

language to the omnibus. Supporting the FERC's exclusive jurisdiction over the siting and approval of LNG terminals is an extremely important decision that is worthy of a full debate in Congress. By including controversial language in an omnibus at the end of the 108th session of Congress, there is no opportunity to amend or strip the bill of this or other, harmful provisions. I hope that my colleagues will join me in more closely examining the full impact of this issue on every state in the next Congress. I look forward to an open debate that will include the input of those citizens and local officials who are most affected by the inclusion of this language in the omnibus. Thank you.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND TYRONE  
CHESS

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2004*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Tyrone Chess for his deep commitment to serving others. Reverend Chess was honored at the Holy Ghost Tabernacle's Tenth Annual Banquet Anniversary celebration on November 7, 2004, in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Throughout the years, Reverend Chess has provided a strong spiritual foundation for the members of his community. As pastor and founder of the Holy Ghost Tabernacle Ministries, he has spent years attending to the spiritual needs of his congregants. His tireless service and willingness to help people in need has helped to enrich the lives of so many.

For more than 21 years, he has been active in community and civic affairs, where he has held a variety of leadership positions. Reverend Chess served as the political and social chairperson of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, and is currently the division director for the Hudson County Consumer Affairs and Constituent Services Divisions.

Reverend Chess was born in Jersey City, New Jersey. He attended Essex County College and the American Fellowship Seminary, and received his bachelor's degree in theology from the Adonai Temple Christian Center Bible Institute. He and his wife, Martha, are the proud parents of five children.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Reverend Tyrone Chess for his outstanding spiritual leadership and years of service to his congregation and community in Jersey City, New Jersey.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2004*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, I wish to extend to Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian my congratulations on the occasion of the Republic of China's National Day which was celebrated on October 10th.

Under President Chen's leadership, Taiwan's economy continues to grow and people

continue to enjoy high standards of living. To bolster Taiwan's economy, President Chen has improved Taiwan's trade relations with the People's Republic of China. Moreover, President Chen continues to work for an early breakthrough in Taiwan's dialogue with the PRC.

In the meantime, Taiwan's relationship with the United States is becoming ever stronger. Bilateral trade between Taiwan and the United States topped \$65 billion last year and Taiwan is our eighth largest trading partner. Taiwan and the United States share many values in common such as attachment to freedom; democracy and human rights.

I would like to personally thank President Chen for his support of our war against global terrorism and developmental assistance to a number of African nations.

To President Chen I say "good luck and good fortune". I remain hopeful that our relations will continue to be strengthened in 2005. Certainly, the able leadership of Ambassador David Lee has helped to further our relations with the government and people of Taiwan.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4818,  
CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, November 20, 2004*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in reluctant support of the FY 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Bill. I am disappointed that we are only now finishing the nine appropriations bills that should have been completed months ago. I am even more disappointed that this bill is inadequate in meeting the Nation's education, health care, and environment needs. It is outrageous that anti-environmental and anti-choice provisions have been slipped into this legislation without previous consideration by this House.

I will vote for this bill today because it is \$4 billion closer to meeting our Nation's investment responsibilities that would be in the case under a continuing resolution of last year's funding levels. While this bill includes \$14 billion more for our top domestic priorities, this increase pales in comparison to the \$280 billion in tax cuts for this year alone.

Congress must work to do a better job of balancing our priorities. I will continue to work to ensure that we make responsible investments for working families in the future.

BOB DIX, PUBLIC SERVANT

**HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2004*

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant who has served this institution with distinction.

During the 108th Congress, Bob Dix served as my staff director on the Government Reform Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and the Census. In that capacity, Bob assembled

a remarkable team of experts that assisted the subcommittee in conducting oversight on a number of areas crucial to our domestic and national security.

Over a period of 17 months, the subcommittee held 39 substantive hearings, ranging from the implementation of the President's Management Agenda and E-Gov initiatives to the threats posed at our Nation's airlines and seaports. Bob was the lead staff member of my Corporate Information Security Working Group, which was a public/private partnership that was tasked with creating a uniform set of safe-practice information security standards for businesses, government and consumers. In the process, Bob has distinguished himself as a leading expert on the cutting edge technology issues of our times.

Bob Dix has accepted the position of Vice President of Government Affairs and Corporate Development for Citadel Security Software, Inc., and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his service to the subcommittee and his commitment to public service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PUBLIC MUSEUM OF GRAND RAPIDS, MI

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2004*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give recognition to the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Public Museum of Grand Rapids, Michigan, located in Michigan's Third Congressional District, which I represent.

The Public Museum of Grand Rapids is a collections-based educational organization that explores and celebrates the world and our place in it. It seeks to educate and delight the public, contribute to the well-being of its community, and enhance the quality of life in west Michigan.

Founded in 1854, the Public Museum has been owned and operated by the city of Grand Rapids since 1906, serving a broad regional audience of all ages. It is Michigan's oldest museum open to the public and the State's third largest museum, hosting visitors annually from every Michigan county, U.S. State and Canadian province and many foreign countries.

The Public Museum's beginnings date back to December 17, 1854, when a group of amateur historians, scientists, and collectors of antiquities gathered to form the Grand Rapids Lyceum of Natural History. By 1868, the Lyceum had allied itself with a group of interested high school students to form an actual museum with rooms open for "public inspection" in the city's Central High School. Increasingly, the museum shifted away from the display of natural curiosities and oddities, and acquired systematic collections that were useful tools in teaching about human culture and the natural world. A new name was adopted that emphasized the museum's expanded educational role as an operation of the Board of Education: The Kent Scientific Institute Museum. By 1917, the museum occupied two adjacent mansions in the downtown area, was a chartered department of municipal government, and had developed a huge lending program of instructional materials and mounted specimens and artifacts for use in schools.

In 1936, the institution was renamed the Public Museum to better reflect its citizen ownership and operation and multidisciplinary, program-focused character. It had a professional staff and had seen a great increase in historical collections and programs as well as permanent installations. In 1938, the museum's board matched a WPA grant with a bequest and built an innovative, modern building that looked and acted more like a department store than a traditional museum. Inspired by the writings of Newark Museum director John Cotton Dana, the museum was populist in philosophy and presentation, marketing itself in 1940 when it opened as being "as convenient as your corner store, and friendly as your neighbor." By 1964, an incredible growth in service-oriented programming had necessitated building additions and the construction of the Roger B. Chaffee Planetarium along with the acquisition of the 143-acre Blandford Nature Center. The Voigt House, an unusually well-preserved, late-19th century residence, was acquired in 1974 with all of its original furnishings and archives. It is a house museum that balances the didactic historical displays developed in the main museum, especially those focused on furniture design, manufacturing and marketing.

In the late 1970s, even as it became the first museum in the Nation to be accredited by the American Association of Museums, 1971, it was evident that expansion was necessary again in order to maintain standards and better serve a growing audience. In 1982, an extraordinary public planning process was begun that resulted in the creation of a master plan for the museum's growth on a new site in the heart of downtown Grand Rapids. This culminated on the museums 140th anniversary in 1994 with the debt free opening of its 155,000-square-foot VanAndel Museum Center. In total, \$42 million was amassed from more than 25,000 public and private donors for its completion, with major support coming from the VanAndel family.

Community-based exhibition development, object conservation and program development were planned, fabricated and implemented simultaneously with the structure, resulting in multiple exhibitions exploring regional urban, social and industrial history, ethnology, regional art, and environmental education. The museum boasts numerous unique features, including a fully operational 1928 amusement park carousel and completely restored 1928 Mighty Wurlitzer theater organ.

With growth came new opportunities. Professional staff was expanded. Citizens formed a private foundation in support of museum programs that now manages assets of more than \$6 million. The city of Grand Rapids renewed its commitment to operations, while facilitating and encouraging the museum to become entrepreneurial. In response, annual institutional attendance climbed to nearly double the city's population simultaneous with the Public Museum's third award of AAM accreditation (1996). The museum staff manages a collection that now includes nearly 1 million objects in more than 350,000 record groups.

A new temporary exhibition program was initiated, which reached new heights of success with the organization of a proprietary exhibition of The Dead Sea Scrolls, organized in collaboration with the Israel Antiquities Authority. Between mid-February and June 1, 2003, the exhibition hosted a record 235,541 visitors,

having an economic impact on the region of \$9 million. It was the second-most-attended temporary antiquities exhibition worldwide in 2003.

As 2004 draws to a close, the museum is again poised to expand both with new programs and exhibitions as well as a new 140,500-square-foot, state-of-the-art Community Archives & Research Center providing excellent preservation of the permanent collection and expanded public access. The center houses not only museum collections, but also the archives of the city of Grand Rapids and the county of Kent, which collaborate in its planning and operation.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in congratulating the Public Museum of Grand Rapids on the occasion of its 150th anniversary. Its long history of service to the west Michigan community is laudable indeed and we look forward to its continued work in the future.

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THE RECOGNITION OF MR. ROBERT BAUMANN

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2004*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today in recognition of the endless accomplishments of Fire Fighter Robert Baumann who has served the Middletown Township Fire Department for 47 years. Fire Fighter Robert Baumann joined our community in 1957 as a member of the Belford Engine Fire Co. #1 and has continued to volunteer his time, intelligence, and experience to the public ever since. I am honored to acknowledge someone of Mr. Baumann's courage and strength.

During his tenure in our community, Mr. Baumann has been reliable and energetic in all his services. Mr. Baumann is a man who realizes the value of life and would give up his own to save another. Fire Fighter Robert Baumann is a true hero.

The Middletown Community is grateful to have had a man of such character with us for all these years. At the age of 75 Mr. Baumann continues to volunteer his time to the Fire Police Unit by responding to calls from all hours of the night and day, on holidays and weekends. Mr. Baumann has always been there with the unit at fires, assisting the police department when power lines are down, or during any other type of emergency.

Mr. Speaker, I feel privileged to recognize a man of Fire Fighter Robert Baumann's experience who has served our community with such dedication. Once again, I ask that you join me in congratulating Fire Fighter Robert Baumann on a life of public service, and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

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A TRIBUTE TO RAMONA WILLIAMS

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2004*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Ramona Williams for her dedication to strengthening early education for our children

and volunteer efforts to strengthen our community.

Ramona is a life-long resident of the Bedford Stuyvesant community of Brooklyn and does not plan to move. She attended Public School 297, which her two younger children attend now. She graduated from J.H.S 126 and Eli Whitney High School. She has three beautiful children: Jessica, 14, Vanessa, 9, and Jerome, 5, each of whom have a dream of greatness.

Following her high school graduation, Ramona began work as a substitute teacher at Round Table Child Care Center, eventually becoming a head teacher. She enjoys creating curriculum and cultural activities for her students and assisting parents in helping their children. After 16 years of empowering her students, her personal horizon expanded and she accepted a position as Parent Coordinator for Mark Hopkins Intermediate School 33. Ramona works closely with the principal, P.T.A. and as a liaison between the community and school.

As a single parent raising three children and working full time, Ramona finds it important to further her education and has enrolled at the College of New Rochelle pursuing a Bachelor's of Social Work. She is a member of the Greater Free Gift Baptist Church Inc., where the pastor is the Rev. William Raymond Whitaker, Jr., Th.M, whom she thanks for his spiritual leadership and wisdom.

Ramona's concern for her church and community has led her to focus on fundraising and organizing outreach events for teenagers, which included finding them summer employment. She also sings in the Tabernacle Choir. Forever thankful in all areas of her life, personal and community, she is grateful for those who inspire her as she strives to make this a better place for others. Her unconditional love and thanks goes to her parents and siblings, and the sparkles in her eyes—Jessica, Vanessa, and Jerome ("Jay").

Mr. Speaker, Ramona Williams has been a leader in our community through her consistent efforts to improve the quality of education for all of our children. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

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HONORING BARBARA COHEN

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2004*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Barbara Cohen on the occasion of her retirement from the Phoenixville Chamber of Commerce where she has served as the Executive Director since 1992.

Barbara Cohen has led an extraordinary and exciting life. Born in Philadelphia, she has always displayed energy and determination in all aspects of her life. Her childhood consisted of piano lessons, Hebrew School, Girl Scouts, National Honor Society, and international travel. Barbara was her class valedictorian at Northeast High School in 1959 and, from there, she went on to Temple University where she earned a BS in education and a minor in political science. After graduation, Barbara began teaching 4th grade while attending University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of International Relations.