, Chairman Bill Boland expressed thanks to them "for sharing Billy with us; he was truly a remarkable person and a great representative of the Town of Southborough."

Chief Webber's Pastor, Reverend James Flynn of St. Matthew's Church in Southborough observed that he was a man of great compassion and said that "We of St. Matthews were awed with the example that Bill left for us, a man of faith who genuinely loved his neighbor."

Sadly, the record of impressive achievements and honorable service throughout Chief Webber's life came to an early end on November 11, 2008. As noted by Vanessa Hale, Assistant Town Administrator of Southborough, "It was providential that he left us on Veterans Day—a proud, patriotic American who loved his family, God and Country to the end."

On behalf of the residents of the Third Massachusetts District, I extend our deep sympathy to his loving wife Kathy (Carmody) Webber, his children Kathleen and Kevin, his

siblings Patricia and Stephen, their family members and the legion of friends who will always remember Billy Webber and the cherished part he played in their lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on June 8, 2009, I underwent surgery and have been recuperating for the past 3 weeks. In my 24 years in Congress, I have missed very few votes and have taken pride in having a voting record of over 90%. This is the first time I've missed this many votes. Had I been here, I would have cast the following votes:

On rollcall 311, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 312, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 313, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 314, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 315, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 316, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 317, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 318, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 319, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 320, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 321, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 322, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 323, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 324, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 325, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 326, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 327, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 328, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 329, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 330, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 331, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 332, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 333, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 334, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 335, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 336, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 337, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 338, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 339, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 340, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 341, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 342, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 343, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 344, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 345, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 346, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 347, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 348, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 349, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 350, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 351, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 352, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 353, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 354, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 355, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 356, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 357, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 358, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 359, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 360, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 361, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 362, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 363, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 364, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 365, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 366, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 367, I would have voted no.

On rollcall 368, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 369, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 370, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 371, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 372, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 373, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 374, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 375, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 376, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 377, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 378, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 379, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 380, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 381, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 382, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 383, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 384, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 385, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 386, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 387, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 388, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 389, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 390, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 391, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 392, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 393, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 394, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 395, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 396, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 397, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 398, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 399, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 400, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 401, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 402, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 403, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 404, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 405, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 406, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 407, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 408, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 409, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 410, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 411, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 412, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 413, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 414, I would have voted present.
On rollcall 415, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 416, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 417, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 418, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 419, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 420, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 421, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 422, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 423, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 424, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 425, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 426, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 427, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 428, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 429, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 430, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 431, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 432, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 433, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 434, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 435, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 436, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 437, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 438, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 439, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 440, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 441, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 442, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 443, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 444, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 445, I would have voted no.

On rollcall 446, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 447, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 448, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 449, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 450, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 451, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 452, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 453, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 454, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 455, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 456, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 457, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 458, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 459, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 460, I would have voted no.
On rollcall 461, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 462, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 463, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 464, I would have voted yes.
On rollcall 465, I would have voted yes.

IN RECOGNITION OF JIM BOREN'S 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give recognition to James V. "Jim" Boren, the Editorial Page Editor/Vice President of the Fresno Bee newspaper as he prepares to celebrate four decades of dedicated service to the Fresno Bee.

A native of Fresno, California, Jim attended Hoover High School, where his talent for using written words to convey specific imagery and captivate a reader's interest, officially began. While at Hoover, Boren became actively involved in the school's newspaper, the Hoover Patriot, and continued as a school reporter until his graduation in 1967. Following graduation, Boren attended Fresno City College where he earned his AA degree and became engaged with the official news publication of Fresno City College, the Rampage. His strong interest in journalism continued during his tenure at California State University, Fresno, where he graduated in 1972 with a bachelor's degree in journalism.

While still in college, on June 9, 1969, at the age of 19, Jim Boren was hired as a vacation relief reporter for the Valley Department of the Fresno Bee and with that position, Boren's illustrious journalism career officially began. During his 40-year tenure at the Bee, Boren has covered almost every beat at the paper. In 1980, Jim Boren quickly became known as "The Bee's Political Guru," as he continued to report exclusively on politics for nearly 15 years. During that time, Boren covered every level of politics, including city council elections, gubernatorial races, and presidential campaigns, joining the press pool of national campaigns to see, hear and report first-hand the events and progress surrounding those campaigns.

In 1995, Jim became the Editorial Page Editor of the Bee, one of the positions he still enjoys today. Boren has received a variety of journalism awards, including an investigative reporting award from the Society of Professional Journalists and in 2004, Boren earned recognition as the winner of the Jim Tucker Journalism Award presented by the Mass Communications and Journalism Department

of his alma mater, California State University, Fresno.

Always dedicated to helping prevent hunger for Valley residents, Boren's volunteer advocacy on behalf of the Community Food Bank continues to aid those less fortunate. Additionally, his volunteer efforts on behalf of Children's Hospital of Central California, resulted in significant funds being raised for the annual Kids Day event, where he has raised tens of thousands of dollars for those seeking medical care at the valley's only children's hospital. Boren is a founding board member and remains active on the board of the Kenneth L. Maddy Institute at California State University, Fresno.

A proud father, Marissa Boren continues in her father's footsteps and is dedicated to education and the community. She has just completed her education at the University of California at San Diego.

Boren, in his current role as Editorial Page Editor/Vice President, continues to write a weekly column on politics and public policy in addition to his duties overseeing the Bee's opinion pages. He is also a member of the Operating Committee, which is the senior management group of the newspaper.

On behalf of all those who have read his words, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Jim Boren for 40 years of providing interesting informative stories, columns and opinions to Fresno Bee readers everywhere.

THE TRUE IMPORTANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to encourage all citizens to take a moment during the upcoming Independence Day weekend to reflect on what the United States and the ideals of our Republic mean to them.

America's experiment with democracy represents the origins of a new outlook and new system of governance. Our founders dared to challenge history. The principles of personal liberty and collective justice—exercised daily across our country—were once little more than the lofty goals of our ancestors. Today, we have come a long way. We have struggled and continue to struggle, to achieve the true spirit of freedom for every American and every citizen of humanity.

When I reflect on the ideals of our nation and consider the significance of our shining example of freedom to the world, I think not only of our deep-rooted principle of self-determination but the basic liberties set forth by the Declaration of Independence and our Bill of Rights. These two great doctrines lay a foundation for all free nations.

But I believe freedom is more than words.

Freedom is a society in which all have an equal opportunity to succeed.

A free society is one in which citizens are not burdened by a perpetual cycle of poverty that breeds crime, violence and chronic disease.

A free society is one in which the people are not crushed into bankruptcy by the weight

of growing medical costs that seem without bounds.

Citizens of a free society need not choose between buying food and affording care.

A free society educates all of its children and provides vast opportunity for betterment beyond the classroom.

A free society ought not be bound by the shackles of oppression, be it physical restraints or the restraints imposed by a dependence on foreign assets.

A free society puts its stock in innovation, tapping into its own financial and human capital to grow a smarter economy and a safer future that doesn't poison our air, water and land or tie self determination to the foreign resources of another land's oppressor.

In our still pioneering young republic, we refuse to cede the initiative to innovate.

In our pursuit of freedom we agree to forgo some of our individual interests and intemperance to allow the space for open dialogue, debate and discussion.

Our society and all free societies must be open to compromise without bias to age, color or creed.

So as I stand here on the eve of our 233rd Independence Day, I am grateful for our founding fathers and their quest for democracy. While I value the vast distances we have traveled since Philadelphia, I remain mindful of the long journey yet to perfection.

On this Independence Day, I urge my fellow Arizonans and all Americans to endeavor to renew and revive the spirit of liberty that launched this great nation, and strive to seek a more perfect Union.

CONGRATULATING THE SOCORRO BULLDOGS BASEBALL TEAM

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Socorro High School baseball team for winning the 2009 Texas 5A State Baseball Championship. The Socorro High Bulldogs ended their championship season with an impressive record, becoming the second team in El Paso history to bring home the coveted state title.

The team was tested by fierce competitors from across the great State of Texas, one of the most competitive states in the entire nation for high school baseball. As the post-season progressed, the Bulldogs fended off tough challengers and finished with an impressive 35-4 record.

On Saturday, June 20th, the Bulldogs had their toughest test this year when they faced the Lufkin Panthers in the state championship game at the Dell Diamond in Round Rock, Texas, and were down 2-0 in the game's early innings. The talented young men on the Socorro Bulldog team never waived and forged an impressive come-from-behind victory.

I am extremely proud of the dedication, determination, sportsmanship, and discipline of this talented baseball team and their Coach Chris Forbes. The members of this champion-

ship team are to be commended for their drive and perseverance. The 2009 team members include: Tavi Amparan, Chuy Diaz, Cory Falvey, Roger Favela, Chris Guzman, Eric Herrera, Bobby Mares, Sergio Mendoza, Marcus Molina, Armando Muniz, Jessirey Navarrete, Aaron Olivas, Josh Rodriguez, Rene Rodriguez, Oscar Sandate, Ivan Sigala, Angel Soria, George Stoltz, and Luis Yanez.

Head Coach Chris Forbes and his great team of assistant coaches, Joe Alvarez, Adrian Garcia, Federico Contreras, and Herbert Reyes, were the masterminds behind the team's success. Coach Forbes, in particular, instilled a sense of hard work and discipline that kept the players motivated throughout the regular season and post-season. As part of his 25-year career in coaching, the former Austin High School baseball player has taken Socorro to 20 playoff appearances. Coach Forbes also boasts the most wins (576) of any varsity baseball coach in El Paso.

The Bulldogs' championship title energized El Paso sports fans, as over a thousand parents and members of the community made the long journey to Round Rock to cheer the team to victory. This team will forever be remembered for its historic victory that brought the State Championship Trophy to El Paso, 60 years after the storied Bowie Bears baseball team achieved the same feat in 1949. I am proud to join my constituents from the 16th District of Texas in commending the Socorro Bulldogs baseball team for a job well done.

RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSMISSION ISSUES

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I greatly appreciate the sentiments expressed in the attached letter from Carl Zichella, and I intend to work with these groups to achieve strong environmental protections in areas affected by transmission line siting.

SIERRA CLUB,

Sacramento, CA, June 26, 2009.

Hon. JAY INSLEE,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE INSLEE: I write to thank you for your leadership on renewable energy development and transmission issues. The Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society and NRDC have concerns about the presidential override provision of the manager's transmission amendment. We recognize that it was not the intention of the amendment's author to, in any way, undermine environmental protection. We would like to work with Congressman Inslee and the Energy and Commerce Committee to help ensure that public land protection measures in transmission policy reforms are as strong as possible, as reflected in HR 2211 and to clarify the role of public stakeholders in the planning process the amendment establishes.

We are at your service in the coming days and weeks to address these issues.

Sincerely,

CARL ZICHELLA,
Western Renewable
Projects Director.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE BUDGET
REFORM AND TRANSPARENCY
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker. I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1016, "Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009." I would like to thank my colleague, Congressman BOB FILNER, for introducing this bill, and providing leadership on this important issue.

Today I will defer to Thomas Jefferson who so auspiciously stated, "The care of human life and happiness and not their destruction is the first and only legitimate object of good government." We must call attention as both the House and Senate discuss health care reform. Today, in the midst of two wars and an economic crisis, I know in this 111th Congress and with the 44th President of the United States, our government is now in the position of necessity where we must work to ensure comprehensive health care reform to all citizens.

The Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009 will ensure that one community who gave the ultimate measure for their country will have a quality health care system. I urge members of Congress to put away the partisan bickering and come together to support those who have given their lives for the country they love. There should be no reason why our veterans should not receive the adequate health care they deserve.

For 19 out of the past 22 fiscal years, appropriated funds for medical care were not provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs before the commencement of its new fiscal year, causing the Department great challenges in planning and managing care for enrolled veterans. Appropriation levels for health care programs in the Department have too often proven insufficient over the past decade, requiring the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ration health care and Congress to approve supplemental appropriations. Medical technology available on the battlefields and in U.S. medical facilities are saving the lives of a high percentage of severely wounded soldiers, but they then often face long-term recovery and rehabilitation challenges.

By providing sufficient, timely and predictable funding we would ensure that we meet the vital obligation to provide health care to all veterans. Congress must take action in ensuring our veterans who return home sick, injured, or even healthy will receive the quality health care they deserve. As Congress begins to swiftly act in an unprecedented time, I urge my colleagues to put away partisan bickering and act as a single non-partisan government to ensure our citizens' happiness in a quality health care system.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on ear-

marks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, the Fiscal Year 2010 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBERT E. LATTA

Bill Number: H.R. 2996, Fiscal Year 2010 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act

Account: EPA; STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Village of Tiro, Ohio

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 31, Tiro, OH 44887

Description of Request: \$500,000 for the Village of Tiro Water Distribution System. This project consists of purchasing treated water from the City of Shelby and transporting it to Tiro via 32,500 ft. of water main. 10,700 ft. of water main will be constructed in the Village for distribution of water. A booster pumping station, storage tower, and fire hydrants will be included. The Village of Tiro currently has no municipal water system. Water is collected or hauled into shallow wells or cisterns. The Village has tried for several years to secure a source of water and funding. The current project is the closest this village has come for a safe water supply. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

TRIBUTE TO FRANCISCO "PACO"
SALDANA

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker. I rise today to congratulate one of my constituents Francisco "Paco" Saldana who as the Director of Guest Services, The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island is the winner of the "Faces of Travel" award granted on an annual basis by the U.S. Travel Association to an employee in the travel business who exemplifies the travel industry and what makes it a unique employment opportunity for 7.7 million Americans.

After months of searching and thousands of votes by industry members, Francisco "Paco" Saldana, a resident of Fernandina Beach, Florida, will be announced as the winner of the "Faces of Travel Contest."

As the winner of this award, Francisco "Paco" Saldana who is a proud employee at the Ritz-Carlton on Amelia Island will help communicate the critical role travel plays in the lives of working Americans across our great country.

Mr. Saldana is the embodiment of the American Dream and what is possible in this great land of opportunity, having emigrated to the United States in 1995 from Mexico City and rising up the ranks at The Ritz-Carlton. Mr. Saldana's dedication to hard work and his positive attitude over the last 14 years have propelled him to become the Director of Guest Services.

Mr. Saldana's work in the travel industry not only had a positive impact on his professional life, but also his personal life. Mr. Saldana met his wife, Christina, who also happened to work

at The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island. They were married in September 2002. Mr. and Mrs. Saldana have three children, Isabella Grace, Nikolas Valentino and Sophia Claire.

SUPPORT OF: H.R. 1511, THE "TORTURE VICTIMS RELIEF REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I support H.R. 1511, the "Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2009." This bill was sponsored by Representative CHRISTOPHER SMITH of New Jersey. The bill's purpose is to amend the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations for FY2010-FY2011 which will provide assistance for domestic and foreign programs and centers for the treatment of victims of torture. I support this bill and I urge my colleagues to support this bill as it provides needed rehabilitation treatment to those who have been impacted by the effects of torture.

H.R. 1511, the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2009, authorizes appropriations for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide grants to programs in the United States to cover the costs of services provided by domestic treatment centers in the rehabilitation of victims of torture (including treatment of the physical and psychological effects of torture). It will also allow the centers to provide social and legal services as well as research and training of health care providers outside of treatment centers or programs to enable them to provide such services. It authorizes the President to provide grants to treatment centers and programs in foreign countries that carry out projects and activities specifically designed to treat victims of torture for the physical and psychological effects of torture. In addition, it provides grants to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.

This bill is not only important, it is necessary. The Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal and the myriad of consequential allegations of prisoner abuse across both Iraq and Afghanistan have cast a heavy shadow over our role in Iraq and our country as a whole. Under the Bush Administration, evidence indicates that torture was conducted on prisoners which included methods such as: waterboarding, weeklong sleep deprivation, forced nudity, use of painful positions, belly-slap and the exploitation of prisoner's fears of animals or insects. President Obama has since denounced these inhumane integration practices and has vowed that the United States does not condone torture. H.R. 1511 supports the President's vow by providing treatment to victims which is designed to enable the victim to step back from the trauma, learn to identify and accept it and gradually become reintegrated into society and/or the working world. This treatment will also serve a social purpose in that it will enable the victim to restore ties that were severed by an array of clinical symptoms caused by being tortured.

In the wake of the Abu Ghraib scandal, the U.S. has gone to great pains to persuade the world that U.S. policy does not condone torture. If Congress enacts this legislation, it

would reaffirm America's commitment to a world without torture and show the rest of the world that the U.S. is committed to rehabilitating those who have suffered at the hands of torture.

We as a nation must set a clear example that we do not support torture, nor do we condone such practices. For the benefit of our troops, for the good of Iraq, for the good of America, and for the safety of the World, we must heal the wounds caused by torture to those victims domestic and foreign. A strong bipartisan message of support needs to be displayed by this body to right the wrongs and send a message to the world that America is committed to ending what President Obama called a "dark and painful chapter in our history," by providing treatment to the victims of torture. I invite my colleagues to stand with me today and support this important legislation.

TAX AND CAP A JOB KILLER

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, the U.S. House of Representatives today passed H.R. 2454, the so-called Cap and Trade bill. I noted in opposition to that measure and offer the following statement.

The Cap and Tax bill could not come at a worse time and could be a job killer. The 1,200 page measure will impose a national tax on ALL energy and lead to higher energy prices for ALL American households. Most families cannot afford the estimated \$1,400 yearly increase in energy costs. With the economy struggling, this bill, with its increased expense to industry, will cause additional unemployment by sending jobs overseas where doing business is cheaper. This bill also further expands the role of government by imposing new restrictions and requirements on everything from light bulbs to water dispensers.

As the Republican Leader of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I want to point out that Transportation accounts for 30% of greenhouse gas emissions. This legislation contains significant provisions in the committee's jurisdiction, yet we held no hearings on this massive tax increase, and willingly surrendered our responsibility to consider any amendments to try to improve the bill.

According to the Heritage Foundation, by 2035 this Cap and Trade bill would: reduce aggregate gross GDP by \$9.4 trillion (or reduce Florida gross state product by \$28 billion); raise electricity rates 90 percent; raise gasoline prices by 58 percent; raise residential natural gas prices by 55 percent; and Increase inflation-adjusted federal debt by 26 percent, or \$28,728 additional federal debt per person.

For this any significant other reasons I voted against passage or H.R. 2454.

COMMEMORATING THE FIRST BURIALS AT BAKERSFIELD NATIONAL CEMETARY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give tribute and honor to the brave men and women of Kern County who have proudly served their country in the United States Armed Forces. As a nation, one of our most vital duties is to ensure we are committed to providing for our military veterans. This includes providing a final resting place for the honored to be recognized. Thus, today, I would like to commemorate the first burials at the new Bakersfield National Cemetery.

The Bakersfield National Cemetery is a 500-acre site located approximately 25 miles outside of Bakersfield nestled in the Tehachapi Mountains. Surrounded by golden scenery, crushed red rock and drought resistant plants, the newly developed cemetery is furnished with a memorial walkway, committal service shelter, internet areas and administrative and maintenance buildings. Upon project completion, the cemetery will be equipped to serve 200,000 Central California veterans, their spouses and children.

The first cremation and casket burials will take place on July 1 and July 2, 2009, respectively. On July 1, the cremated remains of nine soldiers and one spouse from the Bakersfield and surrounding area will be lowered in unison. The casket burial ceremony on July 2 will commemorate the life of Iraqi veteran Army Reserve Maj. Jason E. George, a fallen soldier killed in action.

"A Place of Honor, For Those Who Served With Honor." These patriotic words to be inscribed at Bakersfield's National Cemetery demonstrate the overwhelming pride we have for our soldiers. Veterans in Kern County and surrounding areas take comfort in knowing their undying pledge and sacrifice to protect America's freedom is not forgotten. Having our own national shrine allows us to properly honor the fallen soldiers, veterans from generations past, and soldiers who are currently fighting overseas from the Kern County area.

On behalf of our veterans, I hereby express my high admiration and appreciation for all those who are currently serving our nation and commemorate those who have given the ultimate sacrifice. Let today's ceremony be a perpetual reminder of honor for all of America's men and women of valor.

SUPPORT OF H. CON. RES. 127, "RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF NATIONAL CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support of H. Con. Res 127, which recognizes the significance of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

As a child of Jamaican grandparents, I understand the importance of recognizing the influence Caribbean cultures continues to have on all facets of these United States. Growing up, my grandmother who hails from Jamaica, instilled in me a strong appreciation for her Caribbean values. As a result of my upbringing, I have adopted a strong work ethic and tremendous pride in my heritage. As a parent, I have passed on these same values to my own children, so they will develop a sense of pride in their Caribbean heritage and acknowledge the many roles Caribbean people play in shaping this nation. I wholeheartedly support this resolution that commemorates Caribbean heritage, history, culture and contributions to the United States.

In her 1970 autobiography, Shirley Chisom, the first black woman elected to Congress, credited her success to the education she received while attending school in Barbados. She wrote, "Years later I would know what an important gift my parents had given me by seeing to it that I had my early education in the strict, traditional, British-style schools of Barbados. If I speak and write easily now, that early education is the main reason."

This is a nation built by immigrants. From as early as the 17th century there have been individuals from the Caribbean Islands, working here in the United States as indentured servants in the colony of Jamestown, Virginia. They worked in fields picking cotton, tobacco and crops just as the slaves did.

Caribbean immigrants have been contributing to the well-being of American society since its founding. Alexander Hamilton, the First Secretary of the Treasury, was from the Caribbean island of St. Kitts. We count among our famous sons and daughters, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Cicely Tyson, W.E.B. Dubois, James Weldon Johnson, Harry Belafonte and Sidney Poitier to name a few.

H. Con. Res. 127 recognizes the significance of Caribbean people and their descendants in the history and culture of the United States. Our nation would not be what it is today without these significant contributions of the Caribbean people and we should honor these accomplishments with the passing of this legislation. The contributions of Caribbean-Americans are a significant part of the history, progress, and heritage of the United States and play an important role in shaping the ethnic and racial diversity of the United States, which ultimately enriches and strengthens our nation.

By passing this legislation we continue to honor the friendship between the United States and Caribbean countries. We are united by our common values and shared history, and we should celebrate the rich Caribbean Heritage and the many ways in which Caribbean Americans have helped shape this nation.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution to pay tribute to the common culture and bonds of friendship that unite the United States and the Caribbean countries.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES R. KIRBY

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the James R. Kirby

American Legion Post 50 of Clinton, Massachusetts for its generous contributions to the people of my district. The American Legion is a not-for-profit organization that seeks to advocate for our distinguished veterans and to also promote community involvement. This weekend, the James R. Kirby Post 50 will be celebrating its 90th year of service to the community.

For the past 90 years, the James R. Kirby Legion Post has helped friends and neighbors in Clinton, MA in a variety of ways. Allow me to provide some background on the organization. James R. Kirby, for whom the post is named, was born on July 18th, 1876. He graduated from Clinton High School and joined the military soon afterward. He attended the College of the Holy Cross to pursue a career in medicine. He later attended Baltimore Medical College and began his own practice. Kirby was one of the first veterans of World War I from Clinton. He signed up for the Draft at the age of 42 and tragically died shortly after on September 29th, 1918 of influenza. In his memory, the citizens of Clinton chose to name the new American Legion Post 50 in Kirby's honor. Over the past 90 years, the current members of the Legion Post have continued to honor and serve veterans.

The American Legion Post will celebrate its founding at an event being held on Saturday, June 27th, 2009. The goal of this event is to honor the contributions of the Legion Post and the veterans it has worked hard to represent over the past 90 years. The event will also serve as a day of enjoyment for the community it serves so well. Members of the Legion Post and their families as well as state and local representatives will pay tribute to the service of this American Legion Post to the community of Clinton over the past 90 years. The Legion Post's passion for serving the common good of the community through veteran's advocacy and community involvement continues to demonstrate the service that the James R. Kirby Legion Post 50 has provided for the past 90 years.

Madam Speaker, I commend this group for its dedication to the Town of Clinton and the veteran community. I congratulate the Clinton James R. Kirby Post 50 for its 90 years of service, and I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to its unyielding dedication to community involvement.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the FY 2010 Defense Authorization Bill.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 2647

Account: Navy—Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: General Dynamics

Address of Requesting Entity: 180 North Riverview Drive, Suite 300, Anaheim Hills, California 92808

Funding Authorized: \$3,600,000

Description of Request: The Deployable Autonomous Distributed System (DADS) is the future of Network-Centric Anti-Submarine Warfare. The DADS program integrates and demonstrates an autonomous undersea sensor system, deployable from multiple platforms, to improve the Navy's capability to conduct effective anti-submarine warfare and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations in the littoral environment. DADS enhances the automation and connectivity between sensors, operators, and weapons and feeds the network-centric antisubmarine warfare picture. DADS utilizes multiple, cutting edge sensor technologies to increase the probability of detecting threats and to reduce the false alarm rate. With a goal to be deployable by any available asset, DADS will serve as an unmanned, autonomous reporting entity, freeing surveillance platforms for other missions. This funding will help the Navy in developing a system small enough to support deployability goals and in the development of compact power sources.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 2647

Account: Navy—Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: L-3 Power Paragon

Address of Requesting Entity: 901 E. Ball Road Anaheim, California 92805,

Funding Authorized: \$5,000,000

Description of Request: This project is a design build prototype for a hybrid electric drive (HED) for the CG 47 Class Cruisers for the US Navy. This project contributes to the future of environmentally sound, fuel-efficient propulsion. The Navy believes that this improvement would realize a significant savings per year per ship. This HED for surface combatants such as the CG 47 would significantly reduce fuel costs, increase ship endurance and range, produce less environmental emissions, increase ship survivability through reduce signatures, and provide increased overall ship electric power generation capacity. This installation would leverage advances in lighter weight and more efficient electric propulsion technologies that have resulted from the Office of Naval Research investments over the last several years.

COMMENDING THE CONGRESS OF LEADERS OF WORLD AND TRADITIONAL RELIGIONS FOR CALLING UPON ALL NATIONS TO LIVE IN PEACE AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 535, to commend the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions for their call to action for the nations of our world to work toward peace and mutual understanding. Established in 2003, the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions is comprised of our world's major religions, including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism,

Shinto, and Taoism. Since its founding, the Congress has promulgated the tenet that religion should not be seen as a divisive limitation within the global community, but rather world religions should be the benchmark and arbiter for resolving ongoing international political conflicts. Accordingly, we turn to our global religious leaders to be the driving force in maintaining peace.

As a Member of Congress from Houston, Texas, my district is one of religious diversity. I represent constituents from all faiths and religious beliefs, and I stand here before you Madam Speaker to say that as a Representative of the 18th District of Texas, I am a humanitarian first and foremost. I believe in celebrating our differences in global theology, and in utilizing these differences as the basis of tolerance as we engage in multilateral interfaith dialogue.

As a Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I have worked hard to pass legislation in the foreign affairs arena which speaks to the importance of tolerance and recognizes the need for multilateralism. With respect to Pakistan and Afghanistan, I have worked to pass H.R. 2410 and H.R. 1886 which allocate U.S. support for both Afghanistan and Pakistan respectively. In turn, H.R. 2410 and H.R. 1886 emphasize the necessity of ongoing multilateral engagement with the U.S. in order to forge strong and enduring partnerships with these countries in a united effort to bridge global security disparity.

In his internationally esteemed doctrine on nonviolent protest, Mahatma Gandhi so eloquently stated, "All faiths constitute a revelation of Truth, but all are imperfect and liable to error. Reverence to other faiths need not blind us to their faults. We must be keenly alive to the defects of our own faith, and must not leave it on that account but try to overcome those defects. Looking at all religions with an equal eye, we would not only not hesitate but would think it our duty to adopt into our faith every acceptable feature of other faiths." In deference to Gandhi's wisdom, we must work toward our own "Revelation of Truth," in an international context. Despite the imperfections within every world religion, we must turn to our religious leaders to set the tone for understanding. We must work in concert to engage in interfaith dialogue to maintain peace and security in the world.

H. Res. 535 applauds the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions for regularly holding forums that address the need for religious freedom. Its inclusion of more than 26 nations, such as Israel, Egypt, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Armenia, South Korea, China, India, and the United States as its representatives is to be commended. The third Congress will be held in Astana, Kazakhstan, July 1–2, 2009, and I would like to recognize Kazakhstan for having been selected by the Secretariat to host the second and third Congress. As we move forward to promote freedom of religion and engage in interfaith dialogue as the foundation to global security, we turn to the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions to guide us in multilateral reform. I urge passage of this important resolution.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
KEN WARREN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Ken Warren, on the occasion of his retirement as director of the Lakewood Library after 25 years of dedicated service to our community. In his capacity as director of the Lakewood Library, Ken worked to promote and develop innovative projects and programs hosted at the Lakewood Library and throughout the Lakewood community.

Ken Warren has maintained an enthusiasm for books and the power of the written word since his childhood. His interest in community issues began when he was a teen, as editor of an underground paper at his parochial high school. He is founding member of the Lakewood Observer and has made the publication a critical instrument of exchange of ideas and opinions on important civic and community issues.

During his tenure as director, the Lakewood Library underwent major expansions and improvements, including the complete interior and exterior renovation of the main library building, the development of a new technology center, public auditorium, a children's wing, and an inspiring display of murals that grace the walls throughout the facility. Ken has consistently reached out to the citizens, agencies and community leaders of Lakewood creating strong working relationships and friendships throughout the city. His legacy is highlighted by his unwavering advocacy and innovation in promoting and implementing literacy and learning programs, connecting the library to the public schools.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Ken Warren, whose tenure at the Lakewood Library is framed by integrity, kindness, love for learning, passion for the written word, and above all, an unbridled commitment to the betterment of the entire Lakewood community.

WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1211, "Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act." I would like to thank my colleague, Congresswoman HERSETH SANDLIN, for introducing this bill, and providing leadership on this important issue.

In the wake of the recent Democratic Presidential victory, we witnessed an historic time in our electoral system. Now is the time to address the major ongoing disparities that exist for our minority and women. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton once said, "There cannot be true democracy unless women's voices are heard. There cannot be true democracy unless women are given the

opportunity to take responsibility for their own lives. There cannot be true democracy unless all citizens are able to participate fully in the lives of their country." And today, there cannot be true democracy unless women receive the same care and treatment in the military as their male counterparts. In addition to the health care reform debate, H.R. 1211 "Women's Veterans Health Care Improvement Act" will be an essential piece to the health care reform bill.

As the 111th Congress and 44th President of the United States undergo swift actions to reform our health care system it's important we get reform right! It will be a long-term problem if we don't implement the right kind of change now, which needs to include all Americans of every race, every gender, and in every condition. Without comprehensive reform, our government will have failed to serve our people in a time when the people elected for change.

This legislation will expand and improve health care services available to women veterans, especially those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to: (1) study barriers encountered by women veterans to the provision by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) of comprehensive health care; (2) assess all health care services and programs provided by the VA for women veterans; (3) provide graduate education, training and certification for mental health professionals who provide counseling, care, and services to women veterans suffering from sexual trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); and (4) carry out a pilot program of child care for certain women veterans receiving health care from VA facilities.

For 19 out of the past 22 fiscal years, appropriated funds for medical care were not provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs before the commencement of its new fiscal year, causing the Department great challenges in planning and managing care for enrolled veterans.

By providing the access and care for women in the military, we will meet the vital obligation to provide health care to all veterans. Congress must take action in ensuring our veterans who return home sick, injured, or even healthy will receive the quality health care they deserve. As acts in an unprecedented time, I urge my colleagues to set aside the bickering and come together on a united front to ensure all of our citizen's happiness in a quality health care system. Only then can we live out the true meaning of our country, democracy.

RECOGNIZING BLACK EUROPEAN SUMMIT: TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE ON POLITICAL INCLUSION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution recognizing the first "Black European Summit: Transatlantic Dialogue on Political Inclusion" and ensuing Brussels Declaration.

The Black European Summit (BES) was held in Brussels, Belgium at the European Parliament on April 15th and 16th. The historic 2-day Summit brought together political and intellectual minority leaders from the United States and Europe to exchange information on the roles of racial and ethnic minority policy-makers in developing and supporting policies and initiatives to address racism, discrimination, and inequality.

The event was hosted and organized by myself, Harlem Desir, Member of the European Parliament; Joe Frans, President of the United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and a former Swedish Parliamentarian; Claude Moraes, Member of the European Parliament and President of the European Parliament All Party Group on Anti-Racism and Diversity; and Glyn Ford, former Member of the European Parliament.

Participants included Parliamentarians, Congressional representatives, local and nationally elected officials, academics, representatives from European and international institutions, civil society, the private sector, and media from Black and other minority backgrounds.

During the Summit we exchanged information and best practices on addressing structural barriers that impact minority political participation, including implementing initiatives that address racism and discrimination.

Like in the United States, it was noted that despite the numerous contributions of minorities to European society, minorities still face the daily challenges of racism and discrimination. This includes being the targets of violent hate crimes, many of which in recent years have resulted in death. Existing inequalities in education, housing, and employment remain a problem and racial profiling is often a norm. Obstacles for addressing these problems, include the lack of minorities in leadership positions and the rise of racist and xenophobic political parties seeking to implement non-inclusive policies.

Summit participants committed to addressing these issues by adopting the Brussels Declaration, which calls for: (1) concrete action to assist ethnic and racial minorities in obtaining full access to participation in the political sphere and relevant areas of decision making, especially in the development and implementation of policy initiatives to address racial and ethnic discrimination and inequality; and (2) to support future opportunities to exchange and share perspectives in these areas through a sustained transatlantic dialogue.

As I continue to work on these initiatives, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this Resolution Recognizing both the Black European Summit and Brussels Declaration and encourage them to review the statements and submissions from the Helsinki Commission's Black Europe and Racism in the 21st Century Hearings at www.csce.gov and recently introduced Resolution on Black Europeans. Additionally, I would like to submit the following background materials on the Brussels Declaration and Black Europeans for the official record.

BLACK EUROPEAN SUMMIT—TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE ON POLITICAL INCLUSION BRUSSELS DECLARATION

Preamble

We, as members of the public, private, and voluntary sectors from Europe and the United States of America convening in Brussels, Belgium from the 15 to 16 of April for

the Black European Summit: Transatlantic Dialogue on Political Inclusion, draw attention to the need for coordinated strategies to address racism and discrimination;

We recognize the democratic, multi-ethnic and multi-racial nature of our countries' diverse societies;

We reaffirm the principles of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and recalling that all individuals are born equal in dignity and rights;

We remain concerned that the political and legal systems in some of our societies do not reflect the racial and ethnic diversity within our societies, which then contributes to the continuation of racism and discrimination;

We recognize that the full access of racial and ethnic minorities to participate in the political sphere and relevant areas of decision making at the levels of national, regional, and locally elected government appropriate to each nation is critical to combating racism and inequality and ensuring our democratic societies;

We therefore note the need for concrete strategies to: increase the representation and influence of racial and ethnic minority policymakers; jointly seek solutions to racial and ethnic minorities increased participation in decision-making in the development and implementation of policy initiatives to address discrimination and inequality; and support opportunities to exchange and share perspectives in these areas through the continuance of a transatlantic dialogue to realize these goals.

We today resolve that we will endeavor to enact initiatives to eradicate racial and ethnic discrimination through:

Continuing a transatlantic dialogue that: includes cultural exchanges between American and European racial and ethnic minority groups, including youth; focuses on the development of opportunities for racial and ethnic minority political leadership and participation in the policymaking process; and fosters the exchange of information on best practices to implement and enforce anti-discrimination measures and achieve racial equality;

Joining forces over the coming months to develop common goals and objectives in each of our decision-making bodies to recognize Europe's Black and racial and ethnic minority populations for their historical and present-day contributions and acknowledge past injustices;

Promoting racial and ethnic minority participation at all levels of national, regional, and local government through the education of civil and political rights, including the legislative process and advocacy of legislative issues relevant to racial and ethnic minority communities, development of targeted professional development and hiring strategies, increased youth and community outreach, and self-organization and other empowerment initiatives;

Reaffirming our continued cooperation and commitment to work with our governments, international institutions, civil society, private sector, and other partners to improve institutions so that they are fully participatory and reflect the democratic principles of equality, justice, and celebration of the strengths of our countries' diversity.

AS EUROPE VEERS RIGHT, MINORITY PARLIAMENTARIANS COUNTER

WASHINGTON—With far-right and anti-immigrant parties making worrying advances in recent elections across Europe, minority lawmakers and leaders called today for the political process to be more inclusive of minorities.

Following April's "Black European Summit: Transatlantic Dialogue on Political In-

clusion" in Brussels, Belgium, minority political and intellectual leaders today adopted a declaration calling for increased efforts to include racial and ethnic minorities in the political process. (Please find attached a copy of the Brussels Declaration).

I was very pleased to have the opportunity to work on these initiatives with my European colleagues," said U.S. Congressman and Helsinki Commission Co-Chairman Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL). "Whether speaking about voting and civil rights, increasing minority elected officials and diversity in policy staff, or responding to discriminatory policies, we have common issues. While I have been able to share the many successes we have had in the United States in terms of minority political participation, most recently evidenced by President Obama, one need only look at the lack of diversity in the U.S. Senate and staff in Congressional offices and many government agencies to know that we can be doing more. It is one reason I fully support this transatlantic declaration."

"Despite the global significance of President Obama's historic election, the reality is that our elected leadership does not reflect the diversity of origins of people in our nations" said Summit co-organizer Harlem Desir, Member of the European Parliament (MEP). "This has contributed to a lack of inclusion of minorities in the planning and implementation of the very policies that impact us. Despite some successes, the overall results of recent elections are simply further evidence that we must do more to ensure the representation of the diversity of our society."

"In Britain we had never elected fascists in a national election until now. Whilst in the past there have been far-right MEPs from other countries, such as France, this election saw new groups gaining seats across Europe, and thus a worrying threshold has been crossed," said Summit co-organizer and President of the European Parliament All Party Group on Anti-Racism and Diversity, Claude Moraes MEP. "We will have to tackle the pernicious growth of far-right racist parties head-on, at both the grass-roots and parliamentary levels, and an integral part of this lies in encouraging the full inclusion of minorities in the political process."

U.S. Helsinki Commissioner Congressman G.K. Butterfield (D-NC), a former Judge known for his work supporting voting rights, who participated in the Summit, added, "it is clear by the outcome of the European elections that too few people are taking part in the political process at a potentially great risk to democracy. As I have learned from my work in the U.S., it is critical to remedy this situation rather than preserve a status quo that repeatedly elects lawmakers who do not represent the diverse interests of the population."

"These concerns for minority representation are exactly why we adopted the Brussels Declaration," said Summit co-organizer Joe Frans, Vice President of the United Nations Working Group on Experts of People of African Descent. "The declaration calls for the full and equal participation of non-White citizens of Europe with African, migrant, and other backgrounds in our countries' democracies. With more racist, xenophobic, and anti-Muslim parties making political gains, immigration and anti-discrimination policies are going to be further scrutinized, which will impact how persons of different races, ethnicities, and religions are viewed and treated. Implementation of the Brussels declaration in this current climate is of the utmost importance."

THE DEATH OF FARRAH FAWCETT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, thank you for letting me stand before you today in order to mourn a great American icon, Farrah Fawcett. She died today, Thursday, June 25, 2009, shortly before 9:30 a.m. after battling cancer. She was 62.

I would also like to express and send my condolences to her family and friends. I know the actress fought a very public battle with cancer and I am proud to say that this beautiful, talented and courageous woman was an American legend, icon and a TEXAN.

Mary Farrah Leni Fawcett was born on Feb. 2, 1947, in Corpus Christi, Texas. Her father, James William Fawcett, was an oil pipefitter who later founded a pipeline construction company and a custodial service. She enrolled at the University of Texas in Austin, where she initially planned to study microbiology but later switched her major to art.

Farrah Fawcett is a true Hollywood success story. Winning a campus beauty contest got her noticed by an agent, who encouraged her to pursue acting. After graduating, she moved to Los Angeles and her healthy style and beauty was immediately noticed. She quickly got roles in various television commercials and also made appearances in some TV series.

Eventually, she came to the attention of the highly successful producer Aaron Spelling, who was impressed by her beauty and vivacious personality which won her a role in the TV series "Charlie's Angels" (1976). She played a private investigator who worked for a wealthy and mysterious businessman, along with two other glamorous female detectives. The show immediately became the most popular series on television, earning record ratings and a huge audience. All three actresses became very popular, but Farrah became by far the best known.

She was America's sweetheart, and found herself on every celebrity magazine and pursued by photographers and fans. While she enjoyed the success and got along well with her co-stars (both of whom were also of Southern origin), she found the material lightweight. Also, the long hours she worked were beginning to take a toll on her marriage so the following year, when the show was at its peak, she left to pursue a movie career.

September 2006, Fawcett, who at 59 still maintained a strict regimen of tennis and paddleball, began to feel strangely exhausted. She underwent two weeks of tests and was told the devastating news: She had anal cancer. Farrah fought a long, difficult brave battle against the cancer for three years and we must admire her determination and strength through it all. According to the American Cancer Society, an estimated 5,290 Americans, most of them adults over 35, will be diagnosed with that type of cancer this year, and there will be 710 deaths. She was able to give many people hope for a cure while documenting her own personal battle, so we must continue to search for a cure for this abhorrent disease that is cancer.

I would just like to leave her friends and family and all Americans who have lost a loved one with this poem by Henry Van Dyke:

GONE FROM MY SIGHT
(By Henry Van Dyke)

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship, at my side, spreads her white sails to the moving breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength.
I stand and watch her until, at length, she hangs like a speck of white cloud just

where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.

Then, someone at my side says, "There, she is gone"
Gone where?

Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast, hull and spar as she was when she left my side.

And, she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her destined port.

Her diminished size is in me—not in her.

And, just at the moment when someone says, "There, she is gone," there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout, "Here she comes!"

And that is dying. . . .