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No. 86

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 3, 2008, at 2 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2008

(Legislative day of Thursday, May 22, 2008)

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 23, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of Rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BROWN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECESS UNTIL TUESDAY, MAY 27,
2008, AT 9:15 A.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 9:15 a.m., on Tuesday, May 27, 2008.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10 and 29 seconds a.m., recessed until Tuesday, May 27, 2008, at 9:15 a.m.

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



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EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to Republican Earmark Guidance, I submit the following information.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROY BLUNT.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Defense-Wide—RDT&E, Ballistic Missile Defense Terminal Defense Segment.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: LaBarge Inc. (subcontractor of Raytheon).

Address of Requesting Entity: 1505 Maiden Lane, Joplin, MO 64801.

Description of Request: \$10 million is included in this bill for key components of the Short Range Ballistic Missile Defense, a Stunner interceptor used by both the United States and Israel. The use of taxpayer funds is justified because the need for this capability was demonstrated during Israel's conflict in Lebanon in 2006 and remains a top concern for U.S. troops deployed around the world. David's Sling is a joint U.S./Israeli program developing the affordable Stunner interceptor for use by both countries.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROY BLUNT.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Army—RDT&E, Medical Advanced Technology.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Missouri State University and Crosslink.

Address of Requesting Entity: 524 N. Booneville Ave. Springfield, MO 65806.

Description of Request: \$6 million is included in this bill to develop a localized drug delivery system for use on amputee and burn victims who are wounded in combat. Effective localized controlled drug delivery will provide amputees and burn victims the needed pain and healing therapeutics while minimizing the required dosage because the drug will be delivered locally and not systemically. This will aid in reducing chances of developing drug resistance and dependency both of which reduce healing time and reduce quality of life. The use of taxpayer funds is justified because there are an estimated 20,000 injuries in Iraq and many amputees are not wearing their prosthetic device due to discomfort resulting from inflammation and infection.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROY BLUNT.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Army—RDT&E, Medical Advanced Technology.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Missouri State University and St. Johns Health System.

Address of Requesting Entity: 524 N. Booneville Ave. Springfield, MO 65806.

Description of Request: \$6 million is included in this bill to fund technology to allow for the improved ability to quickly treat soldiers who sustain severe eye injuries in the field.

Currently, the time from injury to treatment for eye injuries in the Iraqi conflict averages more than 18 hours due to the lack of field-ready, easy-to-use eye injury stabilization materials. The use of taxpayer funds is justified because many of the injuries suffered by our military personnel serving in the Middle East are a result of IED (improvised explosive device) mortar and direct action injuries. Between October 2001 and June 2006, over 1,100 troops with combat eye trauma were evacuated from overseas military operations, making serious eye wounds one of the most common types of injury experienced in current U.S. conflicts. Walter Reed Army Medical Center feels strongly that the project has considerable military relevance and plans to collaborate in the program.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF A BEBE MOORE CAMPBELL NATIONAL MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to support H. Con. Res.—134, the Establishment of a Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. As disproportionate numbers of African Americans, Latinos, Asians, and others of color continue to be affected by a lack of resources for mental illness, we can now take steps to bring solutions to the public consciousness with the establishment of this awareness month.

According to the 1999 Surgeon General's Report on Mental Illness, more than 54,000,000 Americans have a mental disorder in any given year, although fewer than 8,000,000 seek treatment.

Minority mental health consumers often fall into the category of the "working poor", facing additional challenges because they are underinsured or uninsured, which often leads to late diagnosis or no diagnosis of mental illness.

According to the 1999 Surgeon General's Report on Mental Illness, African Americans are misdiagnosed at a higher rate within the mental health delivery system, and greater effort must be made to accurately assess the mental health of African Americans.

Bebe Moore Campbell through her dedication and commitment sought to move communities to support mental wellness through effective treatment options, open access to mental health treatment and services, and improve community outreach and support for the many loved ones who are unable to speak for themselves.

Here in Congress, we must lead the fight for important issues such as mental illness, for all of our citizens regardless of their ethnicity or medical hardship. As our health care systems

continue to advance in the field of mental illness, an awareness month such as the Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month can encourage increased knowledge and possible treatment for families who are affected by such a debilitating problem.

I strongly support the designation of the Bebe Moore Campbell National Health Awareness Month and I have profound respect for the late Bebe Moore Campbell who made great strides in bringing mental health awareness to both the African-American and the general American public, through her literary works and advocacy. As a celebrated writer and journalist, noted author, radio commentator, community activist, advocate, and recipient of numerous awards and honors, Bebe Moore Campbell was an exceptional individual and it is beyond fitting to name this awareness month in her and her work's honor.

I would like to commend Congressman WYNN and Congresswoman WATSON for their leadership in bringing this resolution before Congress.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES "JIM" NELSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember James "Jim" Nelson, a pioneer in his community and grandfather of the Republican Party in Denton County.

Though my political life began after Jim's leadership of the Denton County Republican Party, his legacy and commitment to conservative principles is renowned. I am proud to call his son, J. Michael Nelson, and daughter-in-law, State Senator Jane Nelson, good friends of mine.

Jim was one of the few Republicans in Denton County in the 1970s, and he worked hard to build the party's base there. He can be credited, in large part, to the overwhelming success of the GOP in North Texas today. Besides the Republican Party, Jim was involved in business, arts and charitable organizations. He also served as Texas Education Commissioner from 1999 to 2002.

Jim was one of the hardest-working individuals I have ever met. The last time I saw him was at his Mayday Manufacturing Co. warehouse. Jim was right in the middle of it all, working on the line in the warehouse giving instructions. This is the type of tireless dedication that Jim applied to every aspect of his life.

Madam Speaker, it is truly an honor to rise today and remember a man who, throughout his long life, did so much to better those around him and his community. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. Jim will be greatly missed.

• 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.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, Air Force, RDT&E, Line 221, PE #0708611F (Support Systems Development).

Legal name and address of entity receiving earmark: Biomass Energy Systems, Inc., 100 Overlook Center, 2nd Floor, Princeton, NJ 08540.

Description of how the money will be spent and why the use of Federal taxpayer funding is justified: This project is underway to introduce alternative energy sources based on locally available resources for the USDOD and in Alaska. The Air Force, APTO, Eielson AFB and BESI have forged an alliance to create an alternative energy source program to be implemented in Alaska. The program consists of three phases. First, an integrated waste to energy system consisting of waste gasification, gas cleanup, and a gas engine to convert waste-based fuel gas to electricity will be demonstrated using wood waste and other locally generated wastes at Eielson AFB in Fairbanks, AK. After the testing is completed and any modifications are identified, the gasification system will be relocated to a local village, to demonstrate the system in a typical local setting as a backup source of power. After testing the system under local conditions is completed, the system will be integrated in parallel with the existing petroleum-based system. Initially the system will operate as backup for the existing system with a gradual change over to a primary role. This provides a practical model of sustainable renewable energy for the USDOD facilities, as well as the Alaskan villages.

Description of matching funds: BESI is currently under contract to the U.S. Air Force, APTO to deliver a final design for a 1MW system for Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska. This is a Congressionally funded project from FY 07 and the contract is worth \$848,040.00.

Authorized Amount: \$4,000,000.

Project Name: Eielson Air Force Base Alternative Energy Source Program.

Detailed Finance Plan: \$2,300,000 Equipment Gasifier and Genset; \$700,000 Instrumentation and Controls; \$1,150,000 Construction and Installation; \$550,000 Shakedown; \$300,000 Project Management.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, consistent with New Republican Earmark Disclosure Requirements, I hereby submit the following information regarding earmarks listed in the Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Act which, to my knowledge, have my name listed as a sponsor of the given earmark. The information provided for each earmark consists of the name of the project, account, funding level, and the justification for the use of taxpayer dollars.

Requesting Member: Representative JOE KNOLLENBERG.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account Information: Army, RDTE, PE 0603002A, Line 30.

Name of Earmark and Amount Listed in the Report: Mild, Traumatic Brain Injury Assessment and Triage Using Smart Sensor Technology—\$3.2 million.

Legal Name and Address of Receiving Entity: William Beaumont Hospital, 3601 W. Thirteenth Mile Rd., Royal Oak, MI 48073.

Earmark Description: Funding will be used for a Beaumont Hospital-led consortium on mild traumatic brain injury assessment and triage using smart sensor technology in military helmets and vehicles. The potential application of sensor-equipped helmets could not only save the lives of military personnel but could enhance the medical outcomes of sports-related injuries as well. The funding will be used for administrative work, information technology, project supplies, and site personnel.

Requesting Member: Representative JOE KNOLLENBERG.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account Information: Army, RDTE, PE 0602618A, Line 14.

Name of Earmark and Amount Listed in the Report: Globally Accessible Manufacturing and Maintenance Activity (GAMMA)—\$3.5 million.

Legal Name and Address of Receiving Entity: POM Group, Inc. 2350 Pontiac Road, Auburn Hills, MI 48326.

Earmark Description: The proposed program entitled "Globally Accessible Manufacturing & Maintenance Activity (GAMMA)" will develop rapid, precision Direct Metal Deposition (DMD) technology, combined with current materials removal technology, using the same (single) laser platform which will provide a quantum leap in force readiness and significantly impact the US economy by greatly reducing the time of making complex, 3-D shaped components for dual-use applications. In addition, GAMMA will greatly enhance the currently fielded US Army effort called the Mobile Parts Hospital (MPH) where modules are deployed to remote locations to fabricate metal parts on site from bar stock. Incorporation of the DMD technology would eliminate the need for bar stock \$60 billion inventory. The funding will be used for design, factory testing, and validation practices.

Requesting Member: Representative JOE KNOLLENBERG.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account Information: Navy, RDTE, PE 0603123N, Line 16.

Name of Earmark and Amount Listed in the Report: Mobile Manufacturing and Repair Cell/Engineering Education Outreach Program—\$1.0 million.

Legal Name and Address of Receiving Entity: Focus: HOPE, 1355 Oakman Blvd., Detroit, MI 48238.

Earmark Description: The purpose of this program is to attract, train and educate technicians and engineers capable of deploying new critical technologies in support of Navy forces. The funding will be used for research, recruitment, curriculum development, demonstrations, outreach, and administrative costs.

Requesting Member: Representative JOE KNOLLENBERG.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account Information: Army, MilCon National Guard.

Name of Earmark and Amount: Multiple Ranges: Live Fire Shoot House, Urban Assault Course, Infantry Squad Battle Course, Grayling—\$4.36 million.

Legal Name and Address of Receiving Entity: Michigan National Guard, Lansing, Michigan.

Earmark Description: Each range facility provides the ability for combat leaders to train and evaluate their unit during live fire exercises in an indoor building, a built-up/urban area, and an outdoor squad tactical movement engagement scenario. Range targetry includes wireless systems, solar-battery power, stationary and moving, automated target systems, varying from up-close indoor and outdoor target engagements to 1000M, controlled and scored by computers in an operations center or control tower. The funding will be used for construction of a primary facility, secondary facility, other supporting facilities.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROBERT E. LATTI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

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

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBERT E. LATTI (OH-5).

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Provision: Title XXVI; Section 2601.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Ohio National Guard.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2825 West Dublin Granville Road; Columbus, OH 43235.

Description of Request: The requested funds will be used to construct a two-story, 80-bed barracks facility at the Ohio Army National Guard's Camp Perry Training Site.

The firing ranges at the Ohio Army National Guard's Camp Perry Training Site have been operational for over 100 years. They are some of the finest known-distance firing ranges in the United States. In the past two years, the National Guard Bureau provided \$1.5 million dollars to update the targeting systems and to rebuild the protective berms around the firing ranges. They recently completed construction on a "shoot house" at which our members may train urban warfare skills, and the base also features a high-tech shooting simulator.

There is great capability at Camp Perry, but the housing for National Guard members is entirely inadequate. The National Guard Bureau recently certified a shortage of nearly 600 bed spaces at Camp Perry, and much of the housing stock on Camp Perry is uninhabitable.

With the January 2007 change in the Department of Defense's policy on mobilization of the National Guard, and the corresponding increase in responsibility for training and certification, the Ohio National Guard will rely even more heavily on Camp Perry for individual weapons training and qualification. Providing sufficient bed space of habitable quality is critical. This project, which will replace a number of World War II-era hutments with a 100+ bed barracks, is an important first step.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EMPLOYEE
MISCLASSIFICATION PREVEN-
TION ACT OF 2008

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, Employers who misclassify their employees as independent contractors rob workers of needed pay and benefits and cost government at all levels substantial uncollected revenues—resources that are needed for vital government programs and services.

Yet misclassification is widespread. According to the General Accounting Office, at least 10 million workers in the U.S. are classified as independent contractors, and studies show that as many as 30 percent of employers misclassify their workers. Why do they do it? They misclassify to avoid the cost of payroll taxes, insurance premiums and mandated benefits, and to boost their profits. In fact, the Department of Labor has concluded that the number one reason for misclassification is to avoid the payment of workers compensation premiums, as well as workplace injury and disability-related disputes.

The cost is high for employees, who when misclassified, lose out on employee benefits, including those that are exempt from taxation or receive tax-deferred benefits, such as retirement, life insurance, accident and health coverage, qualified tuition reduction programs, benefits under a cafeteria plan, educational assistance programs and dependent care assistance programs. Additionally misclassified workers are not afforded even minimal work-force protections, including workers compensation, minimum wage, overtime pay, health and safety requirements and the right to join a union. And eligibility for Medicare, Social Security and Unemployment compensation is negatively affected as well.

The cost to society is high as well, and it is estimated that billions of dollars are lost each year; money that would otherwise be paid to the States and the Federal Government in taxes. Despite, this enormous problem, the Department of Labor (DOL) has failed not only to crack down on this practice by enforcing current laws, but has failed to coordinate with other agencies to address the issue. In addition, it is unclear under the law which standard should be employed for determining who is and who is not an independent contractor.

The Employee Misclassification Prevention Act of 2008, which Representatives ANDREWS, MICHAUD, MILLER and I are introducing today attacks the problem of misclassification head-on by:

Clarifying that employee records must reflect the worker's accurate status or classification as an employee or non-employee and that it is a violation of the Act to make an inaccurate classification.

Requiring employers to provide employees and non-employees notice of their status and notice of their rights to challenge that classification.

Providing additional penalties for misclassification as well as increased penalties for violations that are willful or repeated.

Requiring state unemployment insurance agencies to conduct audits to identify employers who are misclassifying employees.

Mandating the Department of Labor (DOE) to develop a system to track and monitor States' effectiveness in identifying employers who misclassify.

Explicitly allowing DOL and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to refer incidents of misclassification to one another; and

Requiring DOL to perform targeted audits focusing on employers in industries that frequently misclassify employees.

We know that there are good employers out there who pay their employees fair and honest wages. This bill is to protect bona fide employees from the 30 percent who don't.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JIM MCCRERY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Requesting Member: Congressman JIM MCCRERY.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, FY2009 National Defense Authorization Act.

Account: Research and Development, Army.
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Biomedical Research Foundation of Northwest Louisiana.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1505 Kings Hwy., Shreveport, LA 71103.

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

Description of Request: This \$1.2M authorization authorizes appropriations for the continued research and development of EMB001, a novel treatment for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The Biomedical Research Foundation in collaboration with Embera Neuro Therapeutics, Inc. (Shreveport, LA) are seeking federal assistance to develop a collaborative research plan with the Department of Defense to test the effectiveness of EMB001 for treatment of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and related neuropsychiatric disorders. Cost breakdown: \$850K Direct Costs associated with research initiative, \$350K for Overhead/Personnel.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EMPLOYEE
MISCLASSIFICATION PREVEN-
TION ACT OF 2008

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, along with my colleagues Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, Chairman GEORGE MILLER, Congressman MIKE MICHAUD, Congressman MCDERMOTT and almost all of the Democratic Members of the Committee on Education and Labor, I rise today to introduce the Employee Misclassification Prevention Act of 2008, EMPA.

The egregious practice of misclassifying workers as independent contractors needs to end. EMPA is pro-employee, pro-employer and pro-taxpayer. The bill will protect employee benefits, remove incentives for employers to misclassify their workers, and ensure that bad employers don't line their own pockets with unpaid payroll taxes.

In the last decade we have seen a questionable increase in the amount of individuals classified as independent contractors. In 1984, which was the last time a comprehensive misclassification study was conducted by an oversight agency on this issue, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) estimated that 15 percent of employers misclassified 3.4 million workers as independent contractors. As a result, \$1.6 billion or \$2.72 billion in inflation-adjusted 2006 dollars in Social Security, unemployment and income taxes was stripped from the hands of the Government and went into the pockets of tax evaders. Furthermore, the 3.4 million workers who were misclassified were stripped of many of their basic, but essential, employee rights.

In some cases, classifying an individual as an independent contractor is quite right and quite appropriate. If someone is retained for a limited purpose, usually for a limited time, to do a specific job function for an employer, it is quite necessary and appropriate that that person not be treated as an employee for reasons of flexibility, and for reasons of fair compensation.

However, when an individual is considered an independent contractor by their employer, but is told what to do, has no discretion over how to conduct the affairs of the business, and whose compensation is fixed and set by the employer, it is our duty as Members of Congress to protect this employee's rights under Federal law.

There are millions of workers, who mow lawns, drive trucks, work in garment linen factories, and serve food in restaurants that I would consider an employee; nonetheless, these hardworking individuals are exploited and misclassified by their employers seeking to evade paying taxes. If any American worker is told what to do, when to do it, how much money they are going to make, what the work rules are, what they can and cannot do by their employer then the law should require they be classified as an employee and receive all of the benefits of the 40-hour work week, as well as worker safety protections, pension and healthcare protections and other worker protections provided to them under Federal law.

I encourage everyone to join me, my co-sponsoring colleagues, as well as the AFL-CIO, Change to Win, United Brotherhood of Carpenters, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the Laborers International, UNITE HERE, the National Employment Law Project, and others and support EMPA to protect workers across the country from employers who are only interested in making a profit for themselves at the expense of the American workers and taxpayer.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, Army, RDT&E, Line 6, PE # 0602120A.

Legal name and address of entity receiving earmark: Alkan Shelters, LLC, 1701 S. Cushman St., Fairbanks, AK 99701.

Description of how the money will be spent and why the use of Federal taxpayer funding is justified: In an effort to support the needs of the Special Operations Community with regard to establishing remote area communications and intelligence, Alkan has designed a C4 module capable for use on the smaller ATV platforms. The module design incorporates the latest in satellite communications, UAV & IR camera surveillance and military mesh network antenna systems. It will provide a means by which to gather field intelligence and transmit this data back to the tactical operations center. This project funding would be used to build a military ATV vehicle and C4 module and has already received \$500,000 in funding from SOCOM.

Description of matching funds: This project has received \$500,000 in funding from SOCOM.

Authorized Amount: \$1,500.00.

Project Name: Command and Control, Communications and Computers (C4) module.

Detailed Finance Plan: \$300,000, ATV; \$300,000, Shelter; \$300,000, C4 Components; \$600,000, Engineering.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL DRUG COURT MONTH

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the nine drug courts in my State and around the country during National Drug Court Month. Over 2,100 drug courts in the United States provide an alternative to incarceration for non-violent, drug-addicted offenders by combining intense judicial supervision, comprehensive substance abuse and mental health treatment, random and frequent drug testing, incentives and sanctions, clinical case management and ancillary life skills services. The tireless efforts of the judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, treatment providers, rehabilitation experts, child advocates, researchers, educators, law enforcement representatives, correctional representatives, pre-trial officers and probation officers that are involved in drug courts provide substance abusing offenders with the much-needed chance at long-term recovery and productive lifestyles.

I have seen firsthand the impact of the drug courts in my State, where drug court programs have enhanced public safety, saved taxpayer dollars and, most importantly, saved lives. Since opening their doors, Hawaii's drug courts have graduated over 840 adult clients, 180 family clients, and 81 juvenile clients statewide. During fiscal year 2006, the recidivism rate for adult graduates was a mere 8 percent. For juvenile clients the recidivism rate was 13 percent. Family drug court clients experienced no recidivism whatsoever in 2006.

As we face a growing population of drug-addicted offenders in the American justice system, we must expand our efforts to bring treatment to a larger number of those in need. According to a recent study by the Urban Research Institute's Justice Policy Center, approximately 1.5 million drug-involved offenders should be diverted to drug court, which would generate \$46 billion in savings to American

taxpayers. Armed with our existing research that drug courts work, reduce recidivism, and save lives and money, we must work on taking drug courts to scale.

If society is truly going to save the lives of the addicted, break the familial cycle of addiction for future generations, have a substantial impact on associated crime, child abuse and neglect, reduce poverty, alleviate the over-reliance on incarceration for the addicted, and reduce many of the public health consequences in the United States, drug courts must be taken to scale. There is no greater opportunity for systemic social change in the American justice system. There is no greater opportunity to heal families and communities.

Again, congratulations to the dedicated drug court professionals and graduates from Hawaii and around the country on a job well done.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD CRISIS AND HAITI

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the Congress and to the American people the plight of the western hemisphere's second oldest republic, Haiti. The Haitian people are being negatively affected by market forces out of their control that have driven food prices up drastically. Haiti, where about 4 out of 5 people live at or below poverty, is an island nation that consists of approximately 8.7 million people. To put this in perspective, imagine the City of New York; now imagine that same city with 80 percent of its citizens in poverty.

The American people and Congress have already assisted Haiti with the HOPE and HOPE II (Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement) Acts. HOPE was the tip of the iceberg. It provided jobs to allow Haitians to overcome poverty. HOPE II will create even more gainful employment and more sustainable jobs for Haitians and create a self-sustaining infrastructure. These acts will provide jobs needed to help more Haitian citizens emerge from poverty and gain employment which will lead to a more prosperous Haiti.

However, there is much more work to be done, Mr. Speaker. Right now the World Food Programme is in need of \$755 million to meet immediate demands and USAID also needs an additional \$240 million. Increases in these programs will ensure that school food programs in the developing world are not eliminated due to current food price inflation. The food price escalation is also affecting the region as a whole.

Due to escalating market prices, in rural El Salvador, with the same amount of money today, people can purchase 50 percent less food than they did 18 months ago. This means that, in principle, their nutritional intake, on an already poor diet, is being cut by half.

In Nicaragua the price of tortillas went up 54 percent between January 2007 and January 2008.

We cannot let our neighbors suffer due to circumstances out of their control. We have taken small steps but now the government of

the United States must be an active agent in the development of the third world. We must follow the lead of our philanthropic and non-profit sectors.

Too often those in government see aid to developing nations as a waste of money, throwing taxpayers' dollars down a well. India is a great example of the benefits of foreign aid. In the 1960s American dollars funded fertilizer subsidies and high-yield seed varieties led India out of poverty and famine into self-subsistence. India is now entering the developing world, so much so that their demand for processed foods is now decreasing the supply of food aid available to countries such as Haiti.

This can happen in Haiti if the United States focuses on delivering basic goods to the hemisphere's poorest people. By increasing vaccines, textbooks, water pipes, and medical care we will not make countries dependent, we will be giving Haitians the basic inputs they need to improve their lives. We must invest in high-yield, proven, and scalable strategies to empower the Haitian people and those suffering throughout the world.

I have submitted for the record an article from the New York Review of Books authored by Jeffrey D. Sachs.

[From the New York Review of Books, Dec. 21, 2006]

HOW AID CAN WORK

(By Jeffrey D. Sachs)

In a very different era, President John Kennedy declared "to those peoples in the huts and villages across the globe struggling to break the bonds of mass misery, we pledge our best efforts to help them help themselves, for whatever period is required—not because the Communists may be doing it, not because we seek their votes, but because it is right. If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich."

It is difficult to imagine President Bush making a similar pledge today, but he is far from alone in Washington. The idea that the US should commit its best efforts to help the world's poor is an idea shared by Bill Gates, Warren Buffett, and Jimmy Carter, but it has been almost nowhere to be found in our capital. American philanthropists and non-profit groups have stepped forward while our government has largely disappeared from the scene.

There are various reasons for this retreat. Most importantly, our policymakers in both parties simply have not attached much importance to this "soft" stuff, although their "hard" stuff is surely not working and the lack of aid is contributing to a cascade of instability and security threats in impoverished countries such as Somalia. We are spending \$550 billion per year on the military, against just \$4 billion for Africa. Our African aid, incredibly, is less than three days of Pentagon spending, a mere \$13 per American per year, and the equivalent of just 3 cents per \$100 of US national income! The neglect has been bipartisan. The Clinton administration allowed aid to Africa to languish at less than \$2 billion per year throughout the 1990s.

A second reason for the retreat is the widespread belief that aid is simply wasted, money down the rat hole. That has surely been true of some aid, such as the "reconstruction" funding for Iraq and the cold war-era payouts to thugs such as Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire. But these notorious cases obscure the critical fact that development assistance based on proven technologies and directed at measurable and practical needs—

increased food production, disease control, safe water and sanitation, schoolrooms and clinics, roads, power grids, Internet connectivity, and the like—has a distinguished record of success.

The successful record of well-targeted aid is grudgingly acknowledged even by a prominent academic critic of aid, Professor Bill Easterly. Buried in his “Bah, Humbug” attack on foreign aid, *The White Man’s Burden*, Mr. Easterly allows on page 176 that “foreign aid likely contributed to some notable successes on a global scale, such as dramatic improvement in health and education indicators in poor countries. Life expectancy in the typical poor country has risen from forty-eight years to sixty-eight years over the past four decades. Forty years ago, 131 out of every 1,000 babies born in poor countries died before reaching their first birthday. Today, 36 out of every 1,000 babies die before their first birthday.

Two hundred pages later Mr. Easterly writes that we should “put the focus back where it belongs: get the poorest people in the world such obvious goods as the vaccines, the antibiotics, the food supplements, the improved seeds, the fertilizer, the roads, the boreholes, the water pipes, the textbooks, and the nurses. This is not making the poor dependent on handouts; it is giving the poorest people the health, nutrition, education, and other inputs that raise the payoff to their own efforts to better their lives.

These things could indeed be done, if American officials weren’t so consistently neglectful of development issues and with many too cynical to learn about the constructive uses of development assistance. They would learn that just as American subsidies of fertilizers and high-yield seed varieties for India in the late 1960s helped create a “Green Revolution” that set that vast country on a path out of famine and on to long-term development, similar support for high-yield seeds, fertilizer, and small-scale water technologies for Africa could lift that continent out of its current hunger-disease-poverty trap. They would discover that the Gates and Rockefeller Foundations have put up \$150 million in the new Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa to support the development and uptake of high-yield seed varieties there, an effort that the US government should now join and help carry out throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

They would also discover that the American Red Cross has learned—and successfully demonstrated—how to mass-distribute antimalaria bed nets to impoverished rural populations in Africa, with such success and at such low cost that the prospect of protecting all of Africa’s children from that mass killer is now actually within reach. Yet they’d also learn that the Red Cross lacks the requisite funding to provide bed nets to all who need them. They would learn that a significant number of other crippling and killing diseases, including African river blindness, schistosomiasis, trachoma, lymphatic filariasis, hookworm, ascariasis, and trichuriasis, could be brought under control for well under \$2 per American citizen per year, and perhaps just \$1 per American citizen!

They would note, moreover, that the number of HIV-infected Africans on donor-subsidized antiretroviral therapy has climbed from zero in 2000 to 800,000 at the end of 2005, and likely to well over one million today. They would learn that small amounts of funding to help countries send children to school have proved successful in a number of African countries, so much so that the continent-wide goal of universal attendance in primary education is utterly within reach if financial support is provided.

As chairman of the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health of the World Health

Organization (2000–2001) and director of the UN Millennium Project (2002–2006), I have led efforts that have canvassed the world’s leading practitioners in disease control, food production, infrastructure development, water and sanitation, Internet connectivity, and the like, to identify practical, proven, low-cost, and scalable strategies for the world’s poorest people such as those mentioned above.

Such life-saving and poverty-reducing measures raise the productivity of the poor so that they can earn and ingest their way out of extreme poverty, and these measures do so at an amazingly low cost. To extend these proven technologies throughout the poorest parts of Africa would require around \$75 billion per year from all donors, of which the US share would be around \$30 billion per year, or roughly 25 cents per every \$100 of US national income.

When we overlook the success that is possible, we become our own worst enemies. We stand by as millions die each year because they are too poor to stay alive. The inattention and neglect of our policy leaders lull us to believe casually that nothing more can be done. Meanwhile we spend hundreds of billions of dollars per year on military interventions doomed to fail, overlooking the fact that a small fraction of that money, if it were directed at development approaches, could save millions of lives and set entire regions on a path of economic growth. It is no wonder that global attitudes toward Africa have reached the lowest ebb in history. It is time for a new approach.

“HONOR FIRST:” COMMEMORATING THE 84TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BORDER PATROL

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 84th birthday of the United States Border Patrol.

Next Wednesday, May 28, 2008, we will be commemorating the establishment of the United States Border Patrol, which began as the Patrol Inspectors in El Paso, Texas. The Border Patrol began under the Bureau of Immigration, then became a part of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Since the creation of the Department of Homeland Security in 2003, the Border Patrol has become an integral part of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Today, the Border Patrol is led by my friend and former colleague, Chief David V. Aguilar. Under his strong direction and leadership, the Border Patrol has grown to over 16,000 agents stationed throughout the Nation’s southern, northern, and coastal borders.

Guided by their national strategy, with the proper mix of manpower, technology, and infrastructure, the Border Patrol’s primary goal is to gain and maintain operational control of our borders. Agents protect and defend the United States by preventing the smuggling of illicit materials, and surreptitious entry of persons into the United States. Last year alone, the Border Patrol arrested over 876,000 persons illegally entering or already present in the United States, and seized over 1.8 million pounds of marijuana and 14,000 pounds of cocaine.

Today, the Border Patrol uses state of the art technologies to aid in the performance of their duties. Infrared cameras, remote video surveillance, unattended underground sensors, and ground radar support their national strategy. Their special response teams and tactical units are specially trained for domestic and international emergencies and they have search, trauma, and rescue teams that provide humanitarian and rescue capabilities and perform countless rescues each year. The Border Patrol’s mission is also supported by air and marine assets and personnel from CBP Air and Marine.

Before coming to Congress, I was honored to serve as a Border Patrol agent for 26½ years, of which 13 were spent as sector chief in McAllen and, then, in my home district of El Paso, Texas. My time in the Border Patrol gave me firsthand knowledge of the vigilance and dedication that are constantly required of these agents. The task of protecting our Nation’s borders is no small charge.

Sadly, over the years, the Border Patrol has lost 105 men and women who courageously served our country. Let us take a moment to remember these brave men and women and honor their sacrifice.

The Border Patrol lives by their motto “Honor First”; so today, I ask that we honor the men and women in green for the work they have done and the sacrifices they have made.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I submit the following: Bill Number: H.R. 5658, Navy, RDT&E, Line 181, PE # 0206623M.

Legal name and address of entity receiving earmark: Alkan Shelters, LLC, 1701 S. Cushman St., Fairbanks, AK 99701.

Description of how the money will be spent and why the use of federal taxpayer funding is justified: In an effort to support the needs of the Special Operations Community with regard to establishing remote area communications and intelligence, Alkan has designed a C4 module capable for use on the smaller ATV platforms. The module design incorporates the latest in satellite communications, UAV & IR camera surveillance and military mesh network antenna systems. It will provide a means by which to gather field intelligence and transmit this data back to the tactical operations center. This project funding would be used to build a military ATV vehicle and C4 module and has already received \$500,000 in funding from SOCOM.

Description of matching funds: Alkan Shelter, LLC will contribute internal R&D in the amount of \$100,000.

Authorized Amount: \$2,000,000.00.

Project Name: EMI Hardened Expandable Shelter.

Detailed Finance Plan:

Phase 1: \$300,000 Engineering; \$200,000 Testing; \$150,000 Materials.

Phase 2: \$200,000 Engineering; \$300,000 Testing; \$400,000 Expandable Shelter.

Phase 3: \$150,000 Engineering; \$300,000 Testing.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

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

Requesting Member: Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Shipbuilding & Conversion, Navy.
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: PMS 450, Virginia Class Submarine Program.

Address of Requesting Entity: Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.

Description of Request: Adds \$422 million in additional advanced procurement funding for the VIRGINIA Class submarine program. The Navy has a projected shortfall of 7 attack submarines beginning in fiscal year 2028. The provision of advanced procurement in fiscal year 2009 would allow the Navy to accelerate procurement of 2 submarines per year beginning in fiscal year 2010, potentially decreasing the shortfall to 6 SSNs.

Requesting Member: Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Sierra Nevada.

Address of Requesting Entity: Hagerstown, MD.

Description of Request: Provide \$50 million for the rapid fielding of additional Aerial Reconnaissance Multi-Sensor Platforms for tactical operations in OIF and OEF.

Requesting Member: Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: L-3 Communications, San Diego, CA; MBDA, Los Angeles, CA; Raytheon, Tucson, AZ; Boeing, St. Louis, MO.

Description of Request: The Affordable Weapons System (AWS) program is an advanced technology initiative to design, develop, and produce an affordable precision guided weapon. Phase II to begin September 2008 will study best material approach, conops and system architecture refinement, and a comprehensive risk assessment leading to a preferred system concept with a flyaway cost of less than \$250 thousand. The results from the Phase I and Phase II study will support the development of an ICD leading to a new start program in 2010 with a 2016 first article delivery. An additional \$15 million will support the Phase II contracts.

Requesting Member: Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: L-3 Communications.

Address of Requesting Entity: 9925 Carrol Canyon Road; San Diego, CA. 92131.

Description of Request: The SEA FIGHTER program provides a low cost, low risk, high payoff pathway for rapidly transitioning SEA FIGHTER into an operationally deployable asset as well as demonstrating transformational and highly survivable persistent surveillance capabilities in ungoverned and denied areas that can be applied to current and future Naval Littoral and USCG Maritime vessels. A funding level of \$10 million for FY 2009 is required to upgrade the ship mast structure, and for enhanced active and passive survivability system modifications, HVAC, pilot house armor, weather tight mezzanine heavy curtain, upgraded ramp cradle system, four face SATCOM, surveillance and navigation systems, DCGS-N build-out, C4ISR installation, and integration and testing.

Requesting Member: Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Torrey Pines Logic.

Address of Requesting Entity: 12651 High Bluff Drive; San Diego, CA.

Description of Request: The Navy's need for a secure non-RF alternative to radio communication is well known. The need arises from operational scenarios, such as Underway Replenishment, where vessels are unable to use radios due to RF jammers, EMCON conditions, the presence of IEDs, and the need for a secure communication system that has a low probability of interception and detection. \$2 million to the IR LED Free Space Optics Communications Advancement program will allow the program to advance LightSpeed technology, which is a proven, tested and fielded technology based on IR LED Free Space Optics (FSO) concepts. The funding will enable the advancement of the technology's size, weight, power, distance and bandwidth for the Navy's use in Special Operations and general services communities.

Requesting Member: Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Procurement, Defense-Wide.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: California National Guard.

Address of Requesting Entity: San Diego, CA.

Description of Request: The Southwest Border Fence supports the President's border security initiative and makes for more efficient and effective use of the National Guardsmen deployed in support of Operation Jump Start. \$5 million will continue work on the 14-mile Border Infrastructure near San Diego, CA.

Requesting Member: Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Information Systems Laboratories.

Address of Requesting Entity: 10140 Barnes Canyon Road; San Diego, CA.

Description of Request: The Tactical E-Field Buoy program will develop an affordable ASW buoy that is capable of detecting challenging

targets in acoustically difficult littoral environments and is compatible with existing Navy air-deployed systems. \$7 million in FY09 will fabricate and ocean test the performance of a cluster-type array of small E-sensors against a submarine target.

Requesting Member: Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Allarmed Laboratories, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 7203 Convoy Court; San Diego, CA 92111.

Description of Request: The Leishmania Skin Test will provide a tool for military physicians to screen service personnel prior to and after deployment to endemic regions, prevent contamination of the blood supply by identifying persons who should not become donors, and identify and provide definitive care to service members infected with the parasite. \$1.5 million in FY09 funding will plan and execute a phase III clinical trial.

Requesting Member: Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Trex Enterprises.

Address of Requesting Entity: 7203 Convoy Court; San Diego, CA 92111.

Description of Request: An unacceptable number of aircraft accidents involving all category Army helicopters conducting combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq have been caused by the brownout phenomenon. \$4.5 million will continue development & testing of the Brownout Situational Awareness Sensor, specifically, to increase operating range and field of view; harden modular components; and, integrate the system platform.

Requesting Member: Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Other Procurement, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: IBM.

Address of Requesting Entity: 4600 La Jolla Village Drive #300; San Diego, CA.

Description of Request: SSC-SD has developed algorithms that are extremely complex and computationally intensive on the High Performance Computing (HPC) nodes in the laboratory environment. This classified project related to IED detection has been an on-going use of the HPC laboratory capability and with \$2 million in supplemental funding, ready to be turned into an operational capability.

Requesting Member: Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: San Diego DEFCOMM.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1870 Cordell Court, Suite 208; El Cajon, CA 92020.

Description of Request: JIST-NET will provide the warfighter with an integrated and single pane-of-glass planning and situational awareness system for satellite communications (SATCOM) and network communications. \$6 million will allow SATCOM to move forward and operationally field JIST-NET in next 6 to 9 months.

Requesting Member: Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Other Procurement, Air Force.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Telos Corporation.

Address of Requesting Entity: 19886 Ashburn Road; Ashburn, VA.

Description of Request: \$3.5 million will provide a communication system to the 147th Combat Communications Squadron in San Diego, CA to improve wartime readiness levels and provide for a robust capability during a potential disaster.

Requesting Member: Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Air Force.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: SpaceDev, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 13855 Stowe Drive; Poway, CA.

Description of Request: Hybrid Sounding Rocket will benefit the nation's defense through the accomplishment of designing and fabricating a new propulsion design that provides safe and environmentally friendly launch services for small payloads. \$2 million will complete flight article design, complete three heavy motor ground test firings, selection and preparation of a suitable launch site, complete first flight article, and the demonstration flight.

Requesting Member: Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: East County Economic Development Council.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1870 Cordell Court, Suite 202; El Cajon, CA.

Description of Request: The Connectivity, a proven business-to-business database, lets DoD compare and analyze objectively capabilities across the industrial base to address warfighter requirements, particularly limited production items. \$1.3 million will expand the number of California companies profiled.

Requesting Member: Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: SYS Technologies.

Address of Requesting Entity: 5050 Murphy Canyon Road; San Diego, CA.

Description of Request: The System for Intelligent Task Assignment & Readiness (SITAR) will support accurate, predictive 21st century readiness models. \$3 million will enhance the SITAR program.

Requesting Member: Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Surface Optics Corporation.

Address of Requesting Entity: 11555 Rancho Bernardo Road; San Diego, CA.

Description of Request: \$3 million for the Real-Time Hyperspectral Targeting Sensor will be used to miniaturize a small, low cost Hyper Sensor integrated with GPS location data and real time processing capability.

Requesting Member: Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Boeing, Corp.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 516; St. Louis, MO.

Description of Request: \$40 million will procure additional Joint Direct Attack Munition kits. This funding was the #12 priority on the Air Forces Unfunded Requirements.

Requesting Member: Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Skybuilt.

Address of Requesting Entity: 4449 N. 38th Street; Arlington, VA.

Description of Request: \$2 million will be used to fund an existing Army effort for RDTE and field testing of solar power at forward operating bases.

TRIBUTE TO MR. SIDNEY LAPIDUS

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. Sidney Lapidus and to congratulate him on receiving the Emma Lazarus Statue of Liberty Award. Mr. Lapidus' deep commitment to the American Jewish Historical Society has ensured that its collection is preserved and expanded for generations to come.

A graduate of Princeton University and Columbia University Law School, Sidney began his career as an attorney with the Securities and Exchange Commission in New York. Currently, he serves as a managing director and senior advisor at Warburg Pincus LLC, one of the country's leading private equity firms. Sidney also serves on the Boards of Directors of Lennar Corporation, one of the Nation's largest homebuilders, as well as Knoll Inc., a leading manufacturer of office furniture.

Sidney contributes to and advocates on behalf of a number of charitable causes, several of which concern American history and Jewish affairs. He served as president of the American Jewish Historical Society from 2003 to 2007 and is now its chairman. He is a member of the advisory councils for Princeton University's History and Judaic Studies Departments. He is also a vice chairman of the American Antiquarian Society and is a board member of the New York Historical Society. In other areas, he is a chair of the United Neighborhood Houses of New York and a member of the executive committee of New York University School of Medicine.

Mr. Lapidus has balanced his distinguished career and philanthropic work with an equally impressive family life. He and his wife, Ruth,

live in Harrison, New York. They have three married children—Gail, Janet and Roy—and six grandchildren—Sara, Eric, Kate, Henry, Jessica, and Zack. An avid skier, Sidney also collects British and American books about politics and economics from the 17th and 18th centuries.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize my good friend Mr. Sidney Lapidus for a successful career in finance and unparalleled devotion to charitable causes. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring his tremendous accomplishments.

PINECREST WINS AT PINEHURST

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we wish to congratulate the golf team of Pinecrest High School for winning the North Carolina 4-A golf championship. That's exactly what they did on Tuesday, May 15, 2008. The team was led by seniors Jack Fields, Russell Burke, Patrick Barrett, and John Gillespie. They were joined by junior Justin Evans and sophomore Sam Packard. Only the top six golfers on each team qualified for the championship match.

The championship, which was won at Pinehurst #6, culminated an outstanding season for the Patriots, who were led by Head Coach Sandy Sackmann. She had already won a state championship with the women's team on the same golf course. Now Coach Sackmann has accomplished the same feat with the men.

The match started slowly on Monday. Bad weather and strong winds influenced the first day's result. Although they finished nine strokes behind the leader, the Patriots never played themselves out of contention. The conditions on the second day were better, which allowed Pinecrest to play up to its full capabilities.

While they could not play in the championship match, the other members of the Pinecrest golf team were instrumental in assisting the school on its way to the title. The other members of the squad were junior Pete Lineberger, sophomores Austin Dunlap and Bryant Stewart, and freshman Dylan Harris.

On behalf of the Sixth District, we would like to congratulate the men's golf team of Pinecrest High School on having a great season and winning the North Carolina 4-A golf championship. As Coach Sackmann said, "It was an incredible year. They deserve to win; they have worked so hard for four years." We heartily agree with this assessment.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, in compliance with new "earmark" disclosure procedures adopted by the House Republican Conference, I hereby provide the following information regarding a request for funding I

made of the House Armed Services Committee for inclusion in H.R. 5658, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Specifically, the project will be included in Title 1, Military Construction—Army.

H.R. 5658 includes \$10,791 million for Phase 1 of the Ballistic Evaluation Facility (66725) in the Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Act. The entity to receive the funding for this project is the United States Army, specifically the Armament Research Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC) located at Picatinny Arsenal, Picatinny, New Jersey, 07806-5000.

The actual design and construction will be executed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The funding will be used for planning, design and construction of a state-of-the-art Ballistic Experimentation Facility (BEF) for Large Caliber Armaments at Picatinny Arsenal. This process will produce a one-of-kind research and testing facility which will reduce Army's operational overhead and maintenance costs and improve safety for Army employees. The use of U.S. taxpayer funding is justified because this construction will provide near-term and long-range benefits to the joint warfighter—Army, Marines, Navy and Air Force.

As this funding will be provided to the United States Army, the requirement of matching funds is not applicable.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman PETER T. KING.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Military Construction, Air National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: New York National Guard.

Address of Requesting Entity: 330 Old Niskayuna Road, Latham, NY 12110.

Description of Request: \$7.5 million will be used to construct Phase II of the Pararescue Facility. The use of taxpayer dollars is justified because The Francis Gabreski Air National Guard Base improves pararescue operations and survival equipment functions on Long Island.

Requesting Member: Congressman PETER T. KING.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: RDT&E, Army, Medical Technology.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Notre Dame.

Address of Requesting Entity: 403 E. Madison, South Bend, IN 46617.

Description of Request: \$1 million will be used to improve the diagnosis, evidence based treatment, and prevention of depression and other mental disorders among members of the military. The use of taxpayer dollars is justified because this project will implement programs recommended by the Department of Defense Task Force on Mental Health 2007 Report "An Achievable Vision."

Requesting Member: Congressman PETER T. KING.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: RDT&E, Army, Medical Advanced Technology.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: New York University Medical Center.

Address of Requesting Entity: 550 1st Avenue, New York, NY 10016.

Description of Request: \$2 million will be used to expand the space capacity of the emergency department. The use of taxpayer funds is justified because it will enhance the ability for medical personnel to diagnose and treat patients during a national disaster, local emergency, or other public health crisis in Lower Manhattan.

Requesting Member: Congressman PETER T. KING.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: RDT&E, Navy, University Research Initiatives.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Webb Institute.

Address of Requesting Entity: 298 Crescent Beach Road, Glen Cove, NY 11542.

Description of Request: \$7 million will be used to construct a ship model testing facility at Webb Institute. This use of taxpayer funds is justified because the Navy currently faces a shortage of graduates who are educated in the design of hulls and internal marine engineering systems. Webb Institute is one of only two civilian schools in the country to provide a naval architecture/marine engineering double degree program. Construction of a model test facility will provide undergraduate research applicable to new hull forms the Navy is developing or fielding. This will assist the Navy by increasing the number of graduating students who will be educated to work on Navy programs.

Requesting Member: Congressman PETER T. KING.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Other Procurement, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Curtiss-Wright Flow Control Corporation.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1966E Broadhollow Road, E. Farmingdale, NY 11735.

Description of Request: \$3 million will be used to sustain production and enable the timely installation of JP-5 Electric Valve Operators (EVOs) on CVN aircraft carrier aviation fueling systems. The use of taxpayer funds is justified because it will improve the safety and reliability of carrier fuel system operations.

Requesting Member: Congressman PETER T. KING.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: RDT&E, Navy (Marine Corps), USMS Advanced Technology Demonstration.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: American Defense Systems, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 230 Duffy Avenue, Hicksville, NY 11801.

Description of Request: \$1.5 million will be used to develop a new ballistic helmet for the warfighter, capable of defeating a standard AK-47, 7.62x39mm mild steel core round to replace the current helmet. The use of taxpayer funds is justified because this new helmet will help to increase the safety of our troops by reducing the number of helmet penetrations caused by the most common theater round.

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL BRAIN TUMOR AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the gentlewoman from Illinois, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, for her leadership on this issue and for bringing this bill to the floor.

I rise today to support the passage of H. Res. 1124, calling for the establishment of a National Brain Tumor Awareness Month.

Each year, more than 190,000 people in the United States are diagnosed with over 120 different types of brain tumors, representing the third leading cause of cancer-related death among those aged 20-39. However, since brain tumors are not as prevalent as breast, lung and other types of cancers, this devastating disease often doesn't get the attention and research dollars it deserves.

That's why I was so impressed when Linda Magiera of Des Plaines, IL, came to Congresswoman SCHAKOWSKY and me last year to bravely share the story of her daughter, Lori Arquilla Anderson's struggle with brain cancer. Each day Lori brought her good humor, cheerfulness and love of life to her battle with brain cancer, and remained a model for us all until the very end.

Linda's strength and compassion in not only fighting day by day alongside her daughter, but also in ultimately turning this tragedy into a blessing for others, is an inspiration.

I was similarly struck by the story of a young man from my Congressional District, Reid Colliander, who has worked so hard to turn his experience with a brain tumor into an opportunity to raise awareness, support research, and help others.

After being diagnosed and treated for a brain tumor at age 7, Reid started Reid's Lemon-AID stand with a group of his friends. Last year, they raised \$45,000 for the Brain Tumor Research Center at Children's Memorial Hospital. This year, they are well on their way to raising even more.

The work Linda Magiera, Reid Colliander and dozens of outstanding local and national advocacy groups are doing to raise awareness and support research for understanding and treating brain tumors brings hope and new energy to the families and individuals affected by this disease.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in recognizing the individuals leading these efforts to eradicate brain tumors and resolving to renew our commitment and redouble our efforts in the battle with this devastating disease.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, Army, RDT&E, Line 177, PE # 0305208A (Distributed Common Ground/Surface Systems).

Legal name and address of entity receiving earmark: Army Battle Command Battle Laboratory, Mr. Jason Denno, Deputy Director, Ft. Huachuca.

Description of how the money will be spent and why the use of federal taxpayer funding is justified: (BRAMA-E) is a critical decision and training aid for commanders and operators to use in support of military operations on urbanized terrain (MOUT). BRAMA is an integrated collection, planning, and course of action system. It integrates existing US Army developed blast modeling software with a state of the art 4D (Lat, Long, Alt, and Time) visualization front end. It is used by the Army to simulate blast analysis and vulnerability assessments.

BRAMA provides decision support for anti-terrorism/force protection (AT/FP) and critical infrastructure protection (CIP). BRAMA is a royalty-free tool and requires minimal training. It leverages previous US Army and US Air Force—force/facility protection R&D efforts. Starting in 2007, the BRAMA capability—along with training—has been provided to active duty Army, Homeland Security and National Guard representatives from 7 states. The US Army CONOPS for Force Protection highlights the need for a Capabilities Based Assessment (CBA) tool. Additionally, user feedback post-delivery on BRAMA specifically asks for enhancements on the speed at which facility data can be generated and visualized. Research conducted by the Army in 2006 and 2007 has identified a candidate commercial technology that can be integrated into the BRAMA baseline to meet the CONOPS and speed up the collection process.

BRAMA has demonstrated its usefulness to commanders, planners, and security forces by employing full-dimensional display technology to visualize, analyze and remediate blast effects generated by DoD-approved blast models. BRAMA-E will extend that capability by simplifying the case of use and helping the Army meet its goal to field a unit level Capabilities Based Assessment (CBA) tool.

Description of matching funds: Not Applicable.

Authorized Amount: \$4,000,000.

Project Name: Blast and Damage Assessment Risk Analysis and Mitigation Application—Enhancements (BRAMA-E).

Funding Source: Army, RDT&E, Line 177, PE # 0305208A (Distributed Common Ground/Surface Systems).

Detailed Finance Plan: \$200,000 Systems Engineering; \$200,000 Immersive Camera Systems; \$400,000 Automate Dense Urban Environment Creation from Immersive Media; \$600,000 GIS Database and Blast Analysis Integration; \$500,000 Develop User Interface Workflow for Plume Modeling with GIS; \$1,000,000 Plume Dispersion Model Integration and Plume Analysis; \$600,000 Advanced Blast Analysis support for DoD and Homeland Security; \$250,000 Base Data Collection and Delivery; \$250,000 Training Sessions, Support, and Webinars.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING OHIO'S "THINK OUTSIDE THE STIGMA CAM- PAIGN"

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, mental health and substance abuse are an unfortunate reality in my home State of Ohio. Studies suggest that nearly 1 in 5 Ohioans experience some mental illness or emotional disturbance each year, while another 910,000 suffered from substance abuse problems in 2006. Given that these afflictions hurt not only those who suffer from them but their friends and family, these numbers are truly a grave challenge for my state.

Perhaps the most difficult aspect of these illnesses to combat is the stigma of mental illness. A lack of understanding of these illnesses perpetrates deep into many of our communities, preventing those who need help the most from seeking it out of fear of losing their family and loved ones. As a result, 236,000 Ohioans failed to seek treatment for mental illness in 2006, and 695,000 opted not to seek support for alcohol use.

In honor of Mental Health Awareness Month, I introduced a resolution commemorating the work of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addition Services for its work in combating the negative stigma of mental illness. In October 2007, ODMH and ODADAS launched the "Think Outside the Stigma" campaign, which was designed to increase awareness and understanding of mental illness and substance abuse. This innovative campaign is an important initiative that will help encourage more Ohioans to seek the treatment they need.

The battle against mental health disorders and drug and alcohol addiction will be a lengthy one. I am pleased that my home state is taking important steps to battle the stigma attached with these challenges.

THE DEDICATION OF HARVEY MILK STATUE

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Ms. PELOSI. Today, a statue of San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk will be unveiled at City Hall in San Francisco. It is fitting that on the occasion of his 78th birthday, San Franciscans will gather to pay tribute to Harvey Milk's life and work at City Hall, where he served San Francisco and so tragically lost his life 30 years ago.

Harvey Milk was the first openly gay man elected to any significant political office in our history. This memorial will be the first such tribute to an LGBT leader to be placed in a seat of government in the United States.

Harvey Milk was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977. A year later, in one of the darkest weeks of San Francisco's history, Supervisor Milk and our beloved Mayor George Moscone were assassinated by Supervisor Dan White.

Harvey Milk was a San Francisco hero, a champion of human rights and symbol to the world for LGBT civil rights. His political career was dedicated to shattering the silence of gay America. He firmly believed that the only way for gays to break down homophobia was to increase their visibility and irrevocably enter the consciousness of our Nation.

A popular neighborhood merchant and activist, Harvey Milk became a great progressive leader who transformed San Francisco political life and social culture for all time. He pioneered an open, participatory government accessible to all, especially those who had never before been engaged. For the first time, neighborhood and ethnic community activists and openly gay men and lesbians were appointed to positions of power and authority. He was a passionate advocate for seniors, and his populist agenda encompassed the needs of all of San Francisco's minorities.

Last week's California Supreme Court decision to strike the ban on gay marriage is a testament to Harvey Milk's enduring legacy. It is a significant milestone for which all Californians can take pride, and one we would not have reached without the courage and dedication of Harvey Milk and many LGBT leaders after him.

Harvey Milk did not live to see the immeasurable and global ramifications of his life. He continues to inspire us to strive for a society that honors his values of unlimited and equal opportunities for all our citizens. His legacy helps bring our country closer to the ideal of equality that is both our heritage and our hope.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MAR- RIAGE—AND EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC SERVICE—FOR ED AND JAN SLEVIN

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I am joining together with my friend and colleague, KEN CALVERT, in celebrating the lives of some truly remarkable people.

Fifty years ago, their life decisions seemed simple.

The couple was planning their marriage. It was 1957 and a year away from their wedding—June 21, 1958—at the San Luis Obispo Catholic Mission de Tolosa.

They talked about the family they would have; the careers—she in health; he in public affairs; how the San Francisco area—the City—would be their habitat—history, family, relatives. Where else would one want to settle?

Now—50 years later, looking back—it was simple, but different. Janet Amelia Janolis and Edward Joseph Slevin—Jan and Ed—lived, worked or traveled in over 50 countries; worked in each of California's 58 counties, and lived for 15 years in Washington, DC., Los Angeles, and San Francisco, before returning home—to Novato, California.

The series of adventures and challenges focused on commitment and dedication to their ideals while giving birth to five children. Together they raised four wonderful, loving daughters and suffered the loss of their final newborn, Peter, to heart disease.

Jan, with her RN degree from San Jose Hospital, worked in hospitals in San Luis Obispo and Los Angeles, and then took a respite from nursing following the birth of Jeanne—followed by Cammie, Maureen and Jill over the next six years.

Ed graduated from Cal Poly and went on to a post-graduate Coro Foundation fellowship in public affairs, served as state director of the California GOP and worked in Republican political campaigns throughout California for most of the 1960s.

Once life had mellowed a bit, and the children were in school, a different path opened and the Slevin family joined the Peace Corps. 1969 saw them moving to Western Samoa where Ed was country director to 55 volunteers while Jan volunteered teaching community health and homemaking projects around the island.

A promotion to Peace Corps country director in Malaysia led the family to Kuala Lumpur and an 18-month stint before relocating to Washington DC. Jan resumed her nursing as a specialist in infection control gaining post-graduate status at the Washington Hospital Center. Ed continued with Peace Corps as a regional director for 22 countries in North Africa, near East, Asia and the Pacific.

1976 saw the Slevin's return to Novato; Jan to nursing at Novato Community Hospital and Ed re-opening his political consulting business and launching Western Polling and Research, a partnership specializing in public affairs. Jan's nursing work coincided with four teenage daughters while also earning a science degree from St. Mary's College.

But then the tug of international development work struck again. Jan and Ed went off to the Philippines in 1984 with Peace Corps, where Ed directed a contingent of 350 volunteers. Jan began four years of community health work throughout the poverty stricken barrios of Manila establishing baby clinics and organizing privileged Filipinos to join her quest for improving the life of their country folk.

1988 saw them again return to Washington and the Peace Corps headquarters; Ed as an associate director of volunteer recruitment and selection; Jan leading the medical division's health clearance and pre-departure health briefing for volunteer service.

Ed then went to Capitol Hill as executive director to the House Republican Conference under the leadership of Conference Chairman Congressman JERRY LEWIS and then on to serve as Chief of Staff to Congressman KEN CALVERT.

Ten years ago this traveling couple came home. Home to their beloved grandchildren Cameron, Mikaela, Brian, Nathan, Jana and Casey—and their daughters. Home to their family, relatives and friends.

And yet they spent their life always being home.

Regardless of their address, the constant in their life has been not only their commitment to help improve and contribute to the life of others but to each other. These past 50 years reflects the love and respect Jan and Ed have for each other. They have been and will always be lifelong partners, lovers, friends and adventurers.

And for this we salute them.

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL CERTIFICATE OF MERIT RECIPIENT
ELIZABETH BREAZILE

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the successes and achievements of Elizabeth Breazile, who has received the Congressional Certificate of Merit award at Stony Point High School in Round Rock, Texas. Elizabeth has shown exceptional leadership qualities through her involvement in numerous activities which makes her a great candidate for this award.

Elizabeth is very involved in theatre at her school and has had 9 performances in 2 years. She also is involved in film productions and has been in Pre-AP and Advanced Placement courses all 4 years of high school.

I congratulate Elizabeth Breazile for her achievements in school and in her community and am proud to represent such talented and dedicated people in the 31st District of Texas.

EARMARK-DECLARATION

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, consistent with the House Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, to the best of my knowledge this request (1) is not directed to an entity or program that will be named after a sitting Member of Congress; and (2) is not intended to be used by an entity to secure funds for other entities unless the use of funding is consistent with the specified purpose of the earmark. As required by earmark standards adopted by the House Republican Conference, I submit to the House an explanation and justification of this funding in an effort to provide as much public disclosure and transparency as possible on congressionally directed funding and earmarks. I hereby submit the following information on a project I requested and the House Armed Services Committee included in H.R. 5658, the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Department of Energy (DOE); Other.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Department of Energy.

Address of Requesting Entity: U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20585.

Description of Project: The \$10 million programmatic increase provided for in the bill will be used for the U.S. Department of Energy's Environmental Management program at the Hanford Site located in Washington state in Fiscal Year 2009. The federal government has a legal and moral obligation to cleanup the massive wastes and contamination it created at Hanford during the Manhattan Project, World War II and the Cold War. The over-500-square-mile Hanford site is the world's largest and most complex environmental cleanup project, and the federal government must keep its commitment to clean it up. No matching funds are required.

2008 KANSAS MAYOR OF THE YEAR
LAURA MCCONWELL OF MISSION,
KS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mission, Kansas, Mayor Laura McConwell, who recently was named "Kansas Mayor of the Year" by the Kansas Mayors Association.

The Mayor of the Year award is based on leadership and contributions by the nominee in promoting intergovernmental relations and the impact of the nominee on his or her community and its citizens. Mayor McConwell is one of only a few Johnson County mayors to ever receive this honor.

Laura McConwell has served as the City of Mission's mayor since 2002. During her tenure as mayor, she has provided thoughtful leadership for the city in extensive redevelopment projects, stormwater remediation, and infrastructure planning and maintenance, all accomplished through energizing citizens and businesses through public processes. Mayor McConwell has also been a leader in the Kansas City areas in promoting sustainability issues not only in Mission, but throughout the region. She spearheaded the Kansas City Area Mayors Sustainability and Climate Protection Conference in November 2007, which set the national record for the most mayors to sign the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement for a region in a single day.

Currently, Mayor McConwell is active in a variety of community and professional associations, including: Vice Chair of the Johnson/Wyandotte Counties Council of Mayors; Co-chair, Mid America Regional Council First Suburbs Coalition; Vice-chair, National League of Cities First Tier Suburbs Steering Committee; National League of Cities Community and Economic Development Steering Committee; Leadership Kansas Class of 2008; Shawnee Mission School District Committee for Excellence; United Community Services Board Member; Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce; Shawnee Mission North Parent Teacher Student Association; and Boy Scouts of America.

Madam Speaker, I know that all members of the House of Representatives join with me in commending Mayor Laura McConwell on this well deserved recognition. I am proud to have her as a constituent in the Third Congressional District of Kansas and I am proud to represent the City of Mission and all other communities within our congressional district.

VETERANS BILLS

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, next Monday our Nation celebrates Memorial Day. This holiday commemorates those members of the Armed Services that have died while serving our country. There is no better way to honor those fallen soldiers

than to take care of the veterans of today. The 110th Congress has made the needs of veterans a priority and I rise in support of several pieces of veterans legislation that passed the House of Representatives on May 20, 2008.

Too many veterans and their families suffer economically as a result of injury or disability that occurred during service. The Veterans Cost of Living Adjustment Act (H.R. 5826) ensures that veterans disability payments and dependency and indemnity compensation for veterans' families keep up with inflation.

Those soldiers that are injured during war deserve affordable and quality medical treatment when they return home. The Veterans Emergency Care Fairness Act (H.R. 3819) allows veterans to be reimbursed for receiving emergency treatment in non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities. Also, the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Authorization and Lease Act (H.R. 5856) authorizes vital improvement and expansions to VA hospitals and clinics around the country.

According to the 2007 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, approximately 1.9 million veterans suffer from diagnosable substance abuse. The Veterans Substance Use Disorders Prevention and Treatment Act (H.R. 5554) funds drug screening, detoxification, relapse prevention and counseling for veterans. It also creates an online pilot program that provides treatment to Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans for substance abuse.

Finally, the Veterans Benefits Awareness Act (H.R. 3681) helps veterans and their families learn about available government services. The VA will now be able to advertise in the national media in order to reach out to more veterans about homeless assistance, healthcare benefits, mental health services, educational and vocational opportunities, and other benefits.

I want to thank Speaker PELOSI, Chairman FILNER, and my colleagues for passing these important and vital bills to help veterans and their families.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

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

Requesting Member: Congressman KENNY HULSHOF.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E), Aviation Advanced Technology.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Westar Aerospace & Defense Group, Inc., 4 Research Park Drive, St. Charles, MO 63304-5685; On behalf of: Aeromechanics Division, AMSRD-AMR-AE-A, Aviation Engineering Directorate, Bldg 4488 Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898-5000.

Address of Requesting Entity: Westar Aerospace & Defense Group, Inc., 4 Research Park Drive, St. Charles, MO 63304-5685; Aeromechanics Division, AMSRD-AMR-AE-A, Aviation Engineering Directorate, Bldg 4488, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898-5000.

Description of Request: To provide \$10 million in funding to continue the development of

integrated Aviation tools and provide this ability to all Army Aviation systems to include UH-60 series, OH-58D, AH-64D), Fixed Wing and UAS systems. The complete integrated aviation solution includes implementing the automated maintenance test flight tool, automated weight and balance software, and integration with current logistics and Aviation Mission Planning systems. These products are urgently needed by combat units in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, and will result in significant increases in mission effectiveness and safety for our warfighters. These tools will be used by our military's aircraft operators to greatly improve their effectiveness and situational awareness, which will improve support to the warfighter from materiel developers.

THE CORRECT APPROACH TO GLOBALIZATION

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, the overriding economic issue confronting our country is the task of proceeding with the increased globalization of the economy in a manner that promotes an equitable distribution of the benefits. For too many years, until fairly recently, there was a consensus supported by many in the academic and business establishments that argued that concern about the distribution of the benefits of globalization was unnecessary at best and disruptive at worst, and that if we simply proceeded with greater openness, in trade, in the freeing of capital from any restraints, and in other ways, we would all be better off.

It is now indisputable that this is not the case, and that growth has proceeded in the U.S.—and in some other parts of the world—in recent years in a manner that has increased both wealth and inequality. Of course it is the case that in a capitalist system, some inequality is necessary for the economy to function. But we have seen inequality grow far beyond what is either productive or, in the minds of many of us, morally justifiable. Many of us have argued to people in the business community that the resentment that is being generated—very legitimately—by this increased inequality has become an obstacle to the adoption of policies that they think are in our national interest. Many of us, including I believe the leadership on economic issues of the Democratic Party here in the House, believe that we should proceed with globalization in a reasonable and orderly way, but accompanied by policies that offset its tendencies to increase inequality, erode environmental standards, and promote reckless deregulation. Recently, former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers wrote interesting articles in the Financial Times strongly arguing that such a position is both necessary and achievable. In the Financial Times of May 21, Martin Wolf, a very thoughtful economic commentator, makes a further important contribution to this debate. The movement from an unqualified cheer for globalization without any concern for its negative consequences on substantial numbers of Americans to a thoughtful discussion of how to go forward with the economic integration of

the world in a socially useful manner is a very welcome one. Martin Wolf's contribution to that debate in the Financial Times is therefore very important and I ask that it be printed here.

[From the Financial Times, May 21, 2008]

HOW TO PRESERVE THE OPEN ECONOMY AT A TIME OF STRESS

(By Martin Wolf)

Is the spread of prosperity in the interests of citizens of today's high-income countries? Is globalisation of their economies in their interest?

These distinct questions are raised in my mind by two important columns from Lawrence Summers ("America needs to make a new case for trade" on April 27 and "A strategy to promote healthy globalisation" on May 4). In these, Mr. Summers argues that the international economic policies of the U.S. need to be coupled more closely to the interests of its workers. Many Europeans will concur.

This is not to argue that the interests of citizens of high-income countries are more important than those of others. On the contrary, the view that increases in incomes of the poor offset equivalent losses for the rich is morally compelling. But politics is national. Unless or until a global political community emerges, politics will respond only to perceptions of national interest.

So is the rising prosperity of China, India and other emerging economies in the interests of today's high-income countries? The correct answer to this is: not necessarily. It would be absurd to pretend otherwise.

The big advantages of the spread of prosperity include a wider distribution of innovation and bigger opportunities for profitable exchange. The rise of the U.S. brought such benefits to the U.K. Also valuable (though not certain) is greater political stability in previously impoverished countries.

The big disadvantage is greater competition for scarce resources. Power is a scarce resource: if country A has more, country B has less. Resources are also limited. If commodity prices rise, the terms of trade (the relative prices of exports and imports) of net importers will deteriorate: countries have to sell more exports to obtain given imports.

Since the end of 2001, U.S. terms of trade have deteriorated by an eighth, as commodity prices have soared and the currency devalued. This has turned an 18 per cent increase in real gross domestic product between the last quarter of 2001 and the fourth quarter of 2008 into a 16.4 per cent increase in real national income. The difference is not huge. But it is worth some \$220bn in today's dollars. So countries may indeed be harmed by the prosperity of others. (See charts).

The answer to this is: so what? As Willem Buiter has pointed out (Economic Internationalism 101, Maverecon, May 5), nothing can be done to halt the diffusion of "knowledge, skills, technology, management systems" and so forth. Or at least nothing rational or decent can be done. Of course, the U.S. could launch an unprovoked blockade or even war against China or India. To mention such ideas is to reveal their strategic and moral bankruptcy.

The U.S. could, it is true, try to halt the flow of ideas. The U.K. tried to halt the spread of technology to the U.S. in the early 19th century: it failed. The Chinese empire once made it a capital crime to export silkworms: that failed, too. Similarly, protectionism against the emerging countries might slow their growth, but would not halt it. Yet it would guarantee a breakdown in international relations that threatened hopes of a peaceful future.

To repeat, nothing can be done about the rise of emerging countries, as they follow the

lead of the west. What cannot be helped must be accepted. This takes us to my second question. Given the rise of the emerging world, should the developed world limit the globalisation of its own economies? Of course, so long as high-income countries depend on imports of commodities, trade will be essential. Self-sufficiency is a mirage. It is a question rather of how much openness to trade and movement of capital and labour there should be.

One issue has been the huge current account deficits of the U.S. Yet these are at last contracting, as export growth explodes (see chart).

On trade more narrowly, the basic point is well known: free trade is in the interests of the country adopting the policy, unless it has monopoly power. But—an important “but”—the benefits and costs are likely to be unevenly distributed. The latter is particularly likely for trade between rich and poor countries. Free movement of capital or labour may also harm important interest groups within a country even if it raises aggregate incomes. The freer movement becomes, the harder it may also be to impose taxes and regulations on those able to move.

As Mr. Summers argues, it is hard for a democracy to proceed with policies that a large minority believes are against their interests. If the fall-back position is not to be protectionism, itself no more than an inefficient tax and subsidy programme, more creative options must be chosen. The most obvious point, at least for the U.S. is the need to shift the provision of security from employers to the state. Corporate welfare states are unsustainable in a dynamic and open economy.

Yet if the U.S. is to have a more generous welfare state, including universal health provision, as in every other high-income country, taxes will have to be raised. Indeed, they will have to be raised even to meet existing commitments. Mr. Summers argues, in response, for international action against harmful tax competition. He argues, too, for greater international agreement on regulation. In some areas, notably finance, the latter makes sense. But the view that the U.S. must obtain such agreements if it is to raise some of the lowest levels of taxation and weakest regulation in the advanced world is unpersuasive. If Sweden's taxes can be 56 per cent of GDP, it is not tax competition that keeps the U.S. at just 34 percent. The mobility of capital and people is an excuse, not a justification, for low U.S. tax levels.

What is desperately needed is an honest debate about these issues. Such a debate would, I believe, reach four fundamental conclusions. First, whether or not citizens of the U.S. (or other high-income countries) welcome it, the global spread of economic development is ineluctable. Second, protection against imports is a costly and ineffective way of dealing with the consequences. Third, parties of the centre-left should argue for redistributing the spoils of globalisation, not sacrificing them. Finally, a necessary condition is higher taxation of the winners. But the chief obstacle to that is a lack of domestic political will. Globalisation is not a reason for low taxes, but an excuse. It should be discarded.

Everybody should remember, above all, that the opening of the world economy is the west's greatest economic policy achievement. It would be a tragedy if it were to turn its back on the world when the rest of humanity is at last turning towards it.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. VICTOR WESTPHALL AND MRS. JEANNE WESTPHALL AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NATION'S VETERANS

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to proudly introduce legislation in tribute to Dr. Victor Westphall and Mrs. Jeanne Westphall, who dedicated their lives to honoring the courage and sacrifice of their fallen son, LT Victor David Westphall III, USMC, and all Vietnam veterans.

Following the tragic deaths of their son and 15 of his fellow Marines, on May 22, 1968, in Vietnam—40 years ago today—Dr. and Mrs. Westphall led the Nation in memorializing all Vietnam veterans by building an enduring symbol of the tragedy of war. In late summer of 1968, the Westphalls began construction of the Vietnam Veteran's Peace and Brotherhood Chapel in Angel Fire, New Mexico, in honor of their son and his fallen comrades. The chapel was completed in 1971 and dedicated on May 22nd that same year—37 years ago today—which was the third anniversary of David's heroic death. Ultimately, it was the Westphall's hope that the memorial would serve as a source of inspiration for all in pursuit of a peaceful world.

At a time of political unrest in a deeply divided Nation, constructing the memorial was not a popular idea, but Dr. and Mrs. Westphall persevered. Their strength and courage triumphed in the face of financial difficulties by being the first to commemorate those who had suffered, and those who had died in the war. Needless to say, the chapel's message has since become widespread and its message has been followed by many. The chapel is a place of peace and tranquility and has become a spiritual haven for reflection. Its doors have never been locked, and for many it represents serenity, nobility, and comfort for all.

The memorial is recognized as a monument of national significance and embodies the harmony and solace of Angel Fire's landscape and New Mexico's citizenry. The substantial financial and emotional contributions made by Dr. and Mrs. Westphall represent their efforts to honor all veterans and to properly memorialize the sacrifices made during the Vietnam war. In 2005, the David Westphall Veterans Foundation donated the memorial to the State of New Mexico and it is now officially the Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park—the only State park in the United States dedicated solely as a Vietnam veterans memorial. New Mexico State Parks plans to maintain and improve the Memorial and stay true to its purpose as a place of healing and education.

The memorial plays a large role in helping to heal the wounds of the Vietnam war. It helps bring us together not only to remember what occurred and what was lost, but also to ensure that we do not forget. In keeping with the traditions of all that Dr. Victor Westphall, Mrs. Jeanne Westphall, their son, and their family stood for, please join me in proudly recognizing them with this legislation.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6049, the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act. This legislation will extend and expand tax incentives for renewable energy and create hundreds of thousands of green jobs, along with providing critical tax relief to families as they face rising gas and food costs.

With soaring gas prices hitting our constituents hard in the pocket book, we need to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, while protecting the environment. H.R. 6049 does this by increasing production of renewable fuels and renewable electricity, and encouraging greater energy efficiency. Specifically, the 6-year extension of the investment tax credit for solar energy, the 3-year extension of the production tax credit for biomass-, geothermal-, and hydropower-generated energy, and the 1-year extension of the production tax credit for energy derived from wind set us on the right path for decreasing our dependence on foreign oil.

This bill would also provide critical tax relief to families at a time when they are paying more at the pump and in the grocery store. When passed, this bill would provide this relief through the ability to deduct State and local sales tax, tuition and other education expenses including the out-of-pocket expenses by teachers, the deduction of property taxes for non-itemizers and probably most importantly, relief for more than 12 million children through an expansion of the refundable child taxpayers earning \$8,500 a year. These are commonsense items directed towards those who are in the most need of relief. It is no secret that the cost of living is increasing and wages are stagnant. These provisions will help the average American family receive some relief.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to support the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a potentially serious liver disease that affects a growing number of young people in our society and to commend an outstanding research program that the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), a unit of the National Institutes of Health, is conducting to address it before it creates a major crisis for our population.

I am referring to Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease, NAFLD. While the name is unwieldy, the concerns are real. We are all aware of the growing epidemic of obesity in young people and the impact that this can have on increased incidence of diabetes, heart disease,

and stroke. However, few of us realize that obese children often have fat buildup in their livers. This can lead to cirrhosis, or scarring of the liver, and cause serious complications in adolescence or young adulthood.

The Liver Disease Research Branch at NIDDK has built a national network of researchers focusing on Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease, and they have assembled a database that includes information on more than 1,500 adults and children. In addition, this network is doing a study in children that is expected to determine by next year whether sustained treatment with either metformin or vitamin E improves the liver when compared to a placebo. The results will help determine treatment options for children with Fatty Liver Disease.

This is an important disease for which NIH is doing exactly what we would hope—addressing a major health issue before it becomes a national crisis. This is yet another example of how our investment in this important agency today saves billions of dollars in future health care spending and prevents untold human suffering.

Madam Speaker, this research is one of many examples underscoring the value of our investment in biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health, and I trust that, like me, my colleagues will recognize the positive impact these advancements will have on the health of our Nation.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2419,
FOOD, CONSERVATION, AND EN-
ERGY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today the President vetoed the Farm Bill conference report—a significant piece of legislation that is supported by the vast majority of the House of Representatives. While I am disappointed with the President's veto, I am proud to stand with so many of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle in making the Farm Bill law.

This bill, while not perfect, addresses some of the most pressing issues facing our nation today. Perhaps most importantly, this bill will provide millions of Americans with access to healthy food, especially those hit hardest by the President's failed economic policies. Nearly three-quarters of the bill's funding will promote nutrition initiatives such as increased access to food stamps, emergency food assistance programs, and a program to supply our schools with fresh fruits and vegetables as a healthy snack alternative to reduce our unacceptably high ratio of obese children.

This bill will help my home state of Colorado continue to lead the nation in developing renewable energy technologies, and will help our nation move closer to energy independence, while reducing overly generous tax credits for corn-based ethanol, and creating a better tax credit for the production of more efficient cellulosic biofuels, such as switch grass and wood chips.

The bill also ensures that farmers in Colorado and around the nation have some protections should a natural disaster befall them.

This action may foster lower future grocery prices by speeding up disaster compensation for lost crops and allowing farmers to bring new crops to market faster. Meanwhile, conservation programs included in the bill will help further protect sensitive rural fields from urban sprawl and harmful over farming, while encouraging public access to private land.

Of particular interest to Colorado, this bill includes legislation I introduced that will protect the future of Colorado's unique collection of mutual ditch companies and the precious water rights that they share for the mutual benefit of all Coloradans.

To be sure, I would have preferred this bill include tighter reforms on farm subsidies, especially when many farmers are reporting surging profits. But no compromise can be all things to all people, and while this Farm Bill is not perfect, it is good for Colorado and for our nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in overriding the President's flawed national priorities when it comes to agriculture, energy independence and ensuring that American families have food on their tables.

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL CER-
TIFICATE OF MERIT RECIPIENT
GOLI ZARCHI

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the successes and achievements of Goli Zarchi, who has received the Congressional Certificate of Merit award at McNeil High School in Austin, Texas. Goli has shown exceptional leadership qualities through her involvement in numerous activities which makes her a great candidate for this award.

Goli is involved in HOPE, a program that mentors at-risk students, Student Council, National Honor Society, National Latin Society, and the Green Club. She has also participated in many community service projects outside of school and has shown outstanding academic performance during her high school career.

I congratulate Goli Zarchi for her achievements in school and in her community and am proud to represent such talented and dedicated people in the 31st District of Texas.

WORKSITE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker. I rise today in support of worksite physical activity. On Wednesday, April 23rd, I had the distinct honor of opening a session on Capitol Hill that focused on the importance of worksite physical activity and how such activity benefits individuals, society, our economy and our government. There were a number of congressional offices in attendance, but the session covered such an important topic I wanted to share a bit of it with my colleagues here today.

The session, organized by the non-profit group, Partnership for Prevention, featured

speakers from the Center for Disease Control, the National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity, the International Health, Racquet and Sportsclub Association and Erickson Communities.

The reason for the session was simple—obesity in this country is rising with nearly 67 percent of all American adults being classified as obese. Health care costs associated with diseases in which obesity is a contributing factor are rising, with costs increasing over the thirteen-year period from 1987 to 2000 by between 16 and 30 percent for such diseases as diabetes, arthritis, hypertension, cancer and heart problems. Obesity costs employers more than \$117 billion annually in sick leave, medical costs, lost productivity and labor replacement costs. And the government spends more combating these diseases through our federal medical programs.

Given how widespread and deeply disturbing this issue is, all of us have a role in combating obesity. Individuals need to exercise more. Companies need to provide more help for workplace fitness and we in government ought to both promote physical activity and eliminate any barriers that might exist that prevent that at the federal level.

The speakers addressed each of these issues, with many interesting and important facts, but the one that stuck out in my mind was a simple one. For every \$ that a company invests in a workplace fitness program, it gets back \$3.48 in reduced health care costs, lower worker absenteeism and increased productivity. That is a great return on investment. It is why so many companies have invested heavily in workplace fitness.

Sadly, we in Congress have not yet done our part. There are still too many barriers within the federal legal code to the promotion of workplace physical activity. Two pieces of legislation currently pending before the House, H.R. 1748, the Workforce Health Improvement Program Act, and H.R. 245, the Personal Health Investment Today Act, would eliminate federal tax barriers to the active promotion of physical activity. I and a number of my colleagues in the House, from both sides of the aisle, support these bills and we are working to get them enacted. Just as companies and organizations like the ones at the briefing have stepped up, I hope Congress will do the same.

IN RECOGNITION OF POPPY WEEK

HON. JOE WILSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, May 23rd through May 28th has been designated Poppy Week by the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary of South Carolina. I am grateful to have this opportunity to express my gratitude to the American Legion and to our brave servicemembers they honor this week.

The Poppy is the official flower of the American Legion. The flower symbolizes remembrance and serves as a memorial for the brave men and women of our armed forces who have given their lives in defense of this nation and our many freedoms. Since World War I, the Poppy Program has offered direct assistance to our veterans and their families.

As this year's Memorial Day approaches, I want to commend the American Legion for their hard work on behalf of our nation's military.

The poppies that are distributed by the American Legion do more than just raise awareness. Through their tireless and coordinated efforts, the men and women of the American Legion are able to raise valuable charitable donations that can be used to increase awareness about the needs of our veterans and military families and even directly assist those families and their loved ones who may be disabled or hospitalized.

I wish to thank Ms. Ethel Atkins, Poppy Chairman for the American Legion Auxiliary of South Carolina, for her hard work as well as Ms. Dorothy Tunstall, President of the American Legion Auxiliary of South Carolina. I appreciate the success of Past President Willie Wingard of Lexington. Their efforts and the work of all members of the American Legion honor the sacrifice of our brave American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

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

H.R. 5658, the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation, Army (R-1 Line 55).

Project: Compact Pulsed Power for Defense Applications, \$4 million.

Requesting Entity: Texas Tech University, 2500 Broadway, Lubbock, TX 79409.

Percent and source of required matching funds: The Center for Pulsed Power and Power Electronics (P3E) at TTU has an operating budget approximately of \$3 million supported almost exclusively by competitive grants from DOD and DOE laboratories and relevant U.S. contractors.

As a state-sponsored university, Texas Tech will provide the required matching funds for the research to be conducted by this project.

Justification for use of federal taxpayer dollars: This initiative will continue the work of the P3E Center to develop compact electromagnetic radiation technology that will disrupt remote detonation electronics used in improvised roadside bombs and inner-city car bombs. The Department of Defense's Joint IED Defeat Organization (JIEDDO) is aware of the P3E Center's technology and has invited the Center to submit an unsolicited proposal for funding from JIEDDO, which is currently pending. The P3E Center also receives support from the Office of Naval Research.

In the past 10 years, the P3E Center has focused its research in the areas of high power microwave systems, explosively driven pulsed power, compact pulsed power and ultra high-power electronics. Much of this research has been sponsored by DOD and its agencies. These technologies have matured in the last few years to a point where system integration now is possible. A great push needs to be made in this area to allow these electric weapons to reach the military now, where they are clearly needed today. Funding from this initia-

tive will accelerate the P3E Center's research to allow the compact pulsed power technology to be fielded by the military in a shorter period of time.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday May 22, 2008

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

Name of Project: Physical Fitness Center.

Requesting Member: Congressman MICHAEL N. CASTLE.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Dover Air Force Base.

Address of Requesting Entity: Dover, DE.

Project Description: The existing fitness center at Dover AFB is not large enough to accommodate the needs of all personnel in sports, wellness, and fitness programs. A new facility is necessary to meet the Air Force's new requirements and emphasis on physical fitness, health, and wellness. The existing facility is insufficient to accommodate year-round use necessary for mission readiness. The new facility will provide for an additional gymnasium and fitness rooms, as well as incorporating a Health and Wellness Center. The project has been included in the President's FY09 Budget Request.

Name of Project: Information Operations Communication Facility.

Requesting Member: Congressman MICHAEL N. CASTLE.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Dover Air Force Base.

Address of Requesting Entity: Dover, DE.

Project Description: The current Delaware National Guard Information Operations Unit operates from a cramped, overloaded, inadequate facility. Because of the specialized nature of this new mission, there are no facilities on the New Castle Air National Guard base that can accommodate the unit. Without a new facility, the unit will not be capable of properly training or supporting active combat missions with respect to intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance. This project has been included in the President's FY09 Budget Request.

COMMEMORATING GERALD R. FORD

HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mrs. BONO MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor President Gerald R. Ford and I want to thank my 37 colleagues who have agreed to join me in naming a post office located in Rancho Mirage, CA, in my district, as the Gerald R. Ford Post Office.

Many of my colleagues may know that President Ford and his family resided in Rancho Mirage for many years before his passing.

President Ford and former First Lady Betty Ford were active members of our local com-

munity, generously contributing to the betterment of our residents with their involvement in charities and support for the successful Betty Ford Center for drug and alcohol rehabilitation.

Naming this post office near the Ford residence will not only celebrate President Ford's involvement in our community but will pay tribute to his incredible life and career surrounding his leadership as our 38th President.

Among President Ford's many lifetime achievements was serving our country during WWII, rising to the ranks of naval lieutenant commander and serving in Congress for 25 years, 8 of which he was the minority leader. As President, he led our citizens during a time of war, economic uncertainty, and low morale. With his steady direction, he worked to unify our Nation during a tumultuous time in our Nation's history.

He was one of our most respected leaders, and worked on many fronts to unify our citizens and strengthen our trust in America's future. Even many years after his Presidency, President Ford continued serving as a source of wise counsel to leaders throughout our Nation and the world.

As a cherished resident in my district, where many locals called him a friend, President Ford is most deserving of the honor that this Gerald R. Ford Post Office will bring him and his family.

I ask that my colleagues, who wish to commemorate the legacy of President Ford, join me in naming this post office near the Ford residence after this incredible American.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

House Appropriations, Subcommittee on Defense Supplemental Information.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, The National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2009.

Specifics: Hall, Ralph—\$2,000,000, UH-60 Weapons Armament Mission B-Kit.

Account: U.S. Army, Aircraft Procurement, Army/2/Modification of Aircraft UTILITY HELICOPTER MODS (AA0480) Procurement P-1, Line 020, Number: AA0480.

Legal name and address of entity receiving earmark: Contract Fabrication and Design LLC (CFD), 5427 FM 546, Princeton, Texas 75407-4763, 972-736-2260—Office, 972-736-6063—Fax.

Description of how the money will be spent: The UH-60, Weapons Armament Mission B-Kit, has been developed, qualified and tested to meet the U.S. Army, UH-60 BLACK HAWK, M-240 High Capacity Feed System (HCFS) Operational Requirements Document (ORD). The unfunded ORD requires ammunition on board the UH-60 for 2 minutes of continuous fire or 1000 rounds versus the 200 max rounds available to the Warfighter today. This B-Kit exceeds the ammunition requirement and all components are mounted external to the cabin freeing up approximately 30 cubic feet of space.

It provides the Warfighter a 10 times increase in 7.62mm magazine capacity (2000 rounds/side) for the M-240 and provides

greater accuracy and increased field of fire for increased soldier survivability.

The amount requested will fund the procurement (including packaging and shipping) of approximately 13 shipsets (2 sides per shipset) at a per shipset price of approximately \$148,000 each.

Why the use of federal taxpayer funding is justified: This Kit exceeds the unfunded ORD requirement providing 10 times more ammunition for defending the Warfighter, providing significantly more accuracy, thus more lethal firepower with superior self protection and frees up critical cabin space; meets ammunition fire rates required by UH-60 Operational Requirements Documents for greatly improved safety of crew and soldiers in combat.

Percent and source of required matching fund: Not applicable—the entity receiving the funding will be providing support to a federal, state, or local government agency.

RALPH HALL FY09 Earmark Paper: Chemical-Mechanical Self-Destruct Fuze (cm-SDF) for Dual-Purpose Improved Conventional Munitions (DPICM).

Authorized Amount: \$2,000,000.00.

Project Name: Chemical-Mechanical Self-Destruct Fuze (cm-SDF).

MM: Army.

Funding Source: Army—Research, Development, Test & Evaluation.

PE Number: 0603004A.

Line Number: 32.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, The Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act of FY2009.

Legal name and address of entity receiving earmark: Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant, Texarkana, TX 75505-9100; Picatinny Arsenal Support—\$350,000; Yuma Test Center Support—\$200,000; LAP 8640 Inert grenades w/ 223 fuze—\$5,400; Remove 223 fuze to create “Recap” grenades—\$4,400; Assemble cm-SDF Fuzes—\$360,140; LAP 120 Projectiles w/ recap grenade—\$56,000; Automatic Ampule Mfg Machine—\$172,000; Progressive Dieset f/ Housing—\$88,000; Progressive Dieset f/ Cover—\$75,000; Develop Prototype prod process—\$484,000; Level of effort Engr Support—\$200,000; General Machine Shop Support—\$25,000; Local Test Facilities (Jolt, Jumble, ballistic simulation)—\$49,850; Demonstrate Production Capability—\$161,880; Travel—\$50,000; TOTAL—\$2,281,670. Day & Zimmermann Match (12%), \$281,670 (Note: To date, Day & Zimmermann has invested in excess of \$800,000 on this development).

Net funding request—\$2,000,000

Continue development of cm-SDF for use on all submunitions of the DPICM family. Through continued R&D, qualification testing, process development and production demonstration, this program seeks to provide the U.S. Army with a simple and cost-effective alternative fuze capable of achieving the Army's goal of limiting battlefield Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) to less than 1%.

The DPICM system, delivered by both artillery shell and rocket warhead, provides unprecedented effectiveness on the battlefield but its use is threatened due to residual UXO exceeding the minimum allowed 1%. The cm-SDF offers an innovative approach to self-destruct capability that will meet UXO thresholds while being the most cost-effective solution. Its simplicity, ease of manufacture, and use of readily available materials are important considerations in developing an SDF to assure sustained viability of the DPICM system.

This fuze has been under development by the operating contractor of Lone Star AAP for approximately three years, with contractor's investment to date exceeding \$800,000. In January, 2008, with support of the Program Manager, Combat Ammunition Systems (PM-CAS), a “Proof-of-Principle” ballistic test was conducted at Yuma Test Center with encouraging results. Currently, “lessons learned” from this test are being incorporated into the fuze design, and Lone Star is working with PM-CAS toward follow-up ballistic testing leading to Fuze Qualification.

TeraStack Pilot for Army Telemedicine [TPAT].

Bill number and account: C/M RALPH HALL. H.R. 5658, The Duncan Hunter NDAA of Fiscal Year 2009; \$2,500,000.00; RDT&E [Research, Development, Test & Evaluation]; PE 0603002A / R-1 Line 30.

Legal name and address of entity receiving earmark: Hie Electronics, 321 N Central Expy, Ste 260, McKinney, TX.

Description of how the money will be spent and why the use of federal taxpayer funding is justified: This project provides DoD health care with a low cost alternative diagnostic image storage solution that saves 5-7 times the cost of current technologies for medical imaging with data securely guaranteed for 85 years. Current legacy DoD systems are overflowing. Upgrades will be too costly if conventional type systems are used. Further, this technology uses 10 times less energy and is completely portable for a wide array of DoD applications, both within and external to garrisoned medical operations. In addition to being a state-of-the-art storage system, the platform also hosts advanced processor capability which can run automated imaging algorithms enhancing medical care for our returning wounded soldiers. These algorithms are essential for new ways to diagnose and study Traumatic Brain Injury [TBI].

This worthy pilot provides an essential low cost award-winning solution for urgently needed medical storage requirements. The approach is being proven in other video/imaging applications with documented “real” savings of up to 90% over current solutions that are expected to break down within 5 years. The TeraStack solution has no requirement for special air conditioned rooms and uses a tiny fraction of electricity [760 W]—plugging into an ordinary room plug. This fully rearward compatible, portable and secure system represents the first increment of next generation environmentally friendly, massive storage systems for a wide range of medical and DoD applications. This pilot introduces this technology into the DoD health care system. It's desperately needed and will have a huge impact. The first application to be demonstrated includes new brain imaging algorithms for studying Traumatic Brain Injury.

Description of matching funds: This small business has pledged to match up to 10% of the award with internal resources to insure integration and advanced development features to customize this novel “best in class” technology for DoD applications as required.

Requesting Member: Representative RALPH M. HALL.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, The Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Air Force, RDT&E, Line 192, PE 0305207F, Manned Reconnaissance Systems.

Project Name: Rivet Joint ISR Network Integration.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: L-3 Communications Integrated Systems.

Address of Requesting Entity: 10001 Jack Finney Boulevard, Greenville, TX 75403.

Anticipated sources of funding for the duration of the project: Additional funding would be provided by the Air Force to procure this capability after successful demonstration of the developmental prototype, in their future years budget requests.

Percent and source of required matching funds: N/A, this program is providing a good or service to the Department of Defense.

Justification for use of federal taxpayer dollars: The Rivet Joint will provide networking upgrades that will enable it to fully collaborate with a variety of Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) nodes so that more effective projections of threat environments can be made. Detailed analysis of Rivet Joint operations shows that full integration of networked capabilities will result in a 25% improvement in critical Threat Analysis Measures of Effectiveness for priority dual-use commercial communication threat environments. The specific threats that will be addressed by this system upgrade are the highest priority threats to ongoing military operations.

Detailed finance plan: \$1,250,000 is for Non-Recurring Engineering Design and Development; \$1,250,000 is for Manufacture, Design and Production of Networked Speech, Geo-Location, and Reach-back Processing and Data Base Access Applications; and \$1,000,000 is for Labor, Materials, and System Installation and Integration on one Rivet Joint aircraft.

Stryker Common Active Protection System (APS) Radar.

Bill Number and Account: H.R. 5658, RDT&E, Army, Line 62.

Name and Address of Recipient: Raytheon Company, 2501 West University Drive, McKinney, TX 75070.

Program Description/Use of FY09 Funding: Active Protection System (APS) is an externally mounted vehicle protection system that identifies, discriminates and intercepts rocket propelled grenades (RPGs), mortars, antitank guided missiles and artillery projectiles after they are launched toward a combat vehicle. The system consists of the Multi-Function Radio Frequency (MFRF) radar, launchers, fire control processors and countermeasures. In March, 2006, the Army competitively awarded a contract with two options for APS. Option A for the Short Range Countermeasure is in development and will integrate RPG protection into current combat vehicles, beginning with Stryker. Option B will address the longer range threats and is a sub-system to the Hit Avoidance Suite for the Future Combat Systems (FCS) fleet of Manned Ground Vehicles (MGV). In 2007, the Army accelerated the requirement for Stryker by designating it a critical component of Spin Out 2, the second increment of FCS technologies to be fielded to the Current Force in the 2010-2012 timeframe. The FY09 President's budget request does not contain funding to support APS integration onto Stryker. Without FY09 funding, the Current Force APS may not be ready for integration onto Stryker during FCS Spin Out 2. The MFRF radar detects and tracks incoming threats and cues the APS to launch the countermeasure. Initially designed for integration into the FCS MGVs, the MFRF radar must

be technically optimized for Stryker while maintaining commonality with the long range design. The additional FY09 funding will allow insertion of reduced cost electronics and modifications to the radar for Stryker integration, as well as software and hardware development for system command and control, including the man-machine interface.

Anticipated Sources of Funding: APS development is funded under the FCS MGV budget line, but there is no dedicated funding to support APS development for Stryker in FY08 or FY09. The Army originally requested funding in FY08 for Stryker APS but has since reallocated the funding to support power management and the other upgrades Stryker needs to accommodate FCS Spin Outs. The Army is committed to funding APS for Stryker starting in the FY10 budget. Details of the FY10 funding will not be known until the Army finalizes its FY10–15 Future Years Defense Plan (FYDP).

Matching Funds: N/A.

Justification for Use of Taxpayer Dollars: This project aims to accelerate delivery of a validated military need intended to enhance protection of Army soldiers and vehicles. As a priority military initiative, this program will be funded through federal expenditures.

Project Name: Prepreg Thickness Variability Reduction Program.

Requested by Congressman RALPH HALL (TX-4).

Total Requested funding FY09: \$3.6 million.

Justification of the use of federal funds: This program will reduce the variability of Carbon fiber prepreg, the raw material that provides the basis for strong, durable, light-weight composite aircraft structures. It is predominantly used by the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and the airline industry to fabricate aircraft structures such as wing skins. A major impediment to assembling composite aircraft structural components is the dimensional mismatch of composite parts which may produce rough edges, overlays, or gaps between parts. Much of this mismatch is due to variations that occur in component manufacturing. Funding has been applied to efforts to reduce variation in component manufacturing by the Air Force and the prime contractors. Unfortunately, funds have not been directed towards efforts to reduce variation by refining the raw material—carbon fiber prepreg. Lower prepreg variation will avoid the purchase of costly precision machining equipment by program partners, estimated at \$80 million, to mitigate surface and component part deviations. Federal funding is justified in this effort to reducing the variability of prepreg to help the Joint Strike Fighter program and others meet the goal of reducing the overall variability of composite parts. This is vital to reduce the weight of aircraft, as well as to promote optimal stealth capabilities.

Detailed Budget for Variation Reduction Development Program:

Materials: Resin and prepreg production, production trials, feedstock variations, customer shop trials, and packaging supplies—\$200K.

Deliverables: (1) Develop and demonstrate the necessary equipment and processes for production and (2) Document aerospace production control documents (PCD) for JSF Program technical approval and signature.

Labor: Scientist, technicians, mechanics, testing personnel, and production operators—\$300K.

Deliverables: (1) Direct the work to be done, optimize process, execute plan scale up work and (2) Ensure best practice sharing of manufacturing engineering development.

Testing: Fiber testing, production of composites, and testing of the composite coupons—\$1400K.

Deliverables: (1) Generate meaningful composite material data, demonstrating alignment to heritage mechanical test data bases and (2) Review data and correlate to end-use application.

Overhead, Contract Management, Miscellaneous—\$100K.

Total Budget: \$2000K.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit documentation consistent with the new Republican Earmark Standards.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658—The Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2009.

Account: Military Construction, Navy.

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Naval Station Mayport.

Address of Receiving Entity: Mayport, Florida.

Description of Request: I have secured \$3,530,000 in authorization funding in H.R. 5658 in the Military Construction, Navy account for an Aircraft Refueling project at Naval Station Mayport, Florida.

This project will construct a two (2) outlet, 300gpm/outlet aircraft direct fueling system to include concrete foundations and slab on grade, 15,000 gallon double wall steel tanks (to be relocated from the existing truck fill stand), concrete containment berms, double walled underground piping, valves, pumps, pressure gauges, filter separators, leak detection monitors for piping and tanks, float switches, double wall steel product recovery tank, emergency shut off valves, fuel quality monitors, pipe vents, fire protection, pressure indicating transmitter and water drain off system. It would also construct underground double walled fuel transfer line from bulk storage to the direct fueling facility. The project will properly close, by abandoning in place, the existing underground fuel transfer line from the bulk storage to the existing truck fill stand. Closure will include pigging/purging the lines, grout injection of ends, core boring and soil sampling along the fuel transfer line, and submission of a Florida Department of Environmental Protection Closure Assessment Report.

In addition, this project will construct a 150 m2, single story building on a concrete slab on grade and concrete footings. The building and fuel lab will include vinyl floor tile, steel stud/gypsum wallboard walls, hollow core interior steel doors, solid core exterior steel doors, double glazed single hung windows, modified bitumen roofing, interior plumbing, electrical power and lighting wiring, data/communication wiring, fluorescent lighting fixtures, ceramic bathroom tile, HVAC system/distribution/controls and site utilities (electric, water, sanitary,

fiber optic communication/data). The project demolishes building 18 (32 m2) and the truck fill stand facility 142 (400 GM).

Naval Station Mayport is a strategic base for the Navy. This project was programmed to receive funding in Fiscal Year 2012, but was identified by the base commander as the highest unfunded priority in Fiscal Year 2009.

Military Construction projects are always 100 percent funded by the U.S. Federal government so there is no opportunity for matching funds.

HONORING MR. JOHN G. CARLSON
AND DR. NGAI XUAN NGUYEN

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Speaker, recently I was visited in my office by two great Americans who have for many years been leading our nation's moral effort against the government of Communist Vietnam: Mr. John G. Carlson and Dr. Ngai Xuan Nguyen. Whenever they come to town the bureaucrats in the State Department know that they will be asked some hard hitting questions and subjected to piercing scrutiny regarding the Administration's Vietnam appeasement policy. Messrs. Carlson's and Nguyen have sacrificed so much of their own personal time and resources in their endeavour "to bring improved democracy, human rights and religious freedom to the people of Vietnam" they deserve the admiration of all of us.

I am submitting for the RECORD a list that these two gentleman gave to me of ten political prisoners being detained in Vietnam and a statement by Mr. Nguyen to Secretary David Kramer, Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. I hope that the Vietnamese Communist Party quickly responds by doing the right thing and release the prisoners. I also strongly urge Secretary Kramer to follow the advice of Mr. Nguyen so clearly outlined in his statement.

ADDITIONAL POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS PRISONERS BEING DETAINED—MAY 13, 2008

1. Bui Kim Thanh, lawyer of the Democratic Party of VN [DPV], rearrested and placed in a mental institution in Bien Hoa.
2. Ho Thi Bich Khuong, block 8406, sentenced 2 years in jail.
3. Nguyen Hoang Hai Blogger Dieu Cay, Club of VN freelance journalists, arrested in Dalat since 4/19/08.
4. Truong Minh Duc, journalist, VN Populist Party, awaiting trial, arrested in Kien Giang.
5. Nguyen Quoc Quan, Viet Tan Party, awaiting trial scheduled 5/13/08.
6. Nguyen The Vu, Viet Tan Party, awaiting trial scheduled 5/13/08.
7. Somsak Khummi, Viet Tan Party, awaiting trial scheduled 5/13/08.
8. Pham Ba Hai, Bach Dang Giang Group, sentenced to 5 years in jail.
9. Nguyen Ngoc Quang, Bach Dang Giang Group, sentenced to 3 years in jail.
10. Vu Hoang Hai, Bach Dang Giang Group, sentenced 2 years in jail.

STATEMENT BY DR. NGAI XUAN NGUYEN, VICE CHAIRMAN, DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF VIETNAM—SUBMITTED TO SECRETARY DAVID KRAMER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND LABOR—MAY 16, 2008

On May 29, 2008, you will lead a U.S. delegation to Hanoi to participate in a dialogue on U.S.-Vietnam Human Rights.

As Vice Chairman of the Democratic Party of Vietnam, our Mission is to bring improved democracy, human rights and religious freedom to the people of Vietnam.

Even though Vietnam's economy has undergone dramatic growth in recent years, Hanoi continues its oppression of human rights and religious freedom, just as it has been doing for decades. An ongoing U.S.-Vietnam dialogue can expand understanding between our two countries and peoples while consolidating human rights gains that have been won. However, actions speak louder than words.

Therefore, we respectfully request that you discuss the following major issues with the Vietnamese government during your meetings in Hanoi, May 29:

1. All political and religious prisoners who are still being jailed in Vietnam must be set free, unconditionally. Congressman Dana Rohrabacher placed this list of 85 people in the Congressional Record in 2007, and a copy is available. Ten new activists, list attached, have been recently retained and should be added to this list, including Bui Thanh, a lawyer who has recently been sent to a mental institution. All 95 prisoners should be released, immediately.

2. Condemn the Vietnamese government for arresting and interrogating for more than six hours, Dr. Nguyen Thi An Nhan, and then deporting her on February 15, 2008. Dr. Nhan is a graduate of Harvard University Medical School and is currently a heart surgeon specialist at Stanford University. Her only "crime" was that she is a member of the Democratic Party of Vietnam and was in Hanoi to attend the funeral of Professor Hoang Minh Chinh on February 16, the Founder and Secretary General of the Democratic Party of Vietnam.

3. Unless major changes and improvements are made immediately, the U.S. State Department will recommend that Vietnam be redesignated a "country of particular concern" for its lack of democracy, human rights and religious freedom. Once Vietnam was removed from the CPC list and accepted into the World Trade Organization, human rights and religious freedom in Vietnam significantly deteriorated, as reported by Human Rights Watch on May 8, 2008. Several leaders of the UBCV (Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam) have been harassed and their pagodas destroyed in Lam Dong, Hue and Quant Tri in 2008. Many Christian leaders have been imprisoned and a major Montagnard Christian demonstration led by Reverend Nguyen Cong Chinh in April 2008 in Gia Lai and Daklak was oppressed by the Vietnam government with dozens of protestors beaten and arrested. Reverend Le Ngoc Thuong, from New Orleans, was arrested and deported to the U.S. while visiting Vietnam in April 2008. Major conflicts between the Vietnam government and Roman Catholic churches have erupted after the Vietnam government stole their land. These are just a few of the recent actions in the last several months.

4. If there is not an improvement in human rights, the U.S. Department of State will recommend that H.R. 3096, The Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2007, be passed in the United States Senate. H.R. 3096, which passed the House on September 18, 2007, condemns the ongoing human rights abuses in

Vietnam, and prohibits increased U.S. non-humanitarian assistance to the Government of Vietnam unless there is verifiable evidence that the Vietnamese government has made substantial progress towards the release of its political and religious prisoners. In addition, this legislation requires that the Vietnam government respect the rights to freedom of religion, freedom of press and returns all confiscated properties.

Again, we in the Democratic Party of Vietnam thank you for your continued efforts to bring about real change in Vietnam. However, talk is cheap, and it is time to see significant actions and results from the government of Vietnam.

HONORING CONSTANCE RAU

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I stand today to pay tribute to Constance Rau as she retires from the Flint Community Schools. A celebration is planned for May 22 to recognize her work and contributions to Flint area youth.

Connie Rau's work with the community began long before Flint Community Schools employed her. From 1975 to 1985 she was a senior therapist with the substance abuse program at Flint Osteopathic Hospital. She became a program manager at Insight Outpatient Chemical Dependency Clinic and then became the director of Children and Adolescent Services with the Genesee County Commission on Substance Abuse Services. It was during this time that Connie also started to write a column in the Flint Journal entitled "Considering Kids" and she was an instructor at Mott Community College. She also was an intern field supervisor for several area universities.

As a member of the Flint Community Schools Youth Projects staff, Connie has had tremendous impact on the children of Flint. She was instrumental in organizing several programs that directly benefited the most vulnerable children in the Flint school system. She coordinates two intervention programs for the Genesee County Family Court, the Youth Projects Diversion and the Youth Projects Diversion—Attendance Court. She established the "Roast and Toast" fundraiser for student activities. She established the "Shoes that Fit" Flint Chapter, the Language Exchange program, and the Teen Female Expo. Working with Quota International of Flint, Connie launched the Cops and Kids program.

Recognized by the Woodrow Stanley Foundation for her work with children, Connie is a co-founder of the Mayor's Committee for National Youth Service Day recognizing the thousands of Community service hours the youth of Flint have contributed to improving the quality of life in their hometown.

In addition to her work with children, Connie is active in Peace Lutheran Church, at various times she has held the positions of Director of Education, Director of Finance, and currently is Director of Stewardship. She is on the Board of Directors for the Intake, Assessment and Referral Center and she is a mentor in the Big Brother, Big Sisters Lunch Buddies program.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the

work of Constance Rau as she retires from the Flint Community Schools. She has spent her life devoted to children and has enriched their lives through her work. All will miss her insight, innovative spirit and enthusiasm for her work and community. However, we know that she will always be meaningfully involved.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, as a leader on earmark reform among House Republicans, I am committed to honoring House Republican rules that provide for greater transparency. The fiscal year 2009 National Defense Authorization Act contains the following funding that I requested:

Requesting Member: Representative ZACH WAMP.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Military Construction, Army National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Tennessee National Guard.

Address: 3041 Sidco Drive, Nashville, TN.

Description of Request: \$10,372,000 for the construction of a new Army National Guard Readiness Center to replace the inadequate Readiness Center that was constructed in 1954. The existing facility has numerous health and safety issues as well as significant electrical code issues, and ADA violations. The new facility will house the 20th Troop Command, and the Company Headquarters of the 1175th Transportation Company. This project is in the Army National Guard's Fiscal Year 2012 Future Year Defense Plan.

Requesting Member: Representative ZACH WAMP.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Weapons Activities.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Y-12 National Security Complex.

Address: Oak Ridge, TN.

Description of Request: \$5,000,000 in the Readiness in Technical Base and Facilities Program.

Operations and Facilities Account for basic operational needs at the Y-12 National Security Complex, a Department of Energy nuclear weapons manufacturing plant. Its vast facilities and infrastructure require routine maintenance as Y-12 performs its national defense and security missions.

Requesting Member: Representative ZACH WAMP.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Weapons Activities.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Y-12 National Security Complex.

Address: Oak Ridge, TN.

Description of Request: \$3,000,000 in the Safety and Security Program to continue to improve the physical security at the Y-12 National Security Complex, a Department of Energy nuclear weapons manufacturing plant. Post 9-11, federal standards were created to achieve maximum safety at national security

sites. These funds will achieve compliance with the Design Basis Threat Policy.

Requesting Member: Representative ZACH WAMP.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Weapons Activity.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Y-12 National Security Complex.

Address: Oak Ridge, TN.

Description of Request: \$2,000,000 in the Readiness in Technical Base and Facilities Program Storage Account for Y-12 National Security Complex, a Department of Energy nuclear weapons manufacturing plant. Y-12 is transitioning to the new Highly Enriched Uranium Manufacturing Facility and following Congressional direction to transform and modernize the nuclear weapons complex.

TAIWAN'S PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Taiwan's proposed membership in the World Health Organization, WHO.

In today's global community, health is a shared responsibility, as the whole world is vulnerable to transnational diseases. Given the tremendous volume of international travel and global trade, the transmission of communicable diseases between borders has been heightened. This reality necessitates both global collaboration and a global response to prevent and control the spread of these diseases.

The World Health Organization is the organization tasked with this duty. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.

Currently, there are over 190 participants in the WHO. Taiwan is not one of them, however, which means that the 23 million citizens of Taiwan do not have access to the critical health service and information the WHO provides.

As a strong democracy and one of the world's most robust economies, Taiwan should be allowed to benefit from the health services and medical protections offered by the WHO, including direct and immediate access to up-to-date disease information. Taiwan's exclusion from the WHO also prevents the country from taking part in the WHO mechanism for the allocation of vaccines and other disease control supplies. Taiwan's inability to make use of these allocation mechanisms during international outbreaks hampers its disease control efforts and has a strong negative impact on the health of the people in Taiwan.

Taiwan's membership in the WHO is not only in the interest of the people of Taiwan, it is in the interest of the international community and the WHO itself: as the WHO stands to benefit significantly from the financial and

technological contributions that Taiwan has to offer.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of Taiwan's inclusion in the World Health Organization.

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL CERTIFICATE OF MERIT RECIPIENT REBECCA SMITH

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the successes and achievements of Rebecca Smith who has received the Congressional Certificate of Merit award at Hutto High School in Hutto, Texas. Rebecca has shown exceptional leadership qualities through her involvement in numerous activities which makes her a great candidate for this award.

Rebecca is a class officer, FCCLA officer, a member of the varsity track and cross country team, and is involved in numerous activities in her community. She is also in the top ten percent of her graduating class and has received the academic award for biology, world geography, and health.

I congratulate Rebecca Smith for her achievements in school and in her community and am proud to represent such talented and dedicated people in the 31st District of Texas.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I am submitting the following earmark disclosure and certification information for two individual project authorization requests that I made and which were included within the text of H.R. 5658, the "Duncan Hunter Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009."

Bill Number: H.R. 5658—"The Duncan Hunter Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009."

1. Requesting Member: Congresswoman CANDICE MILLER.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Project Amount: \$2.5 Million.

Account: Operations and Maintenance, Army PE# 423012.

Receiving Entity: Army Manufacturing Technical Assistance Production Program (MTAPP).

Address: U.S. Army TACOM, Industrial Base Office, AMSTA-LC-110 6501 E. Eleven Mile Rd., Warren, MI 48397.

Description of Request: MTAPP focuses on solving supply chain problems that impact the Army and Department of Defense. MTAPP solves the above-mentioned problems using small manufacturing businesses. The problems that are solved by MTAPP lead to improvement in mission capability and availability rates of Army/DoD combat and tactical vehicles. In addition, the small manufacturing busi-

nesses provide a sustainable industrial base of suppliers to support the maintenance of weapons platforms. The small businesses also provide the Defense commercial sector with a viable pool of small businesses to meet the Federal Government mandated socio-economic goals.

Matching Funds: Not applicable (Federal entity).

2. Requesting Member: Congresswoman CANDICE MILLER.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Project Amount: \$2 Million.

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Navy, PE # 0602123N.

Receiving Entity: Autonomous Superconducting Fault Current Limiting Systems.

Address: Office of Naval Research One Liberty Center 875 North Randolph Street, Suite 1425 Arlington, VA 22203-1995.

Description of Request: Modern shipboard power systems are susceptible to catastrophic high current surges (i.e. fault currents) that may result in permanent equipment damage and total power system shutdown. Efficient, reliable, and reconfigurable shipboard power systems are critical to the operation of present and future naval surface combatants, such as the DDG-1000 next-generation destroyer. High power Fault Current Limiters (FCLs) enable the integration of shipboard propulsion and distribution power systems, thus allowing propulsion power to be used for other loads under the most adverse conditions of warfare. High Temperature Superconductor-Superconductor/Metal Matrix Composite Fault Current Limiter can effectively meet the needs of the DDG-1000 and enable the integration of the shipboard propulsion/distribution power system.

Matching Funds: Not applicable.

HONORING THE LIMA COMPANY

HON. BETTY SUTTON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Ms. SUTTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Memorial Day upon us to honor and remember the 22 Marines and Navy Corpsman from the Lima Company who lost their lives while serving in Iraq in 2005.

The Lima Company is a Marine reserve unit based in Columbus, Ohio, whose members span 7 states. The Company is part of the 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, that was first activated on May 1, 1943.

The Battalion fought in several battles in World War II, including the Battle of Iwo Jima, where the unit helped capture a key airfield.

Throughout its deployment to Iraq in 2005, Lima Company served the United States with great dignity and pride. Fifty-nine of its members were awarded purple hearts.

The company was once known as "Lucky Lima." Unfortunately, the fates of the battlefield in Iraq were not kind to these men. The Lima Company is one of the hardest hit single units that has fought in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During the course of a single week in the summer of 2005, Lima lost 21 of its own. During the course of its seven-month deployment, 23 men out of 189 men were lost.

I would like to read the list of the fallen so that we take the time to honor each individual lost and remember the tremendous losses their families and communities have suffered:

Lance Corporal Timothy M. Bell, Jr.; Lance Corporal Eric J. Bernholtz; Corporal Dustin A. Derga; Lance Corporal Nicholas B. Erdy; Lance Corporal Wesley G. Davids; Sergeant David N. Wimberg; Lance Corporal Michael J. Cifuentes; Lance Corporal Christopher J. Dyer; Lance Corporal Jonathan W. Grant; Sergeant David Kenneth J. Kreuter; Lance Corporal Jourdan L. Grez; Private First Class Christopher R. Dixon.

Lance Corporal Christopher P. Lyons; Staff Sergeant Anthony L. Goodwin; Petty Officer 3rd Class Travis Youngblood; Sergeant Justin F. Hoffman; Staff Sergeant Kendall H. Ivy III; Lance Corporal Nicholas William B. Bloem; Corporal Andre L. Williams; Lance Corporal Grant B. Fraser; Lance Corporal Aaron H. Reed; Lance Corporal Edward A. Schroeder II; and Lance Corporal William B. Wightman.

These men have touched the hearts of people around Ohio as we have collectively grieved their passing. One such person who has exhibited her sincere dedication to the sacrifices of these men is Anita Miller, a liturgical artist who resides in Columbus.

Like everyone in Ohio, Anita knew the devastating losses that the Lima Company family has endured during the Iraq War and the impact that these losses have had on our communities.

Anita awoke one morning in October of 2005 with the idea of creating a lasting memorial to honor the Lima Company. She has used her immense talents to create an octagon Memorial, consisting of eight panels that depict each of the fallen Marines and Corpsman, with a candle and bronzed combat boots in front of each portrait. A shelf at the bottom of the panel will allow for flowers or mementos to be left by the public.

The memorial will be unveiled in the rotunda of the Ohio Statehouse on Friday and thereafter be a mobile memorial similar to the traveling Vietnam Memorial so that people around Ohio and the United States have an opportunity to pay tribute to Lima Company.

I know that every American joins me in remembering our men and women in uniform not just on Memorial Day, but every day, for what they have sacrificed and fought for in giving us the freedoms we hold so dear.

As we celebrate Memorial Day, I hope that memorials such as the Lima Company Traveling Memorial and services and parades around the country allow us to pay tribute to all of the men and women who have sacrificed their lives for our country.

HONORING STEVE MILLER

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steve Miller, an outstanding community leader in Kentucky's Fourth District. After 22 years as the Executive Director of the Buffalo Trace Area Development District, Steve is retiring to pursue other interests and spend time with family.

After obtaining a degree in Urban Planning at Murray State University in 1977, Steve

began his career with the Buffalo Trace Area Development District as a Transportation Planner. While completing a graduate degree in Economic Development, Steve became Associate Director, a title that he held from 1980 to 1986. Since 1986, Steve has been the Executive Director of the Buffalo Trace Area Development District.

Over the course of his 31 year career with the Buffalo Trace ADD, Steve has assisted in the development of six industrial parks, the construction of hundreds of miles of water lines, the fulfillment of several downtown revitalization projects, the inception of groundbreaking workforce development programs and many other initiatives. Steve's contributions to Bracken, Fleming, Lewis, Mason and Robertson counties are innumerable, and the families of this region live a better life today because of him. I would like to thank Mr. Stephen Miller for his extraordinary service to the entire Buffalo Trace region and to wish him the very best in his next adventure.

HONORING ELWOOD A.D. "WOODY" LECHAUSSE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor Elwood A.D. "Woody" Lechause of Enfield, Connecticut, who passed away over the weekend at the West Haven VA Medical Center.

For nearly 35 years, Connecticut veterans could rely on Woody to be their staunchest advocate in the state house and here in Congress. A veteran himself, Woody served in the United States Army from 1958 to 1965, during which he served as a Sergeant in Izmir, Turkey, in Fort Campbell, Kentucky with the 101st Airborne Division, and Quin Huon, South Vietnam with the 178th Signal (Spt) 39th Signal Battalion. He returned home to Connecticut and, fueled with his desire to improve the lives of all those who have served our nation, began a long and storied career as a rigorous and unyielding voice for improving our nation's treatment of our veterans.

As a member of several veterans service organizations, such as the Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, 82nd Airborne Division Association and the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 120, Woody served in countless leadership roles on both the state and national levels. Although a fighter on behalf of all those who wore our nation's uniform, Woody was especially dedicated to addressing the difficulties faced by our disabled veterans and those who returned home with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other mental health challenges from their combat experience.

Woody served on numerous government agencies, boards and taskforces that helped make tangible improvements in the health care, support and commemoration of all our veterans. And for his work, he was continually honored at all levels, most recently by being permanently inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame in 2007.

I was honored to meet with Woody on numerous occasions both in Washington and Connecticut, and work with him closely on ef-

forts to improve the quality of life for veterans in Connecticut and across the Nation. He was a trusted advisor to the members and staff of Connecticut's congressional delegation, and could always be relied on to help inform us of the needs of our veterans and help "get the word out" through his dialogue with veterans organizations and updates to his diverse and wide-ranging email list.

Madam Speaker, all of us in Connecticut have lost a friend, a mentor and an unmatched voice on behalf of our veterans. I ask all my colleagues to join me in expressing our sincere condolence to Woody's wife Kathryn, his sons James and Ralph, and all his friends and families during this difficult time. And, I urge all my colleagues to honor Woody's service to our nation and lifetime of advocacy on behalf of our Nation's veterans.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS IN THE WAR AGAINST ALS

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, as you know, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is a devastating disease, affecting as many as 30,000 Americans. What you may not know is that military veterans are at greater risk of ALS than those who have never served in the military.

A study by the Department of Defense (DOD) and Veterans Administration (VA) found that those who served in the 1991 Gulf War are approximately twice as likely to die from ALS as those who did not serve in the Gulf. Harvard University researchers found that, regardless of where or when they served, veterans are more likely to be diagnosed with ALS than the general public. Current research shows that ALS is occurring at greater rates in those who are serving in the current conflict in Iraq.

The Department of Defense recognized this risk by establishing the ALS Research Program (ALSRP) last year and provided \$5 million to conduct research into new treatments and a deeper understanding of the disease. The ALSRP will benefit those who served our country with better medical care, and will also give hope to all whose lives have been touched by the disease, regardless of military service.

Congress should send a clear message of support to our men and women serving in the military and continue funding for this important medical initiative. I urge my colleagues to provide funding in the 2009 Defense Appropriations Act to continue this innovative research partnership, which leverages DOD resources with scientific expertise in the private sector and at universities. This research will enable us to take action to protect our soldiers and veterans by determining why they are at greater risk, and will give us tools to treat all those who suffer from this disease.

We need to continue to wage a war against ALS, the disease that took the life of baseball greats Lou Gehrig and North Carolina's own Jim "Catfish" Hunter, as well as many other American heroes great and small. I knew "Catfish" and he was a good man, and he would be proud of the work that our local ALS

Association Chapter is doing in his name. The ALS Association is the world leader in ALS research and patient care services. The Carolinas' Jim "Catfish" Hunter Chapter of the ALS Association raises awareness and gives support to people with ALS and their families throughout North and South Carolina. For each of the past two years, it has been named as "Chapter of the Year," and their work alerted me to this important veteran's issue.

Madam Speaker, with your leadership, the support of our colleagues in Congress, and the help of activists at the grass roots level, we have a real shot at conquering ALS for our military veterans and citizens alike.

VETERANS BENEFITS AWARENESS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3681, the Veterans Benefits Awareness Act of 2008, which passed the House of Representatives this week.

Fifty veterans move to Florida every day, and I am honored to represent thousands who served our country honorably in our Nation's military. The efforts of military veterans have provided Americans with security and peace of mind, and I remain eternally grateful for their sacrifices.

I believe that America owes its military heroes a debt of gratitude, and that their priorities must be the Nation's top priorities. I am committed to making sure that members of the military and veterans receive the benefits that they deserve when they return home.

Several times per year, I am proud to convene my Congressional Veterans Advisory Groups in Broward and Palm Beach Counties to listen and learn about the needs of South Florida veterans. One of the most pressing issues that has repeatedly come up is the veterans' need to know more about their benefits. One solution to this problem is an awareness campaign to educate returning servicemembers about available benefits. The Veterans Benefits Awareness Act of 2008 does just that by allowing the Secretary of the VA to advertise and promote awareness of veterans' benefits.

I am proud to support H.R. 3681, the Veterans Benefits Awareness Act of 2008, because I believe that nothing should stand in the way between a veteran and the benefits that he or she deserves. This legislation will go a long way to help returning servicemembers and veterans in my district and throughout the country.

IN HONOR OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF BAXTER SPRINGS, KANSAS

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the city of Baxter Springs, Kansas for their sesquicentennial.

One hundred fifty years ago, Baxter Springs was founded, and it was named in honor of its first settler, John Baxter. During this time there was a booming cattle trade in Kansas, with Baxter Springs being an important point of commerce for cattlemen from the south bringing their livestock to sell in Kansas City. In fact, Baxter Springs was one of the first "Cowtowns" founded in Kansas.

Should one have the chance to visit Baxter Springs, you would see the same scenic back-grounds of Kansas prairie and the Spring River that the first settlers of the city would have viewed. The river has played host to many of the town's events over the years, and also supported the town's first flour mill.

Many visitors have come through Baxter Springs while traveling on Route 66. The road is an important part of local, and national history with Americans traveling on Route 66 to destinations near and far, viewing some of the most beautiful sites that America has to offer.

There is a lot of history in the city of Baxter Springs, and it represents an important aspect of the State of Kansas. As the sesquicentennial slogan states, "150 years and only the beginning."

I offer my sincerest congratulations to Baxter Springs and I give my warmest wishes for the next 150 years.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support of H.R. 6049, the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act of 2008.

I have always believed that as a Nation we should wean ourselves from our dependence on fossil fuels and invest in the energy of the future.

After several attempts, the House of Representatives has finally found an appropriate balance to promote the technologies of tomorrow in a way that will benefit our long term energy security.

This legislation has much to be proud of.

It will extend the tax credit for producing electricity from renewable sources of energy which will enable Texas—the Nation's number one producer of wind energy—to continue adding clean energy and jobs to our economy.

It also extends the investment tax credits for solar energy, fuel cells, and energy-efficient appliances for the home, and it creates new tax credits for plug-in hybrid vehicles and renewable energy tax-credit bonds.

And after learning of the unintended consequences that corn-based ethanol has had on our environment and global food prices, this legislation rightly includes a six-cent reduction in the ethanol tax credit and creates a new credit for the production of cellulosic biofuels.

Aside from energy provisions, I am pleased this legislation includes several sections extending benefits for members of the military and veterans.

Extension of the rules allowing military personnel to treat their combat pay as earned in-

come, extending specialized mortgage bond rules for veterans, as well as a provision allowing reservists to make penalty free withdrawals from the retirement accounts if called to active duty for 180 days or more will benefit those who have served our country, and provide added financial options for their families if necessary.

Finally, H.R. 6069 will extend the state and local sales tax deduction which assists taxpayers in Texas who do not pay a state income tax, and it provides almost \$10 billion of additional tax relief for individuals through an expansion of the refundable child tax credit and a new standard deduction for property taxes.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend and colleague, Chairman RANGEL, for producing a bill that enhances our energy and job security and that has support from both sides of the aisle.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING DR. CHARLES RUCH

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Charles Ruch for his nearly 5 years of service to the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City, South Dakota. Dr. Ruch was installed as the school's seventeenth president on July 1, 2003. During his tenure at the School of Mines, Dr. Ruch led the institution in strengthening the undergraduate curriculum to ensure that students graduate with exceptional scientific training and real world skills. Dr. Ruch worked to improve and expand graduate programs and thereby increased the research activities taking place at the School of Mines. I appreciate Dr. Ruch's commitment to working closely with the Rapid City community, the state government and Board of Regents, the Congressional delegation, and other partners to enhance the reputation of the School of Mines as a teaching and research center of excellence.

I send best wishes and congratulations to Dr. Ruch on the occasion of his retirement.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHY TO THE PEOPLE OF SICHUAN PROVINCE, CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to support H. Res. 1195 and express my heartfelt sympathy for the many victims of the recent earthquake in China's Sichuan province. My prayers go out to all those who lost loved ones and property in this unfortunate tragedy, and it is my sincere hope that the people of the region will be able to recover quickly from the humanitarian crisis that has developed.

The devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake that occurred on May 12, 2008 has already resulted in the loss of over 51,000 lives. More than 29,000 people remain missing, and nearly 300,000 others have been reported as injured. The earthquake also destroyed 80 percent of the buildings in the area, killing thousands of children who were trapped in collapsing schools. Roughly 5 million of the survivors are now homeless.

When faced with such tragedy, we must never forget the ability of the human spirit to persevere. The inspirational stories of courage and survival that have come out of this disaster remind us to never lose faith, even in the most trying of times. I would like to especially commend all those who have come out in support of the victims. From international relief organizations to local community volunteers, people of all backgrounds have set their differences aside and come together to help those in need. In the past week alone, the regions of China most affected by the earthquake have received over \$2 billion in donations.

While some of this news is encouraging, it is clear that the people of the People's Republic of China have suffered greatly from this catastrophe. I truly wish them my heartfelt prayers as they work to rebuild their communities and move forward with their lives.

VAPTSO DIAGNOSES

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express the astonishment and indignation I felt upon learning of the actions of Dr. Norma Perez, staff psychologist at the Olin E. Teague Veterans' Center in Temple, TX.

For those who may not know, Dr. Perez sent an email referring to the increase in "compensation seeking veterans" and urged medical professionals to "refrain from giving a diagnosis of PTSD straight out" citing, among other reasons, the fact that veterans who have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder at the Temple facility have been appealing their compensation and pension judgments "based on our assessment."

Madam Speaker, I am appalled. I am appalled that a medical professional at the Department of Veterans Affairs would consider the cost of treatment as a factor in making a medical diagnosis. What is the cost of a veteran's well-being? At what point do we determine that certain medical diagnoses would be too expensive to treat? At what point do we determine that a service induced injury is one that a veteran does not deserve to be compensated for?

Madam Speaker, as President Lincoln reminded us in 1865, it is our duty as a nation to ensure that we "care for him who shall have borne the battle". We must accept our responsibility and ensure that our veterans have proper and complete medical care and diagnoses that are free of political considerations and are made in terms of their well-being.

As a proud former member of the United States Army I am incensed that such a decision was ever considered. I applaud Secretary

Peake for his repudiation of this affront to our Nation's veterans and call upon him to ensure that the culture of the Department of Veterans Affairs lives up to its stated goal of "excellence in patient care, veterans' benefits and customer satisfaction."

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL CERTIFICATE OF MERIT RECIPIENT MARCI HISE

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the successes and achievements of Marci Hise, who has received the Congressional Certificate of Merit award at Georgetown High School in Georgetown, Texas. Marci has shown exceptional leadership qualities through her involvement in numerous activities which makes her a great candidate for this award.

Marci is involved in cheerleading, powerlifting, Peer Assistance and Leadership, FCA, and Peer Buddies. She also spends time each week mentoring and encouraging two elementary school students. Marci is on the A-B honor role and puts 100 percent into her academics.

I congratulate Marci Hise for her achievements in school and in her community and am proud to represent such talented and dedicated people in the 31st District of Texas.

A TRIBUTE TO KENNETH RYAN

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today the many outstanding achievements of Kenneth Ryan, the outgoing president of the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club. Kenneth's leadership during the 2007-2008 Rotary year has contributed significantly to the Hi-Noon Rotary Club and the community of Carlsbad. During his tenure, the Hi-Noon Rotary Club awarded high school scholarships, and partnered with the Carlsbad evening Rotary clubs to sponsor the annual Oktoberfest fundraiser, a community-wide event which provides financial support to the Carlsbad Women's Resource Center, The Boys and Girls Club of Carlsbad and Community Youth Services. In addition, during Kenneth's presidency, we had the most successful golf tournament in the club's history. The funds were earmarked for high school scholarships and to assist families of wounded marines.

During his presidency, a number of other projects were completed. These projects included providing volunteers to help maintain public and private property, provide food and clothing for the homeless, and assist in the distribution of food, clothing and toys to needy Carlsbad families in conjunction with the Carlsbad Christmas Bureau. A Children's Christmas party and dinner for very needy elementary school students were also provided. In an effort to improve literacy, badly needed

bilingual dictionaries were provided and distributed to English- and Spanish-speaking elementary school students. In addition a book a week was contributed to a school library, and mentors were also provided for the "City Stuff" program. This program promoted an understanding of the workings of city government for young Carlsbad school children.

On the international front, Kenneth's leadership and his team of Rotarians joined with Habitat for Humanity to build a house for a needy family in Mexico. Through the Paul Harris Fellow Program, contributions were made to the Rotary Foundation, the purpose of which is to support international projects for the benefit of humanity, such as eradication of polio through out the world and to support the Micro-banking Project.

In addition, there were numerous other projects which he led to completion during his tenure, too numerous to mention.

I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the many fine achievements of Kenneth Ryan. Without question, his leadership and the fine work of the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club are worthy of recognition by the House today.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Leadership earmark standards, I am submitting the following earmark disclosures for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Bill Number: H.R. 5658—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: GWACS Defense, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 4500 South 129th East Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74163.

Description of Request: Provide an authorization earmark of \$8,500,000 for the Ground Warfare Acoustical Combat System of Netted Sensors. The entire project cost to complete is \$19,200,000, with anticipated funding of \$5,000,000 being raised privately by GWACS Defense, Inc. over the next two years. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Department of Defense, Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy account. The funding will be used by the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab to accelerate completion and purchase of a new small arms fire detection and location technology for force protection in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Westwood Corporation.

Address of Requesting Entity: 12402 E. 60th Street, Tulsa, OK 74146.

Description of Request: Provide an authorization earmark of \$1,500,000 for Power Conversion Equipment for High Density Power Generation Packages. The \$1,500,000 project will be funded as follows: Design: \$180,000; Purchased Parts, Fabrication and Assembly:

\$720,000; Functional Testing: \$120,000; On-site Testing Support; \$480,000. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Department of Defense, Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy account. The funding will be used to allow the electrical output of a new design generator with advanced shipboard architectures. Given that this request will be providing support to a federal agency, matching funds for this request is not required.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

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

Requesting Member: Congressman CHARLES W. DENT.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Operation and Maintenance, Army. Legal Name of Requesting Entity: ProModel Corporation.

Address of Requesting Entity: 7540 Windsor Drive, Allentown, PA 18195.

Description of Request: \$2,000,000 is included to accelerate the deployment and enhance the current capabilities of the ProModel *Army Force Generation Synchronization Tool* (AST). This technology enables the Army to capture the Army Force Generation Model (ARFORGEN) process in software, providing decision makers the ability to rapidly create Courses of Action and predict the impact of their decisions on key metrics such as Dwell and Boots on Ground. The ability through automation to run "what ifs" to assess risk on readiness is recognized as a key priority for the Army and Joint Forces.

Requesting Member: Congressman CHARLES W. DENT.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDTE), Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Neuromonics, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2810 Emrick Boulevard, Bethlehem, PA 18020.

Description of Request: \$3,700,000 is included to support the Chronic Tinnitus Treatment Program—a breakthrough tinnitus treatment device (patented, FDA-cleared, and non-military clinically-tested) and program that is designed to interact, interrupt, and desensitize tinnitus disturbance for long-term benefit, especially in those suffering with chronic and severe tinnitus. The treatment program combines the use of acoustic stimulation with a structured program of counseling. The Army reports that tinnitus is among the top medical complaints of soldiers returning from OIF/OEF, particularly given the high incidence of Traumatic Brain Injury/mild Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI/mTBI). Until recently, no effective treatment program has existed to help individuals suffering with the effects of tinnitus. This funding will allow military researchers to implement the chronic tinnitus treatment program and develop important baseline data to determine the effectiveness, usefulness, and long-term benefit of the program for military servicemembers suffering with tinnitus.

Requesting Member: Congressman CHARLES W. DENT.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDTE), Air Force.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Morgan Advanced Ceramics, Inc.—Diamonex Products Division.

Address of Requesting Entity: 7331 William Avenue, Allentown, PA 18106.

Description of Request: \$1,000,000 is included to develop High Temperature, High Energy-Density Capacitors by Stacked or Multilayer CVD Processes which will scale up capacitor manufacturing capability. Capacitors are a pervasive technology in military and commercial applications. Millions are currently used in military systems and often fail due to increasing environmental temperatures and low reliability. Improved capacitor performance and smaller size have been the focus of research in diamond-like carbon (DLC) dielectrics by the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL). Morgan Advanced Ceramics has developed and tested proprietary dielectric, thin film coatings that have demonstrated the required dielectric properties. The technology utilizes semiconductor processing to produce multilayer capacitors that are 4 to 10 times smaller and lighter than the polymer-based capacitors currently in use by the military.

Requesting Member: Congressman CHARLES W. DENT.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDTE), Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Edmund Optics, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 601 Montgomery Avenue, Pennsburg, PA 18073.

Description of Request: \$2,900,000 is included to advance Precision Molding Manufacturing Technology for InfraRed Aspheric Optics. Infrared imaging technology is integrated in missile guidance, airborne reconnaissance, and situation awareness for soldiers, police, and firefighters. It presents the only viable solution for sight in total darkness, dense fog and smoke. This technology enables the armed forces to detect and identify threats, then engage and defeat the enemy at a safe distance. Production techniques for aspheric optics have limitations, as current solutions are either low-cost or high-performance but not both. Similarly, aspheres in thermal applications are produced using expensive machining techniques and costly raw materials. Molding, an alternative production technique, is the only feasible means to generate cost-effective precision infrared aspheric lenses. It is critical to shift infrared optics production from expensive machining to cost-effective precision molding.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

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

Requesting Member: Rep. JOHN M. SHIMKUS (IL-19).

Bill Number: HR 5658.

Account: US Air Force Unfunded Requirements List C-40D Procurement Line 58.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: US Air Force, 932nd Airlift Wing.

Address of Requesting Entity: Scott Air Force Base, IL 62225.

Description of Request: The \$88 million is included in the bill to procure new C40D aircraft stationed at Scott AFB, Illinois. This new aircraft will allow US Air Force to be able to support cargo, passenger, humanitarian, Homeland Defense, and emergency relief requirements of the 932nd Airlift Wing.

Matching funds: This is a full federally funded project for the US Air Force.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Requesting Member: Congressman K. MICHAEL CONAWAY.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Army, RDT&E.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Texas Tech University.

Address of Requesting Entity: 19th and University, Lubbock, Texas 79409.

Description of Request: Provide \$4,000,000 to Texas Tech University to research the use of Compact Pulsed Power as a scientific base for integrating electrical weapons systems onto all-electric combat vehicles. Compact Pulsed Power is the use of targeted electromagnetic radiation to disable electronic devices such as cell phones. Initial research indicates that compact pulsed power technology could be beneficial to the Department of Defense by being able to disable Improvised Explosive Devices used in Iraq and Afghanistan. Texas Tech has developed the technology but needs to field test it in order to deploy it with troops on the ground. An existing lightly armored vehicle such as a HMMWV will be modified to an all-electric platform with an integrated fuel cell and auxiliary battery pack. Two or three types of electric weapon systems (high power microwave (HPM) generator, hypervelocity rail gun, and/or high power laser) will be integrated into the platform. Individually each of these systems is quite complex and the combination of any two of these systems will increase the integration problem exponentially. The information gained from this research could be significant in furthering the nation's defense capabilities.

Requesting Member: Congressman K. MICHAEL CONAWAY.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Army, RDT&E.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Zebra Imaging.

Address of Requesting Entity: 9801 Metric Blvd., Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758.

Description of Request: Provide \$2,800,000 in funding to complete the final phase of a three-year development program to provide a field-deployable version of the Enhanced Holographic Imager (EHI) system. The holographic

imager system is used to produce 3-D imagery for the Army's tactical battlefield visualization program, and has proven to be an extremely useful capability for deployed Army and U.S. Special Operations Command warfighters. Over 1700 holographic images were provided to soldiers in theater in 2007. The deployable EHI will produce holograms three times faster than the current system (improving responsiveness to the war fighter) and is transportable allowing the imager to be located closer to the tactical users.

Requesting Member: Congressman K. MICHAEL CONAWAY.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Army, Other Procurement.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Texas Army National Guard.

Address of Requesting Entity: Camp Mabry, Austin, Texas 78763-5218.

Description of Request: Provide the Texas National Guard \$1,000,000 for the procurement of 700 Megahertz APCO-25 standard two-way radios for operational and tactical interagency interoperability in their disaster response task force. This project allows the Texas National Guard forces to utilize 700 and 800 MHz trunked radio systems being linked across Texas as established in the State Communications Interoperability Plan. It further fully enables interagency interoperability to coordinate and synchronize interagency efforts to maintain unity of effort.

Requesting Member: Congressman K. MICHAEL CONAWAY.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Army, Other Procurement.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Texas Army National Guard.

Address of Requesting Entity: Camp Mabry, Austin, Texas 78763-5218.

Description of Request: Provide \$3,000,000 to the Texas Military Forces (TXMF) for eight Joint Incident Scene Communication Capability (JISCC) packages required for disaster response. This equipment enables the Texas National Guard Joint Inter-Agency Task Force (JIATF) to command and control its interagency structure in and out of Texas in support of other states under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact. It supports the various disaster command posts including the Joint Interagency Task Force headquarters, each subordinate task force command post, local incident command posts, Emergency Operations Centers, and other multi-agency coordination centers. The JISCC system also uses Department of Defense satellites eliminating the persistent shortage of funds to pay for commercial satellite service. Ten JISCC packages have been authorized in previous years, but currently, the Texas National Guard has two on-hand.

Requesting Member: Congressman K. MICHAEL CONAWAY.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Defense-wide, RDT&E.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Applied Research Associates.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1848 Lockhill-Selma Rd., Suite 102, San Antonio, Texas 78213.

Description of Request: Provide \$3,000,000 to develop a blast-on-vehicle test device for use in evaluating survivability-based military vehicle designs. This program will provide a cost-effective and time-efficient alternative to full-scale live-fire testing. It will provide a test

capability in support of the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) program and future military vehicle development programs.

With the introduction of survivability-based design criteria in light tactical vehicles, the test and evaluation requirements of new vehicle designs are more extensive. Therefore, the objective of this program is to design a test structure analogous to the civilian automotive safety community's Heidelberg sled tests. Whereas the Heidelberg sled tests simulate the loading conditions of a vehicle crash, the blast-on-vehicle test device will simulate the loading conditions of road-side or undercarriage explosion.

Requesting Member: Congressman K. MICHAEL CONAWAY.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Navy, RDT&E.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Angelo State University.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2601 W. Avenue N., San Angelo, Texas 76909.

Description of Request: Provide \$1,000,000 for Angelo State University and Texas State University Systems' Center for Hetero-Functional Materials (CHM). CHM will help meet the need within the Department of Defense for the development of new materials to create "single-chip-devices" as conventional semiconductor manufacturing technology is reaching its maturity and its rate of innovation has saturated. These new devices require many types of built-in hetero-functionality, simply not available or achievable using conventional semiconductor/materials technology. The CHM provides the infrastructure and resources required for research and development of new materials and processes that will be required for the fabrication of next generation devices. These hetero-functional materials and structures will allow devices to be built on a single chip, thereby reducing costs and size while enabling more versatility than is currently achievable. The Office of Naval Research (ONR) deemed the CHM as critical to developing next generation devices for the military. CHM received support and funding in Fiscal Year 2008.

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL CERTIFICATE OF MERIT RECIPIENT NICHOLAS JAMES SHELburnE

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the successes and achievements of Nicholas Shelburne, who has received the Congressional Certificate of Merit award at Belton High School in Belton, Texas. Nicholas has shown exceptional leadership qualities through his involvement in numerous activities which makes him a great candidate for this award.

Integrity and energy for leading in a positive direction are trademarks of Nicholas. A natural leader, he is the ultimate role model for others and he excels in everything that he is involved in. Nicholas' work ethic and diligence set him apart from others.

I congratulate Nicholas Shelburne for his achievements in school and in his community and am proud to represent such talented and dedicated people in the 31st District of Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, for the information of our colleagues and my constituents, I want the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted on the following votes I missed this session.

On rollcall 134, to pass S. 2733, to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 154, on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 1605, providing for the consideration of H.R. 5501, the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act, I would have voted "no."

I would have done so because defeating the previous question would have allowed the House to consider an amendment dealing with the appropriations earmark process. I support reforming that process and think that the House should at least debate changes to it, although I reserve judgment on whether I would have supported the specific language of the amendment since it was not debated.

On rollcall 158, passage of H.R. 5501, Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 162, passage of H.R. 2464, The Wakefield Act—I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 163, passage of S. 793, Reauthorization of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act—I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 182, on the Flake amendment to H.R. 2537, to bar use of funds provided under that bill for Congressional earmarks, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 183, to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 886, Expressing sympathy to the victims and families of the tragic acts of violence in Colorado Springs, Colorado and Arvada, Colorado, as a cosponsor of the resolution I would have voted "yes."

As the resolution reminds us all, on Sunday, December 9, 2007, a troubled individual was responsible for killing several innocent people and injuring others at, first, the Youth With a Mission facility in Arvada and, a few hours later, at the New Life Church in the Colorado Springs area—where he was fatally shot by Jeanne Assam, a volunteer private security guard.

The resolution rightly commends Ms. Assam and the quick response of local first responders in the city of Arvada and in Jefferson County as well as those in El Paso County and Colorado Springs who, assisted by Federal authorities and medical professionals limited the danger to the church and local community. And it offers the heartfelt condolences of the House of Representatives to the victims and families of these tragic acts of violence in Colorado and conveys our gratitude to Jeanne Assam, city and county officials, as well as the police, fire, sheriff, Federal authorities, and

emergency medical teams whose quick response saved lives.

On rollcall number 185, to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3548, as amended, the Plain Language in Government Communications Act, as a cosponsor of that measure I would have voted "yes."

H.R. 3548 requires Federal agencies to use plain language in Government documents related to obtaining a service or a benefit. It responds to the fact that Government documents often are complex and difficult to understand, particularly when they are not written clearly. To address this problem, President Clinton in 1998 issued a memorandum that, in part, required Federal agencies to use plain language in all documents that explain how to obtain a benefit or service. However, while a few agencies still maintain plain language programs, efforts to promote plain language have waned. H.R. 3548 defines plain language and requires agencies to use plain language in any new document that explains how to obtain a service or a benefit or that is relevant to obtaining a service or a benefit. The bill ensures that many of the letters, forms, and other documents that people receive from the Government will be written in a clear, understandable way. Under this bill, for example, the Social Security Administration would be required to use plain language in letters that provide beneficiaries information about Social Security.

I joined in cosponsoring the bill because I think it is important for those of us in Government to do more to communicate clearly with our employers, the American people, and I hope that the Senate will join the House in giving prompt approval to the legislation.

On rollcall number 331, to pass H.R. 6081, the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall number 332, to pass H.R. 6074, the Gas Price Relief for Consumers Act, I would have voted "yes."

IN HONOR OF BRIAN FOSS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brian Foss in his retirement as the Port Director of the Santa Cruz Port District. Brian served the Port District for 34 years, managing Santa Cruz Harbor, as well as the Santa Cruz Port.

After graduating from the University of Southern California in 1964, Brian spent the next 22 years serving as a pilot for the United States Coast Guard, and as a Lieutenant Colonel Combat Rescue Pilot for the California Air National Guard Rescue. During his time working as a rescue pilot, Brian earned two air medals and one Coast Guard Commendation medal.

In 1977, Brian ended his career as a pilot, and moved to Santa Cruz to work as Harbormaster for the Santa Cruz Port District. Brian's upbeat attitude and friendliness with coworkers gained him many friends, and 2 years later, Foss worked his way up to Port Director for the Santa Cruz Port District. For the next 31 years, Foss continued his tenure as Port Director, serving as the Chief Executive Officer for the District.

Outside of work, Brian was, and still is, a passionate and active supporter of ocean preservation. Brian was the former Chairman of the California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference, a 35-year-old California port and harbor advocacy association. Today, he is a member of the Bay Planning Coalition, the California Marine Parks and Harbors Association, and he is a harbor representative for Santa Cruz County Inter-Agency Task Force on economic development relevant to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

But Brian's enthusiasm is not limited to the oceans, but extends into his personal life as well. As a devoted father, Brian founded the 129th for Kids fund, a benefit program for military children who have lost parents in service.

His dedication to the harbor and passion for life also extended to his employees. His coworkers described him as a fun, considerate, and polite guy to hang around, who made a difference in the lives of others; he always made sure to let everyone feel welcome and to have a say in decisions. Additionally, Brian taught many of his workers how to effectively work in public service, and always made sure to try to do the right thing for everyone.

Madam Speaker, I would like to extend our Nation's deep gratitude for Brian's service to the United States and his local community. I know I speak for every Member of Congress in expressing my bittersweet feelings towards his retirement, and our thankfulness for his contributions to our Nation. Though Brian Foss may be retiring, he will not be leaving the hearts of all whom he has touched.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MR. ROD COOK

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Mr. Rod Cook, the City Manager of South Lyon, upon his retirement from a prominent 25-year career in public service.

Mr. Cook accepted the position of City Manager in October of 1983, and led the citizens of South Lyon with confidence and pride for over two decades. Rod was known for his stern, quiet demeanor and his ability to listen intently and make superior decisions. Mr. Cook took on the challenge of city manager at a time when the population was only 5,200 people. Rod was able to establish growth within the city; more than doubling the population before his retirement. During his career, Mr. Cook also spearheaded road improvements throughout the area; launched the identity of South Lyon; assisted with the creation of the Rail Trail; and played an essential role in the revitalization of the downtown area.

Rod Cook, through his proactive measures, made South Lyon one of the fastest growing small communities in the nation during his career. As Mr. Cook enters the next phase of his life after his retirement on March 11, 2008, Mr. Cook looks forward to spending time with his wife, Sydney. Constantly showing his love for the city, Mr. Cook will continue to contribute his services, after retirement, until a new manager is hired.

Madam Speaker, for 25 years Mr. Rod Cook has successfully served the citizens of South

Lyon, Michigan. As Mr. Cook resigns from his position of City Manager, he leaves behind a long-standing legacy of trust, dedication, and achievement. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Rod Cook upon his retirement and recognizing his years of loyal service to the community and our country.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EXETER AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and offer congratulations to the Exeter Ambulance Association, located in Exeter Township, Pennsylvania, for celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year. Association members will be acknowledging this great milestone on May 31, 2008 at an event to be held at Association headquarters.

The Exeter Ambulance Association was formed 40 years ago to provide outstanding emergency ambulance service for Exeter Township and St. Lawrence, Pennsylvania. The group was formed as a non-profit organization and started as an all-volunteer service. Over the years, it has grown and expanded its services and now provides Advanced Life Support (ALS), Basic Life Support (BLS), and other emergency and non-emergency ambulance services. In addition, the Exeter Ambulance Association operates a community training center and, in 2007, trained over 2500 people in CPR and put 30 Automatic Defibrillators (AEDs) into service in the community. Today, the Association employs over 50 medical transportation professionals, operates four ambulances, two wheelchair-vans, and responds to over 4,000 calls for help each year.

Its mission is "to provide quality pre-hospital emergency medical care in both emergency and non-emergency settings, and perform all services related to emergency medical service and emergency management." As anyone who has received assistance from the Exeter Ambulance Association will tell you, it has performed its mission in an exemplary fashion and consistently surpasses its own standards.

At the 40th year celebration on May 31, the Association will be joined by representatives of the Exeter Police K-9 unit, Drive 25-Stay Alive program, Reiffon and Stonersville Fire Departments, The PennStar Helicopter and flight team, Berks County Humane Society, American Red Cross and Aquabilities of Birdsboro, PA. In addition, St Joseph's Hospital will provide blood pressure checks, cholesterol screening, and bone density screening and the Reading Phillies mascot "Screwball" will make an appearance. It will be a fitting celebration to recognize all of the members' great work.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in praising the courageous work, dedication and service of the men and women that make up the Exeter Ambulance Association. The employees and volunteers continue to protect their community with steadfast determination, and ensure that when one is in trouble, they will be there to help.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 22, 2008

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, because of my commitment to a family event on May 20, 2008, I missed rollcall votes 331–337. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on rollcall vote 331, “yes” on rollcall vote 332, “yes” on rollcall vote 333, “no” on rollcall vote 334, “yes” on rollcall vote 335, “yes” on rollcall vote 336, and “yes” on rollcall vote 337.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN R. “RANDY” KUHL, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. KUHL of New York. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Representative JOHN R. “RANDY” KUHL, JR.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Army Aircraft Procurement, Utility Helicopter Mods.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Elmira/Corning Regional Airport.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1250 Schweizer Road, Horseheads, NY 14845.

Description of Request: Provides a total of \$5,000,000 to upgrade UH–60A Black Hawk helicopters to the UH–60L configuration. Most of the funding will be used to procure and install the upgrades required to increase performance of this aircraft, and a small portion will be used for salaries in support of this effort. The UH–60 Black Hawk helicopter is an essential capability of the Army National Guard. It provides units in every state with a multi-mission aircraft for search and rescue, utility lift, disaster relief and medical evacuation. Funding the UH–60A to L upgrade will significantly improve the Black Hawk fleet and ensure that National Guard units are ready for deployment to protect our national interests at home and abroad.

A TRIBUTE CELEBRATING THE
BROOKLYN BRIDGE'S 125TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to the historic occasion of the Brooklyn Bridge's 125th birthday. In 1883, citizens of New York City and Brooklyn took the first step toward uniting their two cities. Then, the Brooklyn Bridge opened to the public, bringing to life the dreams and plans of John and Washington Roebling. It is this bridge that captures the imagination of the world, appearing as a symbol of Brooklyn and New York City as far away as Europe and Asia.

After 60 years of political, financial and technical discussions, including a six-lane tunnel

proposal in the 1830's, John Roebling's plan was approved, the New York Bridge Company was formed, and in 1869, construction of the bridge finally began. The bridge was built over a period of 14 years in the face of enormous difficulties. Washington Roebling, John's son, had always been a man, who liked to be on site during the construction, and often he could be found instructing others what to do and many times doing manual work himself. Washington actually spent more hours in the working chamber than anyone else for fear that any slip might prove to be disastrous.

Unfortunately, in the summer of 1872, Washington Roebling had to be carried out with caisson disease. From this point on, he remained painfully paralyzed and became known as the “man in the window” as he never returned to the site of the bridge, but watched it from his townhouse, directing the construction through his wife, Emily Roebling, who acted as an intermediary. In total, 27 people died during the construction of the bridge, some of the worse accidents happened during cable rigging and others were crushed by swinging blocks.

In the end, John Roebling's claim that “the great towers will be ranked as national monuments . . . as work of art and a successful specimen of advanced bridge engineering,” came to life. On May 24, 1883, with schools and businesses closed, the Brooklyn Bridge also referred to as the “Great East River Bridge” and costing \$15 million was opened with hundreds of people attending the spectacular ribbon cutting event.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to represent the congressional district that begins once you cross this magnificent structure and is one of New York's most spectacular and evocative landmarks.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a list of projects that I have requested receive federal funding as part of the FY09 appropriations process. The projects requested in the list below were presented to me by constituents, local groups, and local governments.

Project Name: Multidisciplinary Alternative Reception Center (MARC). The Multidisciplinary Alternative Reception Center (MARC) would provide a facility for police to refer non-violent minors in Santa Clara County.

Project Name: Collaborative Response to Victims of Domestic Violence. This project will develop a new model of collaborative education, training and community response to victims of domestic violence. The College of Applied Sciences and Arts (CASA) at San Jose State University will foster interdisciplinary education and internship team placements in the relevant departments/schools in collaboration with central public and community agencies in both Santa Clara County and the city of San Jose, California.

Project Name: San Jose Police Mobile Identification, Field Reporting, and Records Management Systems. This project will complete

department-wide availability of mobile identification technology and initiate addition of automated field reporting and upgraded records management systems. In addition, it will address inefficiencies and enable better cross-analysis and information sharing.

Project Name: South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study (NASA-Ames Research Center). A 2.5 mile trail adjacent to the restored habitat and NASA's Ames Research Center is being constructed as part of Phase 1 restoration of the South San Francisco Bay Salt Ponds. The requested funding will be utilized to construct a new security fence for the Research Center as the current fence is sub-standard and could be easily compromised.

Project Name: Coyote Creek Watershed. The project is a new study and was authorized by a May 2002 resolution of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The Coyote Creek Watershed Study will examine ways to provide flood protection for the cities of San Jose, Milpitas, and Morgan Hill, including a major portion of the Silicon Valley's high-tech area.

Project Name: Upper Guadalupe River. The Upper Guadalupe River flood protection project will provide flood protection for 7,500 homes in Santa Clara County.

Project Name: Guadalupe River. The Guadalupe River flood protection project extends through downtown San Jose from Interstate 880 to Interstate 280 and protects the area from \$576 million in damages from a one percent flood. The project is part of a multi-phased flood protection project along the Guadalupe River and is an integral component to downtown San Jose's revitalization efforts.

Project Name: San Jose Area Water Reclamation and Reuse Project. The San Jose Water Reclamation and Reuse Project will increase water supply reliability and protect endangered species by reducing wastewater discharges into San Francisco Bay through the recycling of wastewater.

Project Name: Coyote and Berryessa Creeks. The project provides extensive flood protection to the area downstream of Montague Expressway in Milpitas and San Jose where potential damages from a 1 percent flood exceed \$250 million.

Project Name: Llagas Creek. By providing flood protection to the local community, the project will protect 1,100 homes, 500 businesses, and over 1,300 acres of agricultural land in Santa Clara County that would otherwise result in damages totaling more than \$8 million (1982) dollars with annual average damages of \$900,000.

Project Name: Upper Penitencia Creek. The Upper Penitencia Creek flood protection project will provide flood protection to over 5,000 homes, schools, and businesses in the communities of San Jose and Milpitas and surrounding areas, with potential damages from a 100-year flood exceeding \$455 million. The project includes modified floodplains, levees, floodwalls and bypass channels along the Upper Penitencia Creek.

Project Name: South San Francisco Shoreline. The South San Francisco Shoreline study project is expected to provide tidal and fluvial flood protection for Silicon Valley, including approximately 42,800 acres, 7,400 homes and businesses, and major highways, parks, and airports. This year's funding will allow the Corps of Engineers to make satisfactory

progress on completion of the Feasibility Report for the study as directed by the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.

Project Name: San Jose Urban Forest Planting Program. This project will plant trees throughout San Jose, in partnership with Our City Forest, to achieve the goal of 100,000 new trees over the next 15 years, replacing 60,000 trees lost and increasing the tree canopy to reduce urban heat island effects and carbon impacts. Trees will be planted throughout the City and will benefit all of the diverse communities within San Jose.

Project Name: South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study (USGS). US Geological Survey would use these funds to conduct interdisciplinary monitoring (biological, hydrological, and water quality studies) of Salt Ponds in San Pablo Bay and San Francisco Bay. With restoration work occurring in both the South Bay and North Bay salt ponds, there is an urgent need for monitoring to guide planning and implementation efforts.

Project Name: South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study (FWS). The Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge is managing 9,600 acres of the recently acquired South Bay Salt Ponds; funding is needed annually to effectively manage these lands, including installation and management of water control structures, levee maintenance, and monitoring of salt ponds.

Project Name: The Japanese American Experience: Making It Available. Located in one of only three Japantowns remaining in California, the Japanese American Museum of San Jose (JAMsJ) is contributing to the renaissance of Japantown through the construction of a new museum. This museum will allow the broader community better access to and understanding of the history, culture and arts of Japanese Americans in Santa Clara Valley.

Project Name: Branham Lane/Monterey Highway Rail Grade Separation—San Jose, CA. Federal funding will complete environmental assessment work and conceptual engineering to convert the highway-rail at-grade intersection of Branham Lane and Monterey Highway to a below-grade intersection. By depressing Branham Lane and Monterey Highway, the project will separate vehicles and trains to provide both a safety and congestion relief benefit.

Project Name: Lazzarini Place Affordable Homes—San Jose, CA. Federal funding will provide funds to train at-risk young women and men in the construction of new homes for low-income first time home buyers.

Project Name: Advanced Zero-Emission Bus Demonstration Program—Santa Clara, CA. This funding request relates to purchasing three hydrogen fuel-cell buses by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority in order to implement an Advanced Zero-Emission Bus Demonstration Program pursuant to regulations enacted by the California Air Resources Board. Under the program, public transit agencies must purchase a minimum of three advanced zero-emission buses and operate them in revenue service for a minimum of 12 months starting January 2009.

Project Name: Way Back Lot at Children's Discovery Museum—San Jose, CA. Proposed project includes the following: (1) A 30,000 square foot outdoor exhibit gallery with interactive exhibits and educational program spaces that engage children in the process of creating ideas and solutions that have been

San Jose's stock-in-trade as far back in history as archaeologists have documented. (2) A perimeter wall or fence, artistically designed to depict distinct cultural periods of the Guadalupe River, which also secures the outdoor exhibit gallery for the safety of visitors and deters vandals. (3) A 12,000 square foot "green building" expansion to Children's Discovery Museum's southern wing that will serve as support space to the new outdoor gallery.

Project Name: First-Time Homebuyer Low Income Downpayment Assistance Program—San Jose, CA. The mission of the Housing Trust of Santa Clara County is to provide the resources and leadership to make housing more affordable for those who want to live and work in Santa Clara County. Federal funds will go to a revolving loan fund for Low Income Assistance Program to households with incomes up to 80% of Area Median Income, with maximum assistance of \$15,000 per loan with a below market interest rate loan.

Project Name: Preserving the Historic Issei Memorial Building—San Jose, CA. Federal funding will rehabilitate and renovate a historic building built in 1906, now known as the Issei Memorial Building. Structural safety improvements are needed and facility expansion is required to meet the needs of the local community.

Project Name: DeWitt Avenue S-Curve Realignment—Santa Clara County, CA. The project would straighten the existing horizontal curve and flatten the vertical curve by extending it and widening the travel lanes. The project would straighten an S-Curve on DeWitt Avenue to enhance the line of sight for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians, thereby improving overall safety.

Project Name: Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Project (SVRIP) Data Interoperability Project. Like jurisdictions across the country, the SVRIP operates standalone and disparate Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD), as well as law enforcement and fire Records Management Systems (RMS). The SVRIP has piloted a way to shave valuable minutes off the response times of first responders by interconnecting three disparate CAD systems.

Project Name: Development & Testing of Advanced Paraffin-based Hybrid Rockets for Space Applications. Recent research at Stanford University has led to the identification of a new class of fast burning paraffin-based fuels that promise to make hybrid rockets a practical system for a wide variety of propulsion applications of interest to the government.

Project Name: Strategic Language Initiative (CSU Center for Strategic Languages). The 5 California State University (CSU) campuses originally comprising the Strategic Language Initiative (SLI) Consortium worked collaboratively between 2005 and 2007 to create an effective model capitalizing on campus language expertise, student heritage language diversity, and local linguistic communities in Arabic, Mandarin, Korean, Persian, and Russian. The Consortium's success in southern California can be enhanced by developing a similar model in northern California. This request would build the programs within the current Consortium, and add CSU campuses in San Francisco and San Jose. Lessons learned from the current 5 programs will shape the 2 new programs.

Project Name: Advanced IED Jammer Research & Development Program. The most important aspect of the program is the develop-

ment of a next generation IED jammer that can simultaneously allow our Blue Force radios to communicate. Another facet of the program is to develop a flexible, standardized, jammer architecture that can adapt to changing threats quickly, a so-called "multi-mission spectral combat system" architecture.

Project Name: Advanced Tactical Threat Warning Radio (ATTWR). This project will substantially advance U.S. Special Forces teams to combat and defend our troops against radio controlled roadside bombs. The effort will lead to an advanced technology that will allow for the dismantling of the terror cell command and control elements, as well as identify and locate the bomb making factories. This effort will ultimately save U.S. lives and also reduce the number of maiming and casualties due to IED's.

Project Name: Large Area and Printed Electronics for Defense Systems. This project involves the combination of new, advanced materials and large area printed electronics and will enable flexible, lightweight, and rugged photovoltaic, battery, sensor, and communication products for military systems. Integration with textiles and other surfaces will enable production of electronics for military infrastructure not possible today.

Project Name: Nonlinear Optics for Memory Electronics (NOME). This project will be used to develop and manufacture nonlinear materials, solid state lasers and large field of view deep ultra-violet objectives for the development and inspection of memory microelectronic chips, as well as advanced microelectronics that are used in classified and secure communications equipment, electro-optic sensors, satellites, and various weapon systems.

Project Name: San Jose Courthouse. This money would be used for site acquisition for a new Federal Courthouse in San Jose.

Project Name: AACI Domestic Violence Shelter Project. The Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI) Domestic Violence Shelter Project will expand an emergency shelter for abused women and their children. In Santa Clara County, this is the only domestic violence shelter that meets the linguistic and cultural needs of the Asian community.

Project Name: Regional Homeless Medical Respite Care Initiative. Funding will be used for one-time start-up costs of a homeless medical respite care program providing post-hospitalization medical services to the homeless in San Jose/Santa Clara County, including program refinements, personnel, and equipment, in order to address medical needs in a more cost-effective manner, to be sustained by local funding.

Project Name: Center for Migration Studies. Purpose of the funding is to establish an interdisciplinary Center for Migration Studies (CMS), envisaging faculty and student participation from multiple departments in the College of Social Sciences at San Jose State University (SJSU). The main objective of the CMS is to facilitate interdisciplinary research on a comprehensive, multifaceted examination of immigrants' experiences globally.

Project Name: Center for Employment Training—IT Capacity Building. Center for Employment Training (CET) is a private, non-profit human services organization focused on providing employment training and education services to hard-to-serve populations. The

project will expand and upgrade the IT capacity of the organization and enhance the computer technology for vocational training and GED education services for at-risk youth, ages 18–24.

Project Name: Student Partners Reaching Kids. The Student Partners Reaching Kids (SPRK) program serves more than 1,000 young adolescents through a series of offerings which form a continuum of opportunities throughout the year for students in the fourth through ninth grade age range.

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL CERTIFICATE OF MERIT RECIPIENT
WILLIAM PENDER

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the successes and achievements of William Pender who has received the Congressional Certificate of Merit award at Temple High School in Temple, Texas. William has shown exceptional leadership qualities through his involvement in numerous activities which makes him a great candidate for this award.

William is a member of the Temple High School Top Band, Wind Ensemble, and has played on the varsity Wildcat football team. William is a volunteer in the assisted nursing area of the VA Hospital in Temple. Through his volunteering for the VA, William has learned the importance of giving back to the men and women that serve our country.

I congratulate William Pender for his achievements in school and in his community and am proud to represent such talented and dedicated people in the District of Texas.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL DRUG COURT MONTH

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to congratulate drug courts in Arkansas and nationwide during National Drug Court Month. Over 2,100 drug courts in the United States provide an alternative to incarceration for non-violent, drug-addicted offenders by combining intense judicial supervision, comprehensive substance abuse and mental health treatment, random and frequent drug testing, incentives and sanctions, clinical case management and life skills services. The tireless efforts of the judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, treatment providers, rehabilitation experts, child advocates, researchers, educators, law enforcement representatives, correctional representatives, pre-trial officers and probation officers that are involved in drug courts provide substance abusing offenders with the much-needed chance at long-term recovery and productive lifestyles.

I have seen firsthand the impact of the 40 operational drug courts in my state, where drug court programs have enhanced public safety, saved taxpayer dollars and, most im-

portantly, saved lives. Nearly 1,000 people have graduated from the program according to state records and currently 1,600 people are enrolled all across the state.

For example, the Fifth Judicial District Drug Court in Russellville, Arkansas, has graduated 43 clients since it opened its doors in 2004. Four of these drug court graduates have received their college degrees and started careers. One client has even advanced into the position of general manager for his company. The Fifth Judicial District Drug Court has set up a dental plan for clients, along with a work placement assistance program. This drug court and its achievements are just a small example of what is happening in the numerous drug courts across the state of Arkansas. In addition, the efforts of people like Judge Mary Ann Gunn and the 4th Judicial District Drug Court have helped make the program a success in the Natural State. More than one thousand people have been treated through that program that has an 89 percent retention rate. Town Hall Meetings held by the group help to promote awareness and prevention of substance abuse in our families and schools.

As we face a growing population of drug-addicted offenders in the American justice system, we must expand our efforts to bring treatment to a larger number of those in need. According to a recent study by the Urban Research Institute's Justice Policy Center, approximately 1.5 million drug-involved offenders should be diverted to drug court, which would generate \$32.3 billion in savings to American taxpayers. Armed with our existing research that drug courts work, reduce recidivism, and save lives, we must work on taking drug courts to scale. There is no greater opportunity for change in the American justice system and there is no greater opportunity to heal families and communities.

Again, congratulations to the dedicated drug court professionals and graduates from Arkansas and around the country on a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEBRON CONNECTICUT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 300th anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Hebron, Connecticut. Throughout 2008, the town and its residents have and will continue to celebrate 300 years of rich history.

From its original settlement, agriculture production has supported the growth of the town as well as agriculture development and growth of neighboring communities. From colonial labors to modern agricultural machinery, cultivation of the land has remained an important economic and communal component of the town of Hebron. Hebron's agricultural history, reflecting on the distinct New England seasons, will be highlighted in the yearlong third centennial celebration.

This past March, residents enjoyed Maple Fest, which focused on a favorite New England winter harvest and culinary tradition. Families in Hebron and across the New England community joined in the festivities, which

featured regional treats from local sugar houses. The sweet products of the maple trees were enjoyed in traditional to untraditional forms, from maple syrup to maple cotton candy. In the coming September, Hebron Harvest Fair will highlight the products of the New England fall harvest.

Three hundred years after incorporation, from its colonial origins through its modern evolution, Hebron represents the very best of a Connecticut and more broadly, small-town America. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in honoring and celebrating Hebron's third centennial and welcome many more to come.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF COLONEL ANTHONY JOSEPH WENDEL III, U.S. MARINE CORPS

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 30 years of dedicated service of United States Marine Corps Colonel Anthony Joseph Wendel III.

Since being commissioned a Second Lieutenant in August 1979, Colonel Wendel has served the Marine Corps in a variety of roles, both at home and abroad. During his 30 years of total service, he has served his country in positions of leadership in Okinawa, Japan; Washington, DC; Eugene, Oregon; Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Los Angeles, California; and at Camp Pendleton, California.

In 1980, Colonel Wendel attended Basic Combat Engineer Officers Course, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Between 1986 and 1987, he attended Amphibious Warfare School, Quantico, Virginia. He graduated from the U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College in 1994 with a Masters of Military Studies, and in June 2000 he graduated from the U.S. Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island with a Masters of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies. Thereupon, he served as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4 U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Korea from July 2000 to July 2001. During this period, he was selected to the grade of colonel.

Colonel Wendel has served in two major combat operations, Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and Operation Restore Hope. His leadership background encompasses a wide range of roles, responsibilities, and spectrum of experience. With his diversity of knowledge and talent, Colonel Wendel has given much to this country through his dedicated military service, which will be formally concluded with retirement on June 5, 2008.

Colonel Wendel currently serves as the Program Officer, Western Regional Environmental Coordination Office, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California. He continues to serve to protect and defend U.S. Marine Corps western region training interests and entities. He and his wife Susan have their home in Oceanside, California.

On behalf of the people of the United States whom he has served with courage and honor, we commemorate the service of Colonel Anthony Joseph Wendel III.

REMEMBERING FORMER PRESIDENT OF AZERBAIJAN HEYDAR ALIYEV

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, On May 10, 2008, we commemorated the 85th Jubilee of the late President Heydar Aliyev. When Azerbaijan reclaimed independence in 1991, most Americans had never heard of the country. Soon after, the country found itself involved in a war with neighboring Armenia over Nagorno Karabakh, which resulted in one million refugees and 20 percent of Azerbaijani soil occupied by Armenian forces.

Out of chaos, economic turmoil, and questions about the viability of the country's independence, President Heydar Aliyev emerged as the President of the Republic. He was re-elected in 1998, and served until he passed away in December 2003. In May it is the 85th anniversary of his birthday, and it is fit to note the milestones that were reached under his leadership. The first state visit by a President of an independent Azerbaijan to the United States was realized July 27–August 7, 1997. Prior to this visit, little knowledge, understanding or relations between the two countries existed. On August 1, 1997, a meeting at the White House between President Aliyev and President Clinton took place. It was a historic occasion where the two leaders signed a joint declaration that read:

Presidents Clinton and Aliyev agreed on the importance of expanding the partnership between the United States and the Republic of Azerbaijan through strengthening bilateral cooperation in the political, security, economic and commercial spheres.

The U.S. also reaffirmed support for Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence. Under President Aliyev's leadership, Azerbaijan emerged as a critical player in the East-West Energy Transport corridor. The early oil pipeline, the Baku-Tbilisi-Supsa oil pipeline was completed in 1997. Azerbaijan signed over 19 production sharing agreements with international energy companies.

The decision to build the Maine Export Pipeline, MEP, was not an easy one.

Despite great obstacles, Azerbaijan, under the leadership of Heydar Aliyev, and with the support of the United States and Turkey, realized the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline which now runs from the Caspian through Georgia to the Turkish Mediterranean port of Ceyhan. This pipeline helps to guarantee Azerbaijan's independence and support of pro-Western foreign policy, provides energy resources to U.S. allies like Georgia and Turkey.

The late President Heydar Aliyev was a strong friend of the United States. Azerbaijan was one of the first countries to offer unconditional assistance to the United States after 9/11, and sent troops to Iraq and Afghanistan. President Aliyev's significant contributions to the country of Azerbaijan provided a fertile ground for the seeds of democracy to flourish after Soviet rule, and have paved the road for Azerbaijan's regional and international success.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF EARL MORSE

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I along with Mr. HOBSON rise today to recognize Mr. Earl Morse, an Ohioan who has dedicated himself to honoring World War II veterans from across the country by making it possible for them to visit the national memorial built and dedicated in their honor.

Mr. Morse is a physician's assistant and a retired Air Force captain from Enon, Ohio. While working at the Department of Veterans Affairs, he realized that most of the veterans he took care of were not able to make the trip to visit the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. Since Mr. Morse was also a pilot, he offered to personally fly one of his patients to visit the memorial.

Upon realizing the desire to visit the memorial was so great, Mr. Morse started to ask for help from other pilots to make these trips a reality. During an aero club meeting in January of 2005, he outlined a volunteer program to fly senior World War II veterans to visit their memorial with no cost to the veteran. The pilots would be asked to volunteer the use of their aircraft and their time. After Mr. Morse spoke, 11 pilots who had never met his patients signed up to establish the first of what would be many "Honor Flights."

In 2005, the Honor Flight program took 137 World War II veterans to visit their memorial. As the popularity of the program grew, the need for more volunteers and the use of commercial aircraft became necessary. By 2006, an estimated 300 Ohio veterans made the trip to visit the World War II Memorial.

The mission and ideals of Mr. Morse's Honor Flight soon spread across the Nation, and a network of community leaders and volunteers became established to form the Honor Flight Network. The program presently has 69 hubs in 30 States, and is working to establish hubs in all 50 States by the end of 2006.

Madam Speaker, on the eve of Memorial Day, we feel that it is only fitting to pay tribute to Mr. Morse, who has demonstrated his patriotism and his respect for a generation of men and women who sacrificed so much to ensure the security of this world, and to guarantee the freedoms that we enjoy today.

We thank Mr. Earl Morse for his outstanding effort to honor the legacy of one of our Nation's most valuable resources, our veterans. We wish him, and his organization, all the best with his continued effort to ensure his objective is completed.

HONORING MARILYN SPIEGEL

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, today I stand to recognize an outstanding public servant in my district. She is a woman who has dedicated her life to not only raising her own three children, but also teaching and nurturing many children in her community. I wish to recognize

Marilyn Spiegel, who was recently named Teacher of the Year in the San Juan Unified School District.

As a sixth grade teacher at Earl Le Gette Elementary School, Marilyn has touched countless lives, both directly and indirectly. She began teaching in 1998 after a successful career as a professional chemist and parasitologist. After being an active parent volunteer in her sons' classrooms, she decided to obtain a teaching credential and share her passion for science with students. Voluntarily and independently, Marilyn developed a creative energy program designed to enhance a student's understanding of science and the environment through innovative teaching ideas. In the last six years, she has secured nearly \$30,000 in educational grants for her energy education program. This program has inspired students to examine the role of energy in our Nation and how it relates to their individual lives. Unselfishly, Marilyn continues to share her grant information and educational program with teachers from other schools.

In her spare time, Marilyn serves on the San Juan Unified School District's science adoption committee and the California Department of Education's content review panel for the STAR exam. She is also an active member of the Le Gette teacher/student guitar ensemble, and continues to offer before-school, after-school, and lunch-time tutoring.

Marilyn has earned praise from students, parents, and colleagues for her inspirational style of teaching. In fact, the Teacher of the Year Award process begins with a parent nomination. She sets clear boundaries for the children and reinforces positive behavior through praise. "I treat students with respect, I hold them accountable, and I challenge them," wrote Marilyn in her application. "I do not accept wasted time and talent. I celebrate their success and help shoulder their disappointments and sorrow." Marilyn has the ability to motivate students beyond their natural abilities and helps them reach their greatest potential.

As we continue searching for ways to better the educational system, we need to look at the positive things happening in schools across the country. I believe that Marilyn Spiegel is an excellent example of what is right with America's schools. Congratulations to my friend Marilyn Spiegel, the San Juan Unified School District Teacher of the Year.

NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in support of H. Con. Res. 334, honoring the Armed Forces of the United States of America during "National Military Appreciation Month." During this month, we Americans honor and recognize all the military members who serve and have given their lives in defense of the freedoms we enjoy today. This bill recognizes those on active duty in all branches of service, the National Guard and Reserves, retirees, veterans, and all of their families.

We must continue to impress upon our children and grandchildren the sacrifices that our armed services have provided this country. We must be diligent in reminding all Americans, young and old, that the price of freedom is paid for everyday, through the blood, sweat and tears of our brave men and women of the Armed Forces and the sacrifices made by their family members.

Additionally, our Education System has the duty and the responsibility to continue to highlight the historical impact of the military throughout the last 230 years. Americans must never forget the historical impact of the military in United States history and the role they played in ensuring the American way of life. Events like the American Revolution, the Civil War, Pearl Harbor, Normandy, and World War I and II, must always be remembered for the important role they played in making the United States of America the greatest country in the world.

Finally, while we understand and praise the personal sacrifices our brave men and women make in defending our great Nation, we frequently forget that duty is a 24–7, 365-day commitment for the soldiers and their families. As we continue our Global War on Terror, military members of the Armed Forces will continue to shoulder the burden of freedom and independence. A month-long dedication to their tireless efforts is the cast we can do as Americans.

Americans, during the National Military Appreciation Month, should go out of their way to shake the hand of a military member, say a special thank-you, and continually pray for our soldiers and their families.

The Armed Forces of the United States of America continue to play a vital role in the defense of this country. Their contributions and sacrifices have not gone unnoticed and designating May as National Military Appreciation Month is a perfect opportunity for us as a Nation to pay great tribute to their tremendous sacrifices.

I encourage my colleagues to support this important resolution and am pleased that today the House recognizes the valuable contributions of the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CANNON. Madam Speaker, consistent with the Republican Conference standards established earlier this year, I submit the following information regarding the Metals Affordability Initiative that I support.

Bill: H.R. 5658, Duncan Hunter Defense Authorization.

Account: Air Force Research, Development, Test and Evaluation.

Legal name of receiving entity: Metals Affordability Initiative Consortium.

Address: MAI Program Management Office, Pratt & Whitney, c/o Thomas Rupprecht, Mail Stop 114–45, 400 Main Street, E. Hartford CN.

Anticipated sources of the funding for the duration of the project: MAI operates under a Technical Information Agreement (TIA) with a

total project cost cap of \$75,000,000 through FY 13. AFRL has budgeted approximately \$13.5 mil through FY 2011 from limited discretionary funds for developing advanced structural metals technology.

Percent and source of required matching fund: MAI participants cost share 10 percent on AFRL-directed Type I projects and at least 25 percent on industry-directed Type II projects, funded by congressional directions.

Justification for use of federal taxpayer dollars:

The mission of MAI is to maintain U.S. 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. This sector includes the entire domestic specialty aerospace metals industrial manufacturing base, representing all elements of the supply chain, which produce aluminum, beryllium, nickel-base superalloys, and titanium.

MAI is a model for government/industry collaboration. MAI programs have already accomplished 47 current or planned technology insertions into military systems.

MAI provides innovation, rapid development and implementation of new metals technology. Many of the MAI programs impact sustainability of the aging Air Force fleet. The authorization provided for in this bill will allow for the initiation of 6 new programs, as well as sustaining ongoing programs, directed at sustainment and life extension, fuel savings/energy management and access to space.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 343, the Motion to Recommit H.R. 6049 with Instructions, I was unavoidably absent due to a family medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

On rollcall No. 344, on Passage of H.R. 6049, the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act, I was unavoidably absent due to a family medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

On rollcall No. 345, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1771, the Crane Conservation Act of 2008, as Amended, I was unavoidably absent due to a family medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

On rollcall No. 346, on Passage of H.R. 2419, the Farm, Nutrition, and Bioenergy Act, Objections of the President Not Withstanding, I was unavoidably absent due to a family medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

On rollcall No. 347, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3819, the Veterans Emergency Care Fairness Act of 2008 as Amended, I was unavoidably absent due to a family medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

On rollcall No. 348, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 5826, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2008, I was unavoidably absent due to a family medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

On rollcall No. 349, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 5856, the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Authorization and Lease Act, I was unavoidably absent due to a family medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, consistent with the House Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, to the best of my knowledge this request (1) is not directed to an entity or program that will be named after a sitting Member of Congress; and (2) is not intended to be used by an entity to secure funds for other entities unless the use of funding is consistent with the specified purpose of the earmark. As required by earmark standards adopted by the House Republican Conference, I submit to the House an explanation and justification of this funding in an effort to provide as much public disclosure and transparency as possible on congressionally directed funding and earmarks. I hereby submit the following information on a project I requested and the House Armed Services Committee included in H.R. 5658, the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Air Force; Research, Development, Test & Evaluation.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Oregon (on behalf of the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnology Institute (ONAMI) which consists of the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, and Portland State University).

Address of Requesting Entity: Attn: Rich Linton, Vice President for Research, 203 Johnson Hall, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403.

Description of Project: H.R. 5658 has authorized \$1,000,000 for the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnology Institute (ONAMI) Safer Nanomaterials and Nanomanufacturing Initiative. 26 percent of the funds will be used for equipment and 74 percent will be used for project expenses associated with personnel, including: salary, benefits, travel, and tuition off sets for research assistants.

The ONAMI Safer Nanomaterials and Nanomanufacturing Initiative develops inherently safer and greener nanomaterials and nanomanufacturing methods, which directly impact the military's need for high performance materials that do not emit unintended wastestreams or material hazards. Three general areas of activity included within the Initiative are: (1) rational design of safer and greener materials based upon unique properties found at the nanoscale, (2) systematic assessment of the biological impacts of engineered nanomaterials, and (3) development of technology for high volume manufacturing and application of high-performance nanomaterials. Examples of nanomaterials and manufacturing of importance for military technology include nanoelectronics and nanophotonics, thermoelectric coolers, medical diagnostics and therapeutics, drinking water purification and

environmental monitoring & remediation systems.

The ONAMI Safer Nanomaterials and Safer Nanomanufacturing Initiative cost share includes: state funding of approximately \$2.23 million for research activities; private funding of over \$2 million (cash and in-kind) from Hewlett-Packard, Invitrogen, FEI, and companies involved in related research efforts; and peer-reviewed federal awards and competitive awards from foundations, including the Keck Foundation, worth several million dollars.

HONORING STORK MEDICAL AND COMMUNITY BLOOD SERVICES

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, as the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces protect our freedom and liberty, it is my belief that the rest of us have a responsibility to show our support for their sacrifices in spirit and in deed. With this in mind, I acknowledge and thank Stork Medical and Community Blood Services in Columbus, GA, for their generous gift to our military.

Attempting to make cord blood stem cell storage affordable to all of our soldiers is praiseworthy. I share their hope, prayer and expectation that the cord blood stem cells saved from a soldier's newborn will one day serve to repair the wounds a soldier has sustained in battle. I know that these stem cells will immediately add a layer of protection for a soldier's family given their proven ability to fight leukemia, cancer and many other diseases. It is indeed ironic that a soldier's helpless newborn may offer the ultimate protection of a soldier's family. This innovative and selfless program designed by Stork Medical and enthusiastically supported by Community Blood Services is a wonderful example of private enterprise sharing the burden of our troops and not spending a single tax dollar.

This innovative program offers our wounded heroes the hope of future medical miracles that may one day restore what was taken from them by bullets and bombs. It also offers peace of mind for young families that an added layer of protection is now available. Stork Medical's program in Georgia's third Congressional District is a shining example of how soldier and civilian alike can stand shoulder to shoulder in defense of our country.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, In accordance with the earmark standards of the House of Representatives, I am submitting the following financial statements for each of my requested projects funded in H.R. 5658, the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2009.

Project Name: LPD-17.

Requesting Member: Representative THELMA DRAKE.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Department of the Navy.

Address of Requesting Entity: Multiple Locations.

Description of Request: To increase the President's Budget for the LPD by \$1,800,000,000. In 2007 Congressional testimony, USMC leaders testified that a force structure less than 10 LPD class ships would put the USMC at significant risk in meeting commitments for global presence and to the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). The \$1.8 billion in FY 2009 funding is for LPD 26 as requested on the Navy's and Marine Corps' FY 2009 Unfunded Priority Lists.

Project Name: Deployed ASW Sustainment Training: P-3 Air Crew Tactical Team Trainer (PACT3).

Requesting Member: Representative THELMA DRAKE.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Alion Science & Technology—BMH Operations.

Address of Requesting Entity: 5365 Robin Hood Road, Norfolk, VA, USA.

Description of Request: Provide funding of \$4,000,000 over the President's FY09 budget request to develop a PC-based simulation environment for the P-3 aircrew. The funding will increase forward deployed P-3 anti-submarine warfare (ASW) capabilities in direct response to warfighter requirements resulting in enhanced readiness for current and future contingencies.

Project Name: Analytics for Shipboard Monitoring Systems (ASMS).

Requesting Member: Representative THELMA DRAKE.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entities: Oceana Sensor Technologies and ESRG LLC.

Address of Requesting Entities: Oceana Sensor Technologies—1632 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA, USA; ESRG LLC—1209 Independence Boulevard, Virginia Beach, VA, USA.

Description of Request: Provide funding of \$1,000,000 to integrate remote monitoring technologies with legacy ship systems. This Project will enable reduced manning and provide crucial ship-to-shore interaction for remote diagnostic decision technology to support ship operators globally.

Project Name: Automated Fiber Optic Manufacturing Initiative.

Requesting Member: Representative THELMA DRAKE.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: KITCO Fiber Optics.

Address of Requesting Entity: 5269 Cleveland Street, Virginia Beach, VA, USA.

Description of Request: Provide funding of \$4,500,000 over the President's FY09 budget request to insert automated fiber optic technologies in small, portable, maintenance equipment that can be used by ship construction and ship's force personnel in the harsh shipboard environment. The funding will assist

in deploying fiber optics as the primary communication system components for tactical shipboard applications on almost every current and future ship platform.

Project Name: Fire and Emergency Services Station.

Requesting Member: Representative THELMA DRAKE.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Military Construction, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Representative THELMA DRAKE.

Address of Requesting Entity: Naval Station Norfolk, VA, USA.

Description of Request: Accelerate funding of \$10,360,000 for a Fire and Emergency Services station located at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

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

Requesting Member: Congressman BRIAN BILBRAY.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: RDT&E, Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Burnham Institute for Medical Research.

Address of Requesting Entity: 10901 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, CA 92037.

Description of Request: Recent world events have made abundantly clear the need for a deeper understanding of the molecular and cellular mechanisms employed by bacterial and viral pathogens that would facilitate the design of countermeasures to weaponized biological agents such as anthrax, ricin, smallpox virus, botulinum toxin or plague bacteria. Additionally, as evidenced by the ever-present threat of viral pandemics and the relentless rise of antibiotic-resistance, there is a clear and urgent need for the development of new families of therapeutic agents—antibiotics, vaccines, antitoxins and antivirals. Given the large and growing number of recalcitrant pathogens, the most useful new therapeutics are likely to have broad-spectrum efficacy; to target immutable elements of the pathogen or host; to be rapidly adaptable in the face of natural or engineered variants; and to be physically robust.

To assist the United States Army in protecting our soldiers against these growing threats, the Infectious & Inflammatory Disease Center (IIDC) at the Burnham Institute for Medical Research will build on its studies of diseases that result from a broad range of human pathogens. The work will define and characterize host responses to infection, including innate and adaptive immunity and inflammation, providing a molecular understanding of host-pathogen interactions. Over the next ten years, many antibiotics currently prescribed to treat bacterial infections will no longer be effective owing to microbial resistance. Drug-resistant strains of some pathogens, such as the bacteria that cause tuberculosis, and MRSA, have already appeared. Several deadly viral agents have also emerged, threatening both our soldiers in the battlefield as well as large civilian populations;

and, except for some vaccines, few treatments for viral infections exist to date.

With regard to infectious diseases, a major goal of the IIDC is to discover, characterize and validate novel virulence factors and toxins from infectious agents, working closely with our bioinformatics group who annotate (attempt to assign function based on the DNA sequence) the rapidly expanding number of pathogen genome sequences. These combined studies facilitate the discovery of novel but conserved pathways that may be validated as targets for broad-spectrum antibiotics. Complementary strategies will be developed to produce drug-like compounds for further development, including High-Throughput Screening (HTS), 'in silico' screening, and the development and application of NMR-based fragment approaches (the Institute hosts "The San Diego Chemical Library Screening Center", one of 5 such centers nationwide). The IIDC will continue its well-funded studies of the most likely agents of bioterrorism, including anthrax (*Bacillus anthracis*), smallpox (*Variola virus*), and plague (*Yersinia pestis*); but it will also expand its focus to the study of emerging diseases such as SARS, West Nile and Dengue Viruses, as well as preparing countermeasures to treat a possible influenza pandemic—should avian flu strain H5N1 gain the ability to transmit directly from person to person.

A major new focus of the IIDC will be to understand and exploit host responses to infection. Human cells provide the never-ending backdrop in a contest between host-defense molecules and pathogen virulence factors that seek to subvert the host's innate and adaptive immune responses. Identifying the players and mechanisms of the natural host responses, many of which are common to a broad range of infections, may provide novel (host-targeted) leads for broad-spectrum therapeutics, the exciting possibility of naturally boosting innate immunity, as well as the discovery of novel adjuvants for vaccine design. Vaccine technology has developed little in the past 50 years. A high priority will therefore be the development of novel vaccine methodologies which employ robust single-chain antigen-adjuvant combinations that facilitate rapid production and modification in the face of engineered or mutant pathogens.

The IIDC is well positioned in that it already has much of the infrastructure in place to generate novel therapeutic leads; shortly, with the opening of our new facility in Orlando, FL we will have the additional capability of developing these leads through medicinal chemistry and pharmacology to phase I trials, the latter in collaboration with our clinical partners in Florida.

Additional funding made possible through this process to the IIDC will enable the expansion of our Center into a number of critical areas. Priorities include recruitment of new faculty members and their programs working in the fields of innate immunity, microbiology, and medicinal chemistry. Recruitment into these currently underrepresented areas within our Center will complement our existing expertise and further expedite the development of novel therapeutics.

Leveraged Funds—Based on the Burnham Institute for Medical Research's past successful record of leveraging seed funds, we estimate that \$3 million for additional scientists through this request will result in \$30 million in

additional grant funding for the next 10 years at the BIMR.

Current/Future/Matching Funding—Private philanthropy for the San Diego, CA area has contributed to the current research work ongoing at Burnham's IIDC. Since BIMR scientists started focusing on the important area of research, the IIDC has secured nearly \$40,000,000 in competitive federal grants from a number of sources including the DoD and the NIAID. BIMR researchers and their research are very well respected throughout these federal agencies. Researchers in the IIDC will continue to seek federal grants through the traditional competitive process this year through funding opportunities available from the DoD and the NIAID.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF MERIT STUDENTS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of 39 distinguished high school students from Michigan's Eighth District. I was proud to award the Congressional Medal of Merit to these students during a ceremony at Michigan's State Capitol on May 9, 2008.

These graduating seniors were nominated by their schools for the prestigious Congressional Medal of Merit. To be nominated, each student demonstrated exemplary citizenship and academic excellence throughout their high school careers.

These young men and women have demonstrated an outstanding sense of service to their peers, education and community. Honoring their achievements with the Congressional Medal of Merit is a privilege and I congratulate each of them along with their parents, family, teachers and community. Together, this group of students represents the best and brightest America has to offer: Amber Barber, Tyler Bengel, Kristin Boozer, Michael Brendel, Sarah Bush, Chris Case, Kaitlyn Charette, Christina Clarke, Bethany Davis, Nathan Feldpausch, Preston Frazier, Mariah Frey, Brittney Fuller, Kristy Gould, Effrem Grettenberger, Carolyn Hamilton, Robert Hindy, Jessica Holberg, Priya Karve, Jason Klepal, Kristin Kotarba, Audrey Kramer, Kiley Kyser, Kavina Marshall, Alexandra McGregor, Victoria Miller, Christine Norton, Guillermo Peralta, Ariana Pierce, Jacob Price, McKenzie Rowley, Thomas Sanday, Eric Stants, Marco Tori, Jacquelyn Verley, Christie Wilkins, Brennan Woell, Lo-Hua Yuan, Mitchell Zajac.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in honoring these exceptional students. May they know that this Nation is greatly appreciative of their service and dedication, and wishes them the best in all their future endeavors.

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL CERTIFICATE OF MERIT RECIPIENT SYDNEY MOORE

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the successes and achievements of Sydney Moore, who has received the Congressional Certificate of Merit award at Westwood High School in Austin, Texas. Sydney has shown exceptional leadership qualities through her involvement in numerous activities which makes her a great candidate for this award.

Sydney is a wholesome, bright, and energetic young woman. She has shown strong leadership abilities at home, in clubs, and in sports. She has earned the trust of her peers by being elected to a variety of positions on and off of the field, including Student Council and Miracle League.

I congratulate Sydney Moore for her achievements in school and in her community and am proud to represent such talented and dedicated people in the 31st District of Texas.

HEROES EARNINGS ASSISTANCE AND RELIEF TAX ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6081, the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax (HEART) Act and to commend Speaker PELOSI and Chairman RANGEL for their perseverance in getting this important bill to the President's desk.

H.R. 6081 includes vital tax provisions that help military families facing significant financial hardships due to extended deployments. According to a Department of Defense survey, 55 percent of married National Guardsmen and Reservists suffer a loss of income when they are called to active duty. The Heart Act helps to fix this problem by providing a tax credit of up to \$4,000 for small businesses that continue to pay National Guard and Reserve employees when they are called to serve.

This important bill makes permanent several IRS provisions that relieve economic hardships as a result of military service including the Earned Income Tax Credit for families of soldiers in combat. H.R. 6081 also allows more military families to be eligible for the economic stimulus rebates and makes it easier for veterans to become homeowners through low-interest loans.

The Heart Act is fully offset and will not increase our national debt. It pays for these tax breaks by closing an offshore loophole that allows government contractors, who receive millions or billions in taxpayers' dollars, to set up companies in foreign countries to avoid paying Social Security and Medicare taxes. For example, defense contractor KBR, has reportedly avoided paying over \$100 million in Social Security and Medicare taxes by creating

shell companies in the Cayman Islands. H.R. 6081 also stops tax benefits for Americans who renounce their citizenship in order to avoid paying U.S. taxes.

The men and women of the armed forces who serve this country with honor during times of war should be assured that their families will not suffer financially from being deployed. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ELAINE
BUNDESEN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of one of our notable local residents and a good friend, Elaine Bundesen. Elaine died last month at the age of 85 of complications from Parkinson's disease.

Originally from Washington State, Elaine grew up in Seattle and attended the University of Washington. After she graduated in 1945 with a degree in English, she headed for San Francisco, where she met and married Jim Bloom, a Navy pilot from my hometown of Petaluma.

After the war—World War II—Elaine lived in Guam with her husband as one of the first Navy dependents to be stationed there. Later, the couple moved to Petaluma, where Elaine was introduced to small-town life. Petaluma being the egg capital of the Nation, Elaine eventually got a job at Bundesen Bros. Hatchery, where she met her second husband, Paul Bundesen. Sadly, their life together ended when Paul was killed in a plane crash in 1967.

Elaine returned to school, and in 1974 received her master's degree in counseling at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park. She worked for more than 25 years in the university's office of admissions and records. During this time, she helped form the public lecture series "Pandora's Box" with a small group of women whose activities started the women's studies program at Sonoma State.

Elaine is survived by her three stepchildren, Margaret, David and Laura, and many nieces and nephews.

Madam Speaker, Elaine was a wonderful woman and a good friend who influenced many lives. She was a mentor to me and will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO AZERBAIJANIS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise as a member of the House Azerbaijan Caucus, to honor Azerbaijanis around the world, as they prepare to celebrate Republic Day on May 28. Republic Day commemorates Azerbaijan's declaration of its independence from the Russian Empire in 1918, becoming the first democratic secular republic in the Eastern hemisphere. Despite its short existence, 1918–

1920, the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan had achieved considerable success in state building and creation of educational foundations for future generations. The Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan granted suffrage to women shortly after its creation, ahead of most Western democracies.

Despite all of its successes, the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan was not in a position to withstand the occupational forces of the then newly formed Soviet Russia. Consequently, Azerbaijan had temporarily lost its independence in 1920 and later was included into the U.S.S.R.

In 1990, Azerbaijan regained its independence from the U.S.S.R., ending 70 years of Soviet rule. Meantime, Azerbaijanis will never forget the tragic events of January 1990, forever known to all Azerbaijanis as Black January, as the Soviet army crushed peaceful demonstrations in the streets of the capital Baku. On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament adopted the Declaration on the Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and on October 18, 1991, the independence was approved by the Constitution.

Since its independence, the Republic of Azerbaijan has been an invaluable ally and is among the first nations, who offered unconditional support to the United States in the War Against Terror, providing its airspace and the use of its airports for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Today, Azerbaijani troops continue to serve with distinction in Afghanistan and in Iraq.

Azerbaijan is also a founding member of GUAM—Organization for Democracy and Economic Development, which includes Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova. Azerbaijan is a leading nation in regional economic cooperation through development of various international projects. Azerbaijan is also one of the key players in European energy security matters.

Madam Speaker and dear colleagues, please join me in thanking the people of Azerbaijan for their sincere friendship towards our country, and congratulate Azerbaijanis around the world on the 90th anniversary of Republic Day.

I also would like to thank and congratulate my Azerbaijani-American constituents, lead by Naimi and Naila Amiraliyev, for their tireless efforts in developing and strengthening the friendship and understanding between our nations.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House passed H. Res. 1153—Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. I honor this important month of May which marks the 30th anniversary of the passage of a joint Congressional Resolution designating the first 10 days in May to celebrate Asian American Heritage. Congress later voted to expand the commemoration to a month-long celebration to truly honor the im-

pact that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have in this great Nation.

Let us join the rest of the country in celebrating this year's theme of "Building Today for Tomorrow." As legislators we must constantly remember that the decisions we make now greatly impact our future. That is why I am proud to say this Democratic Congress has passed legislation to raise the minimum wage, to make college more affordable, to fund nutrition programs, to protect families facing foreclosure, and to lower prices at the pump. We will continue to fight for the needs of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities by creating legislation to address this country's growing economic and energy needs.

Mr. Speaker, this year during Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, I urge my colleagues to recognize beyond the month of May the continued struggles that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders face—the health disparities, language barriers, stereotypes, and discrimination they attempt to overcome on a daily basis. I urge us to remember their unyielding contributions to our Nation and honor those who have sacrificed their lives and families to bravely fight for our country. Above all, I urge us to work together to make choices that will move our Nation forward to a better tomorrow.

SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL DRUG
COURT MONTH

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support and recognition of May as National Drug Court Month.

Since the first drug court was created in 1989 drug courts have been a legitimate alternative to incarceration for nonviolent, drug-addicted offenders.

By combining judicial supervision, comprehensive substance abuse and mental health treatment, random and frequent drug testing, incentives and sanctions, clinical case management and life skills services drug courts provide substance abusing offenders with the much-needed chance at long-term recovery and productive lifestyles.

My home State of Maryland is a leader in the drug court movement. The Drug Treatment Court Commission was established in 2003 by Chief Judge Robert M. Bell of the Maryland Court of Appeals. The Commission has supported the development of 40 drug courts throughout the State so that Maryland can effectively respond to the thousands of individuals arrested in Maryland who are dependent on drugs and/or alcohol.

Drug courts work. According to an April 2008 evaluation of the Harford County District Court Adult Drug Court program participants were significantly less likely to be re-arrested than offenders who were eligible for the program but did not participate. In Harford County and throughout the State drug courts are making a difference. During May, National Drug Court Month, I am proud to share that 30 graduations are being held across the State.

Drug courts play an important role in breaking the cycle of addiction and crime and will

help to reduce the over-reliance on incarceration for the addicted. We must do all that we can to maximize the impact of drug courts across the Nation.

I applaud the work that the Maryland Drug Treatment Court Commission is doing and I congratulate all of the dedicated drug court professionals and graduates from Maryland and around the country.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit documentation consistent with the new Republican Earmark Standards.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN R. CARTER.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658—The Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Military Construction, Army.

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Fort Hood, TX.

Address of Receiving Entity: U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Hood, Bldg. 1001, Rm W321, Fort Hood, TX 75544.

Description of Request: I have secured \$18,288,000 in authorization funding in H.R. 5658 in the Military Construction, Army account for a Chapel with Religious Education Center project at Fort Hood, TX.

This project will construct a standard design chapel complex and religious education center. Primary facilities include a chapel complex, religious education center, administrative area, conference rooms, library, multipurpose activity area, kitchen and storage areas, fire alarm and fire suppression systems, connection to Installation Energy Management Control System (ECMS), and building information systems. Special foundations are required due to the expansive soils. Supporting facilities include electrical, water, sanitary sewer, and natural gas utilities; storm drainage; chilled water distribution; paving, walks, curbs and gutters; security lighting, information systems; landscaping and site improvements. Heating will be provided by self-contained natural gas units. Access for the handicapped will be provided. Comprehensive Interior Design package is required. Anti-terrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) measures include mass notification system, structural reinforcement, special doors and windows, high curbing, and other measures to maintain stand-off distance.

Fort Hood, Texas is a strategic installation for the Army. This project was programmed to receive funding in Fiscal Year 2012, but was identified by the garrison commander as the highest unfunded priority in Fiscal Year 2009. The project is necessary to improve psychological and spiritual care for the soldiers and their families.

Military Construction projects are always 100% funded by the U.S. Federal government so there is no opportunity for matching funds.

DUNCAN HUNTER NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5658) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2009, and for other purposes:

Mr. BACA. Mr. Chairman, I stand here in support of H.R. 5658, the Duncan Hunter Defense Authorization Act of FY 2009.

Just a few months ago, we reflected on the 5-year anniversary of this war. Today we send a message to our troops that we are with them.

This bill authorizes additional funds for the needs of our troops overseas, and more importantly will authorize a pay raise larger than that requested by the President.

During these hard economic times of recession, foreclosures, and high gas prices, our military families need all our help and support. This bill prohibits fee increases in TRICARE and expands available health care services.

This bill is a step in the right direction, with directives for the Afghanistan conflict, and more accountability of the Iraqi government and contractors.

Today we make our commitment to the Americans we represent, and their sons, daughters, husbands, wives, sisters and brothers serving as part of the Armed Forces. They are fighting a war that is not their fight.

In my district alone, 13 families will sit at their dinner table without a loved one. To these families in my district and those throughout the Nation, I thank you for your service, your sacrifice and your love for this Nation. You are the back bone of the Armed Forces.

I urge my colleagues to keep our commitment to our troops, redirect this war in the right direction and vote for H.R. 5658.

INTRODUCTION OF FAIRNESS IN NURSING HOME ARBITRATION ACT

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Fairness in Nursing Home Arbitration Act of 2008 to protect one of our most vulnerable groups: the elderly. This legislation is designed to make unenforceable all pre-dispute, mandatory binding arbitration clauses in contracts between long-term care facilities and their residents. Let me be clear: I am supportive of the principles of arbitration, so this legislation will not prohibit arbitration. Instead, it will simply ensure that residents have the choice whether to arbitrate a dispute after it has arisen.

The Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, which I chair, has held three hearings this term on issues related to the

Federal Arbitration Act. During these hearings, witnesses testified that many businesses utilize arbitration agreements to the disadvantage of consumers by limiting constitutional rights, imposing unreasonable costs, and creating a system in which consumers are likely to lose even when they file a valid claim.

The long-term care industry is one stark example where businesses draft take-it-or-leave-it admission agreements for prospective residents that include pre-dispute mandatory arbitration clauses. A witness at the Subcommittee's October 25, 2007 hearing on H.R. 3010, the Arbitration Fairness Act of 2007, testified that the "current system of binding mandatory arbitration employed by nursing homes creates a playing field that is tilted in favor of nursing homes and against frail, vulnerable residents who suffer terribly at the hands of their caregivers. Sadly these residents are, all too often, the victims of abuse by their caregivers. They should not be further abused by an arbitration system that dispenses anything but justice."

After hearing several stories of abhorrent conditions in nursing homes and how arbitration clauses have effectively silenced residents who want to improve those conditions, I am introducing this legislation to make unenforceable pre-dispute mandatory arbitration clauses and to restore to residents and their families their full legal rights. Residents and their families will no longer have to worry about losing their right to a jury trial when they are going through the emotional and traumatic process of searching for long-term care facilities and then choosing the perfect one. I understand the emotional toll and the sense of vulnerability when moving a loved one and his belongings into the care of strangers at a nursing home. My father was recently placed into a nursing home, and one of the last things I wanted to worry about was whether he was forgoing his legal rights when he entered it. Instead, I wanted to focus solely on the quality and range of services the facility would provide him. This legislation will allow families and residents to retain their legal rights while they look for that perfect long-term care facility.

Several groups, including the AARP, the Alzheimer's Association, the National Senior Citizens Law Center, and many others who advocate on behalf of the elderly and consumers, support this legislation. Already a similar bipartisan bill has been introduced in the Senate. I am optimistic that Congress can soon send a bill to the President for his signature so that nursing home residents will retain their choice whether to arbitrate a dispute.

I urge my colleagues to join me, Representatives ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, JOHN CONYERS, HANK JOHNSON, DENNIS KUCINICH, and WILLIAM DELAHUNT, and take the important step of co-sponsoring this bipartisan legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MEGHAN NORTH LAMPO

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a young constituent whose life tragically ended way too early, as the result of an automobile accident.

Meghan North Lampo of Fairway, Kansas, was killed on May 15, 2008, in an automobile accident in Overland Park, Kansas. She was born on February 12, 1979, in Kansas City, Missouri. She was a graduate of St. Paul's Episcopal Day School and St. Theresa's Academy. Meghan earned a bachelor of arts in Japanese studies at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, and spent her junior year in Morioka, Japan. She was a student ambassador to Kansas City's sister city in Kurashiki, Japan, a Rotary International scholar in Myaboshi, Japan, and participated in the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme, a Japanese governmental program in Nagano, Japan.

Meghan was a beautiful young woman who loved people from every walk of life and has been described as a creative and free spirit who loved and lived life to the fullest. She described herself as someone who colored outside the lines in order to make a masterpiece. She had boundless energy and her own sense of style, a strong will, a huge heart, and a desire to help others in any way she could. Meghan particularly enjoyed volunteering for Bacchus Foundation, a philanthropic, social and service organization which introduces and integrates young adults into Kansas City's civic, cultural and educational communities. As Meghan said, "A little sparkle goes a long way these days." She is survived by many friends and her family, including her mother, Jane Lampo and stepfather, Rick Welsch, of Fairway, and her father Joe Lampo of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to pay tribute to a very special young constituent whose life was tragically snuffed out when she was much too young. I thank you for this opportunity and I know that all members of the House of Representatives join with me in paying tribute to Meghan North Lampo.

HONORING EARLIE MAYS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Earlie Mays, who is retiring from his position as International Representative of the United Auto Workers, Region 5, after 31 years of exemplary service. Earlie has been based in Fremont, California, through much of his career in the labor movement. I have been privileged over the years to work with him on issues of importance to working men and women.

Upon his graduation from high school in 1963, Earlie enrolled in Laney Junior College in Oakland, California, and soon thereafter he was hired at Oakland's General Motors Plant (GM). He always had a great love for the Auto Workers' Union and was fiercely dedicated to workers' rights. He also had a great thirst for knowledge with a goal of promoting the welfare of others. In 1970, Earlie took a leave of absence from GM and attended the UC Berkeley Institute of Industrial Relations, where he earned a certificate in Labor Studies. Immediately upon receiving his certificate, he was recruited by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees'

National Union to organize and service its Northern California local unions. During this period, Earlie honed his skills as a negotiator, grievance handler, organizer, and negotiator of collective bargaining agreements.

Earlie returned to GM, which relocated to Fremont, California, and worked himself up through the ranks of labor. He was elected to various positions, including Alternate Committeeman, Executive Board Member at Large, and Chairperson of the Civil Rights Committee. He continued his educational endeavors attending United Auto Worker Summer Schools and the Walter and May Reuther Educational Center in Black Lake, Michigan. He frequently conducted classes for rank and file members in various subjects.

In 1973, Earlie was elected Chairman of the Bargaining Committee of the General Motors Plant in Fremont. In doing so he became the youngest person, as well as the first African-American, to hold that office. His adept bargaining skills earned respect for the UAW.

Earlie served for sixteen years as a Commissioner on the California Prison Board as an appointee of California Governors Jerry Brown and George Deukmejian. He has served as President of the Western Region A. Philip Randolph Institute, as Director of the UAW Regional Civil Rights Program, and as a member of the NAACP and the American Red Cross.

I join the community in thanking Earlie Mays for his exemplary career in labor and his dedication to community service.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Montgomery County Humane Society as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. Our household is fortunate to count Chessie, a golden retriever/yellow Labrador mix, as part of our family, and our entire community is grateful to the Montgomery County Humane Society for providing compassionate animal welfare services in our region for half a century.

Each year, the Montgomery County Humane Society takes in over 10,000 animals and provides assistance to more than 100,000 local citizens. It offers many critically important services in the county such as its nationally renowned Adoption/Foster, Spay-Neuter Programs, as well as the Rescue Partners Program, Lost & Found, 24-Emergency Hotline Services, Safe Haven Program, and Humane Education for both children and adults.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to offer my congratulations and warmest wishes to the Montgomery County Humane Society as it celebrates this important milestone. May it continue to thrive, shelter all needy animals, and find good homes for abandoned animals.

SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINE INVESTMENT CONFERENCE IN BETHLEHEM

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, on May 21, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Salam Fayyad convened a large gathering of international business leaders in Bethlehem to promote investment in the Palestinian economy. This three-day conference, organized by the Palestinian Authority, is an important milestone on the road to a lasting and secure peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

Earlier this week, Congressman RAHM EM-MANUEL, the chairman of the Democratic Caucus, and I participated with Speaker NANCY PELOSI in a Congressional leadership visit to Israel to mark the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the Jewish State. During our time there, we had the opportunity to meet with U.S. diplomatic officials, and my colleague spoke by phone with Palestinian Authority officials to assess the progress of efforts to bring peace to that region.

Following our discussions with Palestinian and American officials, we both express our strong support for the efforts of President Abbas and Prime Minister Fayyad to chart a course of moderation and tolerance and develop an economy and society that provides hope and opportunity for the Palestinian people. The international community must support efforts, like this investment conference, which are designed to improve the lives of peoples in the region.

Madam Speaker, in this regard, we note our strong appreciation for the participation of business leaders from throughout the region, including Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Turkey, and the Arab Gulf states. We express our thanks to the Government of Israel for its efforts to make the conference a success, including by making the travel of so many participants possible. This conference is a demonstration of what is possible in this troubled region when people work together for a common good and reject the forces of extremism.

We express our thanks to major U.S. corporations that have joined the Palestinian Authority in this effort, including Cisco, Intel, Marriott and Coca-Cola. When they create jobs, spur investment, and strengthen communities, these corporations are truly furthering the cause of peace.

Madam Speaker, a recent World Bank report put unemployment in the West Bank and Gaza at more than 23 percent. This young and rapidly expanding labor force presents both an opportunity and a challenge for those of us who seek to promote the cause of peace. If these young people can find jobs, support a family and become part of the global economy, they will be a force for peace. The durability of the bonds between the Israeli and Palestinian business communities is testimony to the power and potential of these relationships.

If however, these young people are forced to rely on Government handouts and the charity of others, they are ripe for exploitation by those with extremist agendas.

Madam Speaker, the Palestinian Authority has begun making some of the difficult

choices necessary to create a prosperous future for its people. The contrast in the Middle East between those that seek a peaceful, negotiated solution to a conflict that has gone on far too long, and those that oppose this path, has never been clearer. We must use every tool at our disposal to support those who seek to build the institutions of free societies in the Middle East. The promotion of a strong, prosperous Palestinian economy is a critical component in this struggle, and we commend President Abbas and Prime Minister Fayyad for their efforts and assure them of our continued support.

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL CERTIFICATE OF MERIT RECIPIENT
BOBBY LINDSEY

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the successes and achievements of Bobby Lindsey, who has received the Congressional Certificate of Merit award at Round Rock High School in Round Rock, Texas. Bobby has shown exceptional leadership qualities through his involvement in numerous activities which makes him a great candidate for this award.

Bobby has been involved in band throughout high school and is a volunteer and tutor for English as a second language students. Outside of school, Bobby works as a volunteer with people who are learning to speak English.

I congratulate Bobby Lindsey for his achievements in school and in his community and am proud to represent such talented and dedicated people in the 31st District of Texas.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND JOB
CREATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6049, the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act. This important legislation would provide critical tax relief to families coping with increased costs of gas and food, while continuing our national investment in renewable energy and conservation programs to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. I am particularly pleased that this legislation includes \$3 billion in energy conservation bonds to help States reduce greenhouse gases.

Protecting the environment for future generations is a collective responsibility. We must each do our part to leave a better, cleaner world than the one we inherited. That has been a guiding principle for my efforts in Congress, and it is our mutual obligation.

Recently, both Rockland County and Westchester County in my district in New York have joined communities nationwide moving to reduce our dependence on foreign oil by passing plastic bag recycling laws.

We know that the production of plastic bags and film plastic worldwide uses over 12 million

barrels of oil per year, accounting for more than 4 percent of the world's total oil production. We also know the disturbing truth that in the United States we use more than 1 billion plastic bags a year, and less than 1 percent of those bags are recycled. Even more troubling, the Environmental Protection Agency estimates the average plastic bag takes up to 1,000 years to decompose—in the process breaking down into smaller pieces that contaminate our soil and waterways and cause injury, illness or death to marine and animal life.

I recently introduced H. Res. 1161 to honor retailers and those State and local governments throughout the nation that have taken similar proactive steps to tackle this critical energy and environmental challenge. In the coming weeks I will also be introducing legislation to establish a national program promoting plastic bag recycling at our retail outlets, and I look forward to working with the members of the Ways and Means Committee, the Energy and Commerce Committee, and the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming to tackle this issue.

Thank you again to Chairman RANGEL for your leadership on these critically important issues, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6049.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

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

Requesting Member: Congressman STEVE CHABOT.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

Account: Aircraft Procurement, Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The National Guard Association of the United States.

Address of Requesting Entity: One Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, DC. 20001, (202) 789-0031.

Description of Request: The National Guard and the active Army have developed a two-pronged program to support the continued modernization of the National Guard Black Hawk fleet, however, it is not fully funded. The National Guard wants to accelerate the fielding of "M" series Black Hawks by 10 aircraft per year. In addition, the Army is recapitalizing Army National Guard UH-60A helicopters with a UH-60A recapitalization program funded in the Operations and Maintenance accounts. This program includes an airframe life extension, fleet-wide product improvements and the replacements of components with the latest configurations, however the portion of the program to upgrade the recapitalized UH-60A to the UH-60L configuration is not funded. Upgrading to the UH-60L provides a Black Hawk that is cheaper to operate and one that has 1,000 pounds greater lift than the UH-60A model. A rate of 38 upgrades per year is required to enable Army National Guard units to upgrade or replace all the UH-60As at pace with the active Army.

TROUBLING REPORTS OF MISPLACED PRIORITIES IN THE ADMINISTRATION'S HURRICANE EVACUATIONS PLANS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, officials recently participating in a Texas hurricane evacuation drill were shocked to learn that the Border Patrol, CBP, planned to check the citizenship or immigration status of the people that they were helping to evacuate. Such a policy is fraught with problems. One car with a flat tire can back up an evacuation for hundreds of miles. Just think about how disruptive and dangerous immigration checkpoints would be, and how many people would remain in harm's way for fear of arrest.

The outrage in Texas, and across the country, was instantaneous. Other law enforcement agencies, State officials, and the press condemned the announcement, and DHS started backpedaling. But this was not an isolated incident or just a mistake. Rather, this comes on the heels of other evacuations in which DHS' priorities have been confused. Such as the California fires in which undocumented aliens were afraid to risk immigration checkpoints and died in the flames. And the administration's refusal to suspend immigration enforcement in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, as had been done after September 11. The immigration enforcement mission must be carried out in the proper context; in the face of a natural disaster or mass casualty event, public safety and humanitarian exigencies must take priority.

We asked for an immediate briefing to get to the bottom of this. Just hours before they were supposed to come brief us, the Border Patrol suddenly said that they had reassessed the policy in light of last week's exercise. They told us that CBP's "primary role in such events will be the safeguarding of life. No enforcement role will be undertaken that will in any way impede the safe and orderly evacuation of any member of the south Texas population." Frankly, I would have been more reassured if the CBP's purported change in policy had not been couched in such equivocal terms.

Later yesterday, Secretary Chertoff stated that "Priority Number One" will be "the safe evacuation of people who are leaving the danger zone." He said that clear instructions have been given to the Border Patrol "to do nothing to impede a safe and speedy evacuation of a danger zone."

So the message seems to have been heard. Rest assured that we will be watching to make sure that the focus truly is on having all hands on deck for humanitarian and evacuation needs, as opposed to diverting DHS resources into ill-conceived—and dangerous—immigration enforcement.

I am very troubled by this episode. It comes on the heels of revelations in recent weeks about medical abuse of immigration detainees. And it comes in the wake of a massive raid in Iowa that disrupted a Department of Labor investigation and resulted in assembly line arrest and prosecution of workers, but not of those who may have abused them. This cascade of controversy leads me to pose one

overarching question—what kind of agency is DHS that there need to be congressional inquiries on so many of their actions before they take into account basic standards of life, safety, health care, due process, and constitutional rights?

I am inserting into the RECORD a letter about the ill-conceived evacuation from leading national Latino and Asian-American civil rights groups: the Asian American Justice Center, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the National Association of Latino Elected Officials, and the National Council of La Raza. I am also inserting a fact sheet from the United Food and Commercial Workers about the raids in Iowa, where there are disturbing allegations of union-busting and labor exploitation on the part of the factory owners.

I look forward to working with these groups to make sure that DHS remembers its duty to protect the civil rights of everyone on U.S. soil, regardless of their race, natural origin, or immigration status.

MAY 20, 2008.

Hon. MICHAEL CHERTOFF,
Secretary, Department of Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY CHERTOFF: We are writing to express our utter outrage that the Border Patrol would jeopardize the safety of residents of the Rio Grande Valley in the event of a hurricane evacuation by checking the documents of evacuees before they are allowed to board evacuation buses. If you are interested in undercutting the safety of a large segment of the community you are charged with protecting, this is exactly the way to go about it. Indeed, the very news that such an effort is planned, which was reported by the Rio Grande Guardian on May 14, has already undercut the ability of the federal government to protect the population which could be affected by a hurricane or some other natural disaster.

To put it quite simply, a substantial segment of the population—immigrants and U.S. citizens alike—will not participate in an evacuation effort if they believe it to be tainted with the goal of immigration enforcement. Americans with immigrant family members will not participate for fear of jeopardizing their loved ones. In addition, most American citizens do not carry documentation that proves their citizenship. If you proceed with this approach, a great many U.S. citizens will be kept off of evacuation buses because they failed to bring their passports and birth certificates when they fled their homes. To put such people on Border Patrol buses and subject them to immigration enforcement, possibly separating them from their family members in a time of crisis, is foolish and offensive.

We have written to you on this subject in the past, when your decision not to suspend immigration enforcement in the wake of Hurricane Katrina made this the first Administration of either party to jeopardize the safety of disaster victims by conducting immigration enforcement during a rescue and relief operation. We have pointed out publicly that insisting on immigration enforcement in a time of crisis will jeopardize the safety of the American public by undercutting public confidence in vitally important public safety and public health initiatives. To put it bluntly, if the next major crisis is a flu epidemic, the actions of your agency will guarantee that major segments of the population will not come forward for vaccinations out of fear of immigration enforcement.

This tactic by the Border Patrol is not simply offensive, it is dangerous, and we are

shocked and outraged that it has proceeded this far. We urge you in the strongest possible terms to suspend it immediately, and reassure the public that the United States will not undercut our security in a time of crisis by asking for papers before taking people to safety.

Sincerely,

KAREN NARASAKI,
Asian American Justice Center.

ROSA ROSALES,
League of United Latin American Citizens.

JOHN TRASVINA,
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

ARTURO VARGAS,
National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials.

JANET MURGUÍA,
National Council of La Raza.

AGRIPROCESSORS FACT SHEET COMPANY SUMMARY

Agriprocessors is one of the world's largest kosher meat producers. The company is based in Postville, Iowa, where it employs over 800 people and produces beef, poultry, turkey, and lamb. The company has a smaller plant in Gordon, Nebraska, which employs roughly 100. Agriprocessors produces meat products under brands such as Aaron's Best, Aaron's Choice, and Rubashkin's. The company's products are sold at well-known retailers such as Trader Joe's and Albertsons.

The plant has been the center of controversy for a variety of issues, including health and safety at the plant, environmental issues, food safety, and animal welfare.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

In the period of April 2001 to February 2006, OSHA records show no less than 20 violations at Agriprocessors, a meatpacking plant in Postville, Iowa. Of these, 12 were identified by OSHA as serious. An examination of OSHA injury logs at the plant reveals over five amputations along with dozens of other serious injuries such as broken bones, eye injuries, and hearing loss.

On March 20, 2008, the Iowa Occupational Health and Safety Agency (IOSHA) charged Agriprocessors with 39 new health and safety violations with fines totaling \$180,000. For perspective, in 2007, IOSHA issued 19 violations for all meatpacking plants in Iowa with fines totaling over \$120,000. The new citations at Agriprocessors range from amputation risks, fire hazards, electric shock risks, and improperly labeled hazardous chemicals.

Numerous reports in the media and an investigation by an independent commission of Rabbis have revealed numerous cases of worker mistreatment including lack of training, job favoritism, and unsafe conditions.

In January 2008, the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that Agriprocessors must obey a National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) ruling to bargain. Agriprocessors refused to bargain in September 2005, after a large majority of its distribution center workers voted to join the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW). Agriprocessors argued that, despite having hired them, many of these employees were undocumented and therefore they could not vote or belong to a union. The NLRB ruled against Agriprocessors, maintaining that every employee, regardless of immigration status, has a collective bargaining vote.

ENVIRONMENT

On August 30, 2006, Agriprocessors, Inc., signed a consent agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), following a lawsuit arising out of alleged violations of the Clean Water Act. The agreement included specific monitoring and reporting provisions by which the company is required to abide. According to a document obtained by the UFCW through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, Agriprocessors was in violation of some or all of those requirements as of March 29, 2007. A telephone conversation with the EPA on August 28, 2007 indicated that Agriprocessors notified the EPA that the company had recently completed the required audit. It is unclear if the EPA considers Agriprocessors tardy in completing the audit and what penalties, if any, will be levied. Any findings and recommendations from the audit are also unknown at this time.

In a separate letter from the EPA to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) concerning Agriprocessors' NPDES permit renewal, the EPA raised concerns about compliance with the Clean Water Act at the Postville plant (see attachment).

FOOD SAFETY

Various food safety problems have been documented at both Agriprocessors' facilities, the main plant in Postville, IA and a smaller plant in Gordon, NE. These reports were based on documents from the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and revealed a variety of issues, including multiple violations related to monitoring procedures for BSE, or "mad cow." The FSIS also issued citations for sewage problems, fecal and bile contamination of beef and poultry along with foreign objects, and some metallic found during sausage and poultry production. Issues at the Postville plant led one FSIS official to issue a Letter of Warning and to comment in the letter, "These findings lead us to question your ability to maintain sanitary conditions, and to produce a safe and wholesome product."

HONORING MR. FRANK WOODRUFF BUCKLES AND ALL WHO SERVED OUR NATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise out of a deep respect for our Nation's sons and daughters whom we honor each year on Memorial Day. On May 26, 2008, the people of our United States will observe the memory of our men and women in uniform, who, throughout our history, made the ultimate sacrifice out of service to our great Nation.

In Kansas City, Missouri, we will gather at Liberty Memorial, the National World War I Museum, to reflect and honor our dead. Mr. Frank Woodruff Buckles, from Missouri, is the last known surviving American World War I veteran and will be present for the ceremony. Mr. Buckles witnessed the evolution of our country from isolation, depression, immigration, to liberation. He was part of a generation who saw all Americans receive the right to vote. He experienced the technological transformation and globalization of our country. He also saw the heartache and ugliness of war.

Ninety-one years ago, our doughboys left home to engage in the War to End All Wars.

Like Harry S. Truman, another Missourian, Mr. Buckles had to manipulate the rules to enlist during World War I. Truman had to memorize an eye chart; at age 16, Mr. Buckles had to exaggerate his age. Private Buckles joined the Army and was detailed to the 1st Fort Riley Casual Detachment. He soon arrived in theater where he saw duty as an ambulance driver in England, France and Germany. During part of the conflict he was assigned the responsibility of guarding German prisoners and returned home with the rank of Corporal.

Nearly 4,744,000 Americans defended their country abroad during World War I, and 116,000 made the ultimate sacrifice. After the war, the compassionate people of Greater Kansas City raised enough money in 11 days to build the Liberty Memorial. At the dedication of the Liberty Memorial, General of the Armies John J. Pershing, Commander of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I, stated: "The memorial also symbolizes the obligation that rests upon present and future generations to preserve that for which those men and women offered their all, and from many of whom the supreme sacrifice was accepted. May their memory live on, and may every American who looks upon this noble edifice be inspired by their devotion."

We were naive in those days to think that World War I would be the last World War. Mr. Frank Woodruff Buckles saw the Second World War first hand as well. As a civilian he was employed by the White Star steamship line. While working in Manila in 1941, the Japanese forces attacked and took him prisoner. Three and a half years later he was freed by the 11th Airborne Division and returned to the United States.

Mr. Buckles' presence at the Liberty Memorial on Memorial Day is a reminder to all Americans that our country has been repatriated by the sacrifices of our veterans. Memorial Day is our national holiday of mourning intended to honor those who valiantly served our great Nation. As we gather in honor of generations of Americans who lost their lives in battle, we turn to our veterans to extend our gratitude, and bow our heads in memory of comrades lost.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to please join me in saluting Mr. Frank Woodruff Buckles, a true American patriot, and all of our veterans who died in service, and those who survived to make America a better place to live.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

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

Requesting Member: Congressman KENNY HULSHOF.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Aircraft Procurement, Air Force, Budget Activity 02, Airlift Aircraft, C-17.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The Boeing Company.

Address of Requesting Entity: The Boeing Company, P.O. Box 516, St. Louis, MO, 63166.

Description of Request: The C-17 is the world's most effective and flexible strategic/tactical airlifter. The C-17 has revolutionized the movement of troops and equipment into battle by allowing their delivery to parts of the world that were previously not accessible by conventional airlifters. As per Air Force Unfunded Priority List (UPL) #6, C-17 (+ 15 aircraft), \$3.9B, procures 15 C-17s, keeping only active strategic airlift production line open (and part of "required" force as per this UPL).

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING FORMER FOSTER CARE YOUTH

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume. I rise today to ask my colleagues to support H. Res 1208.

This resolution is very simple. It recognizes the many problems that face young people who spend time in foster care, and it thanks the many others who work to ease their transition from foster care to adulthood and independence.

In Georgia, there are thousands of children in foster care. Living in foster care is not a choice. These young people—of all race, ages, and backgrounds—were victims of neglect and abuse. Child welfare services share a common goal of finding safe, stable, and loving homes for these young people. Unfortunately, this dream is not always realized.

I have the privilege to serve on the Ways and Means' Income Security and Family Support Subcommittee chaired by my friend and colleague, Mr. McDERMOTT. Last year, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) invited two young people from my congressional district to testify about what it is like to transition from foster care to adulthood.

Anthony Reeves and Sherena Johnson both "aged-out" of Georgia's foster care system. They shared with us how difficult it is to find housing, health care, education, livable wage jobs, security, and stability. At a young age, when most are still relying on financial and emotional support from their parents and family, these young people had no one to fall back on. Mr. Speaker, these are the stories that break your heart.

Today, we honor those like Anthony, Sherena, and Kevin Brown—a recent Clark Atlanta University graduate—who are determined to find their way despite so many obstacles before them. We also pay tribute to the mentors, the volunteers, the parents, organizations, and many others who fill in the gaps in Federal and State coverage to help these young people during the most difficult times.

Most importantly, this resolution sends a message to the half a million young people currently in the foster care system. Congress tells them, "You are not alone. We love you; we support you. You are not forgotten; there is hope. You will survive, and you will succeed."

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I urge all of my colleagues to support this very simple resolution.

EXTENDING PROGRAM RELATING TO WAIVER OF FOREIGN COUNTRY RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT WITH RESPECT TO INTER- NATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5571, which provides a 5-year extension of the Conrad 30 J Waiver Program. That program is of critical importance to my constituents and to our Nation as a whole because it provides a mechanism whereby doctors can be provided to medically underserved areas.

I have the privilege of representing New York State's 23rd Congressional District, a predominantly rural region which encompasses 14,739 square miles in 11 counties in northern and central New York. It is breathtakingly beautiful and contains national treasures such as Lake Champlain, the St. Lawrence River, Lake Ontario, and the Adirondack Mountains. However, it has a 13.5 percent poverty rate and some have characterized it as remote.

One of our greatest challenges is recruiting and retaining physicians. In fact, given its importance to our economy and quality of life, that challenge is almost always raised whenever I meet with the fine men and women who serve as local elected officials, business community leaders, or health professionals.

The Conrad 30 J Waiver Program is an invaluable tool in our effort to meet that challenge. In fact, since 1996, my office has helped secure waivers for 46 doctors, including 7 primary care physicians located in 6 of the 11 counties I represent. While these doctors have helped immensely in our effort to address our physician shortage, I am hesitant to imagine a scenario where we did not have the Conrad 30 J Waiver Program.

Accordingly, I greatly appreciate the work the Gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) and the Gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) have done to bring this measure to the floor and look forward to its enactment.

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL CERTIFICATE OF MERIT RECIPIENT KARLYNDA JOHNSON

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the successes and achievements of Karlynda Johnson, who has received the Congressional Certificate of Merit award at Killeen High School in Killeen, Texas. Karlynda has shown exceptional leadership qualities through her involvement in numerous activities which makes her a great candidate for this award.

Karlynda is involved in numerous volunteer activities such as Camp Celebration, the City of Nolanville, and she is a Book Room volunteer at her school. On top of all of her volunteer activities, Karlynda is one of the top students in her class of 385.

I congratulate Karlynda Johnson for her achievements in school and in her community and am proud to represent such talented and dedicated people in the 31st District of Texas.

**PLUMBERS LOCAL UNION 210
BANQUET**

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sincerity and respect that I offer congratulations to several of Northwest Indiana's most talented, dedicated, and hardworking individuals. On Friday, June 6, 2008, the Plumbers Local Union 210 will honor the graduating class of 2008 at the Annual prentice Graduation Banquet, which will be held at the Patio Banquet Hall in Merrillville, Indiana.

At this year's banquet, the Plumbers Local Union 210 will recognize and honor the 2008 apprentice graduates. The individuals who have completed the apprentice training in 2008 are: Sonny Armato, Ben Buchholz, Nick Goodman, Chad Hofferth, Timothy LaMere, Mario Lopez, Robert Matthews, Kamilah Weaver, Jacob Wesley, and David Young.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These graduates are outstanding examples of each. They have mastered their trade and have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their hard work and selfless dedication.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated and hardworking individuals. Along with the other men and women of Northwest Indiana's unions, these individuals have committed themselves to making a significant contribution to the growth and development of the economy of the First Congressional District, and I am very proud to represent them in Washington, DC.

**HONORING OUR HEROES ON
MEMORIAL DAY**

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay a debt to those we could never repay . . . the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces, both past and present. It was their duty to serve, and with Memorial Day 2008 on the horizon, it is our duty to remember.

In a tradition that began just 3 years after the end of the Civil War, Americans set aside the 30th day of May each year to remember the sacrifice made by our service men and women who died while defending freedom.

On May 30, 1868, flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. That practice has continued for over 130 years as millions of Americans have laid flowers on the graves of soldiers from World War II, Vietnam and as recently as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Madam Speaker, I would like to pay special remembrance today to the soldiers, marines

and guardsmen from the Sixth Congressional District of Indiana who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

U.S. SERVICE MEMBERS KILLED IN IRAQ

Matthew R. Smith: Smith died May 10, 2003, in a vehicle accident in Kuwait. Age: 20. Hometown: Anderson, Ind. Died: 05/10/2003. Service: Marine Corps. Rank: Lance Corporal (E-3). Unit: reservist, assigned to Detachment 1, Communications Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group, Peru, Ind.

Shawn D. Pahnke: Pahnke was killed June 16, 2003, by a sniper while on patrol. Age: 25. Hometown: Shelbyville, Ind. Died: 06/16/2003. Service: Army. Rank: Private (E-2). Unit: Company C, 1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Division, Friedberg, Germany.

Chad L. Keith: Keith was killed July 7, 2003, when a roadside bomb exploded as his unit patrolled the streets of Baghdad. Age: 21. Hometown: Batesville, Ind. Died: 07/07/2003. Service: Army. Rank: Specialist (E-4). Unit: 2-325th Infantry, Company D, Fort Bragg, NC.

Frederick L. Miller Jr.: Miller was killed Sept. 20, 2003, when an improvised explosive device hit his vehicle. Age: 27. Hometown: Hagerstown, Ind. Died: 09/20/2003. Service: Army. Rank: Staff Sergeant (E-6). Unit: Troop K, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Carson, Colo.

Robert E. Colvill, Jr.: Colvill was among five soldiers killed July 8, 2004, in Baghdad. All were in the Iraqi National Guard Headquarters when it came under a mortar attack. Age: 31. Hometown: Anderson, Ind. Died: 07/08/2004. Service: Army. Rank: Sergeant (E-5). Unit: 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

Raymond L. White: White died Nov. 12, 2004, in Baghdad when his patrol was attacked with small arms fire. Age: 22. Hometown: Elwood, Ind. Died: 11/12/2004. Service: Army. Rank: Specialist (E-4). Unit: 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment (Armor), 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Scott Zubowski: Zubowski died when a roadside bomb exploded during combat operations near Fallujah in Iraq's Al Anbar province on Nov. 12, 2005. Age: 20. Hometown: Manchester, Ind. Boyhood Hometown: New Castle, Ind. Died: 11/12/2005. Service: Marine Corps. Rank: Lance Corporal (E-3). Unit: 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

Michael A. Bechert: Bechert was mortally wounded when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device in Baghdad, Iraq on May 30, 2007. He was transferred to Fort Sam Houston Hospital in San Antonio, Texas, where he died on June 14, 2007. Age: 24. Hometown: Schweinfurt, Germany. Boyhood Hometown: New Castle, Ind. Died: 06/14/2007. Service: Army. Rank: Staff Sergeant (E-6). Unit: 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2d Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

Johnathan A. Lahmann: Lahmann was mortally wounded when a vehicle-borne IED detonated near his vehicle in Baiji, Iraq on December 10, 2007. He was transferred to Tikrit, Iraq, where he died later that day. Age: 21. Hometown: Richmond, Ind. Boyhood Hometown: Richmond, Ind. Died: 12/10/2007. Service: Army. Rank: Specialist (E-4). Unit: 59th

Engineer Company, 20th Engineer Battalion, 36th Engineer Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas.

U.S. SERVICE MEMBERS KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN

Jeremy Wright: Wright died when an improvised explosive device struck his military vehicle. Age: 31. Hometown: Shelbyville, Ind. Died: 01/03/2005. Service: Army. Rank: Sergeant (E-5). Unit: 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group, Fort Lewis, Washington.

Michael Hiester: Hiester died when his military vehicle struck a land mine 30 miles west of Kabul, Afghanistan. Age: 33. Hometown: Bluffton, Ind. Died: 03/26/2005. Service: Indiana Army National Guard. Rank: Master Sergeant (E-8). Unit: 76th Infantry Brigade, Army National Guard, Indianapolis.

Mr. Speaker, these brave men, like those who went before them, made the ultimate sacrifice so that Americans can enjoy the freedoms we treasure.

It was their duty to serve; it is our duty to remember.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5658, which provides funds for the Gateway System. I am requesting funding in the FY09 Defense Authorization bill, Navy Procurement account for the Gateway System manufactured by Ocean Design, Inc., located at 1026 North Williamson Boulevard in Daytona Beach, Florida 32114.

The \$3 million authorized in the Navy's Procurement budget is to provide funding to the Navy for the purchase of the Gateway System that has been under development by the Navy to provide a fixed surveillance system in meeting the Nation's Maritime Domain Awareness security requirements. This is the first year procurement money will be used to fund this project. There will be no cost share, as this project will benefit the United States Navy.

The U.S. Navy has a requirement to defend the maritime approaches to the United States and monitor the littorals as articulated in the Navy's 2006 National Strategy for Maritime Security. The Gateway System is an open architecture system that allowed for sensors to be connected covertly to monitor activity on the ocean floor, from the ocean floor to the surface of the water, and above the water to provide awareness of all activity to counter mines, submarines, water traffic, and terrorism that may pose a threat to the fleet and to the United States.

**CONGRATULATING KTVK-TV ON
RECEIVING THE 2008 SERVICE TO
AMERICA PARTNERSHIP AWARD**

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate KTVK-TV (3TV, Arizona Family), recipient of the 10th annual National Association of Broadcasters Education Foundation 2008 Service to America Partnership

Award on June 9, 2008. This esteemed award praises exceptional community service by local broadcasters.

Since its inception in June 2006, KTVK's "Are You My Family" campaign has worked to find loving homes for some of Arizona's 10,000 foster children. In partnership with two local non-profits—Aid to Adoption of Special Kids and Fore Adoption Foundation—KTVK has thus far featured 64 children on its newscast and website. Of those, 38 have been matched with adoptive families—well over twice the rate at which these children are typically adopted.

Children discover newfound hope in KTVK's "Are You My Family" campaign. Children who are often forgotten in a system, in which their emotional needs may not be met, are paired with families that can provide the love and support they need. These foster families also provide the sense of security and belonging that allows these children to blossom fully into responsible and productive adults.

A strong community begins with strong families. I am proud of the work that KTVK has done to secure a bright future for Arizona's children. The "Are You My Family" campaign showcases KTVK's long tradition of commitment to public service and deep connection to the people that it serves.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing KTVK's tireless dedication to bringing love and hope back into the lives of Arizona's foster children.

HONORING STATE CHAMPION
WRESTLER ADAM PERRIN OF
NORTH SCOTT HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by North Scott High School wrestler Adam Perrin. This winter Adam captured the Iowa Class 3A Individual Wrestling Championship in the 103 pound weight class.

Adam won a thrilling championship match. He defeated his final opponent in a 6–5 decision.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of Adam and the North Scott High School Wrestling team, both on and off the court. Perhaps Paul "Bear" Bryant, the late, great coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide football team says it best: "Show class, have pride, and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself." This year, Adam Perrin and North Scott High School proved just that.

TRIBUTE TO RIVERSIDE COUNTY'S
RECIPIENTS OF OPERATION RECOGNITION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a group of individuals—heroes—who are receiving the recogni-

tion and honor they deserve for their service to our country. Operation Recognition is operated by the Riverside County Office of Education with assistance from the Riverside County Department of Veterans' Services. The program awards high school diplomas to veterans who missed completing high school due to military service in World War II, the Korean war, or the Vietnam war, or due to internment in WWII Japanese-American relocation camps.

A recognition ceremony was held on Wednesday, May 21, 2008, for the following individuals who received their high school diplomas through Operation Recognition:

Gary Anderson, Jess David Atilano, George R. Baca, Mark Chandler Banks, Clyde A. Bell, Kenneth M. Cable, Joseph Carpin, Franklin Delano Coffey, Michael DeCosta Jr., William Deile, Juan V. Espinoza, Lind Torrey Fiveland, Ronald Ascension Fraijo, Henry Joe Garcia, Peter James Garcia, Eugenio Gomez, David Diaz Gonzales, Marcelo Gonzalez Jr., Richard L. Goorey, Richard R. Granado, Carl F. Hawkins, Donald E. Hawley, David W. Heard, Noel Heft, Walter Edward Hetzel, Keith A. Hograve, Richard Jaramillo, Norman L. Keepers, Michael J. Lambert Jr., Phillip A. LeGault, Estepan J. Luna, Richard E. Marruffo, Augustine G. Martinez, George Mello, Fred G. Mora, Frank R. Munro, Richard G. Nelson, George O. Peterson, Clayton Lawrence, Pringle Kent; Eugene Ransdell, William S. Rivera, Steven Michael Roberts, William Holst Rodgers, David Paul Rogers, Harold Richard Roselli, Glen Harlen Routh, Albert Ortiz Salsedo, Victor M. Sartoresi, George M. Valencia, and Anthony Zamora.

Our country owes a debt of gratitude to all the above recipients for their service and sacrifice. I salute all the above individuals and congratulate them on receiving their high school diploma.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO STAFF
SERGEANT MATT MAUPIN

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to read a poem written by Albert Carey Caswell about a subject that is near and dear to my heart. Staff Sergeant Matt Maupin was listed as missing in action for many years.

MISSING NO MORE: IN HONOR OF A FALLEN
HERO MISSING IN ACTION, MATT MAUPIN

M.I.A.
Mom and Dad . . .
I know that you're sad . . .
'Oh how you prayed for this day . . .
I'd be, Missing No More . . .
Mom and Dad, it's me . . .
It's your son Matt . . . you can be . . .
Both happy and sad . . .
But, it's over now . . . it's not bad . . .
That long . . . long . . . long wait . . .
You, don't have to lie awake . . .
Anymore . . . No more . . .
With every breath you take . . .
With a worry so great . . .
That burden upon you placed . . .
That pain and heartache, you endured . . .
All those sleepless nights, in wait . . . with
such fright . . .
Wondering . . . and Wondering . . . what for?
Is he dead, or is he alive?

Will he ever survive? Or will my baby die?
It's for you mom and dad . . . and my family
who I cry . . .
I Am Not Missing Anymore . . .
Yea, I know it's bittersweet . . .
The pain, which you now carry deep . . .
Missing, me now forever more . . .
But, take heart . . .
We are all going to die . . .
But, a life of honor and sacrifice . . .
Makes The Angels Cry . . .
And, Mother there are so many more . . .
Families, who will never know for sure . . .
All because they don't know, of their loved
ones so . . .
Who with each waking breath, their pain
ever grows . . . no rest . . .
Not knowing, so for sure . . .
Now, to my greatest of loves . . .
I have risen, high above . . . To Our
Lord . . .
I'm an Angel, in The Army of Our Lord . . .
And, I will watch over you . . . day and
night . . .
And I will win, this last battle . . . This
Fight . . .
And you will hear me, in the breeze . . .
On a soft falling snow, you feel my heart at
ease . . .
As my Angel's breath envelops you, to find
peace . . .
I'm everywhere you are now, this you must
believe . . .
So to you, this I so send . . .
The full comfort in so knowing . . .
We will see each other again . . .
And I hope that your hearts are glowing . . .
To you my love's in knowing . . .
It will only be a short time . . . when . . .
We are all together, again . . .
As In Heaven, we'll meet again . . .
So, Never Regret That Day . . .
When, your son Matt went away . . .
And, did what must be done . . .
For A Life Which Lives In The Light . . . In
The Sun . . .
And Fights The Darkness . . .
Is but, a far . . . far better one . . . The
Greatest of All Ones . . .
I'm Not Missing Anymore . . .

CONGRATULATING CAPTAIN
MAURY WEEKS ON THE OCCA-
SION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM
THE UNITED STATES COAST
GUARD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to United States Coast Guard Captain Maury A. Weeks on the occasion of his retirement from active duty.

A native of Mobile, Alabama, Captain Weeks is a proud alumnus of the University of Alabama where, in addition to his academic studies, he was employed as a University Police Officer. Following his graduation from college, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1966 and upon completion of basic training at Parris Island was assigned to the Second Force Recon Company. During his enlistment, which ended with an honorable discharge in 1972 with the rank of sergeant, he also attended airborne school and mountain warfare training.

Two years later, Captain Weeks enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserve as a port

securityman, and following his direct commissioning as an ensign in 1978, he was assigned to Reserve Unit Mobile. Here, he served in numerous positions, including training officer and administrative officer. In 1983, he was accepted as a reserve program administrator and was recalled to active duty in May 1984.

Early tours of duty included serving as chief, Reserve Training, Eighth District from 1984 to 1987; and as assistant chief, Port Operations, Marine Safety Office, Mobile from 1987 to 1990. In 1990, Captain Weeks was assigned to Reserve Training Center, Yorktown, as a member of the Port Security School staff. In this position, he was a member of the Port Security Unit (PSU) Training Detachment and was responsible for training PSUs for deployment during Desert Shield/Desert Storm at Camp Blanding, FL. From 1992 to 1994, he was assigned to the Contingency Planning School as assistant school chief and instructor.

Captain Weeks reported to the Eighth District in 1994 as the assistant chief, Contingency Preparedness Branch and in 1996 was named the branch chief. He became chief, Administration Division, Eighth Coast Guard District in May 1998. In 2000, Captain Weeks became the chief of the Force Optimization and Training Branch at MLC LANT. In this position, he was heavily involved in the recall of over 4,000 reservists in response to the events of September 11, 2001, and Operations Noble Eagle, Liberty Shield, and Iraqi Freedom. In 2005, Captain Weeks became chief of the Personnel Division, MLCA.

Throughout his career, Captain Weeks has demonstrated a tremendous devotion to his country and dedication to his duty. His long list of professional accomplishments are testament to the trust and esteem in which he has been held by both his superiors and subordinates. His career has also been marked with the receipt of numerous decorations and citations, including the Meritorious Service Medal, seven Coast Guard Commendation Medals, the Joint Services Achievement Medal, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal, three Coast Guard Letter of Commendation Ribbons, both the Coast Guard Reserve and Marine Corps Good Conduct Medals, and numerous unit citations and special operations service awards.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Captain Maury Weeks for his long and distinguished career of service to our country and congratulating him on the occasion of his retirement. I know his family, his wife, Pamela; the four children they share, Allen, Suzannah, Wayne and Tara; and his many friends join me in praising his many accomplishments and extending thanks for his service on behalf of a grateful Nation.

HONORING MRS. SANDRA BARBER

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay a very special tribute to one of the truly outstanding citizens from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Mrs. Sandra Barber, as she ends her tenure as Chairman of the Fulton County Republican Central an Executive Committees.

Over the past three decades, Sandra Barber has certainly been an indispensable asset to Republicans in Fulton County and the State of Ohio. Her strong commitment to conservative values and leadership has guided her 26 years as Chairman. Through her leadership, she has fostered healthy debate and democracy by leading the Party and representing the principles it embraces at the local, State, and national level. Without question, Mrs. Barber has given unselfishly of her time and talents in order to serve the interests of all Republicans across our Nation.

Mrs. Barber has served as county chairman for various Presidential campaigns including Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and President George W. Bush, as well as her role as a delegate at the five national conventions. She has also served the Ohio Republican Party as a member of the State Central Committee in addition to involvement in numerous State and local races.

Sandra Barber embodies the spirit of American public service through her commitment as Fulton County Recorder and her community as well. Mrs. Barber has served the State of Ohio as Chairman of the Ohio Lottery Commission and as a member of the Ohio Records' Association. Locally, Mrs. Barber is a member of the Christ United Methodist Church, serving as a member of the chancel choir and church school teacher.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I would ask my colleagues of the 110th Congress to join me in honoring Sandra Barber. On the occasion of her retirement as Chairman of the Fulton County Central and Executive Committees, we thank her for her dedicated service and we wish her well in all of her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CARL V. PATTON

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Carl V. Patton, President of Georgia State University, who is retiring June 30 of this year.

For 16 years he has led Georgia State University in its transition from what was considered to be a commuter school into a vibrant research university which is home to more than 28,000 students representing every county in the State, every State in the Nation, and 160 countries.

President Patton not only wrote a best-selling book on public policy, he has practiced his beliefs, providing the leadership to create buildings, departments, knowledge, and solutions vital to our prosperity in the 21st century. As the University has grown physically, it has grown in stature as well. Among President Patton's many accomplishments:

He launched a university-wide planning effort that produced what is known as the "Main Street Master Plan", which increases the University's footprint in the downtown community and shapes the University's future growth.

He started the University's first comprehensive capital campaign, securing private funding sources to supplement state allocations for building projects.

Under Dr. Patton's leadership, Georgia State University has expanded its campus

using a strategy of acquiring and rehabilitating buildings and, when necessary, constructing new buildings like the Student Center, the Recreation Center, the Aderhold Learning Center, the Rialto Theater, Haas-Howell and Standard Buildings, Robinson College of Business, Commerce Building, North Metro Center, student housing at the Village and the Lofts and now the University Commons. Students, faculty, and staff now occupy floor space from the old Fairlie-Poplar district to Grady Hospital. Residence halls full of students with dreams to change the world have replaced dilapidated structures empty of any economic hope. Old banks, tired office buildings, and moribund shells of department stores now bristle with the energy of a new commerce based on knowledge and preparing our young students to take on today's problems with tomorrow's solutions. Downtown Atlanta now is a living, vibrant area 24 hours a day thanks to the presence of thousands of students learning, living, and playing while placing more than \$7 million a day into the local economy.

Instead of designing walls to keep the city and its urban ways separate from the campus, President Patton has insisted that the University fully integrate its research, teaching and service mission into the fabric of the urban environment of its downtown Atlanta home.

His vision has included a state-of-the-art urban science park. And, thanks in no small part to the support of this Congress, this science park will support research on the treatment of autism, obesity, and post-traumatic stress disorder. In addition to neuroscience research, Georgia State will employ the efforts of eminent scholars from biology, chemistry, computer science, physics, mathematics, and statistics to better understand the molecular basis of disease.

Finally, each of the six schools that are a part of Georgia State have grown and prospered during President Patton's tenure.

Georgia State has grown into one of this Nation's leading urban-serving research universities reflecting Dr. Patton's vision for a partnership between Atlanta and the University. That vision is best described by his words:

"It's not just us serving the city. It's not the city serving us. It's the idea of together building a city and a university that are second to none. Georgia State is a source of limitless potential that can be unleashed through a clear understanding of how we generate lasting value to our city, our State, and the Nation. Working with our community, we are able to determine our shared future."

Dr. Patton has lived his life in the way he hopes his students live theirs, tirelessly volunteering for service in his community through organizations like Central Atlanta Progress, the Rotary, and the Grady Memorial Hospital Corporation. His example and his hard work will not stop at retirement, however, as he plans to continue to live downtown and assist Georgia State in its future endeavors to raise capital and to expand its student body to tackle the tough issues of our times.

Madam Speaker, I am sure I speak for you and my colleagues in the House of Representatives when I say that Dr. Carl V. Patton is the kind of leader we need to set the right example for the future of our country and our students. He has served Georgia State University, the city of Atlanta, the State of Georgia,

and the United States of America well. God Bless for a well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to state that due to unforeseen circumstances, I missed rollcall vote 353 to H.R. 6124 taken on May 22, 2008. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted "yea" on this measure.

While this Farm Bill is not perfect, I would have voted to support the bill because of the benefit it will bring to Oklahoma's farmers and ranchers. In a time of rampant Government spending, I would like to have seen substantive reform in terms of fiscal responsibility. However, this bill does take necessary steps to help the agriculture industry that is vital to the State of Oklahoma. I look forward to voting on this measure to ensure that it becomes law.

HONORING PLEASANT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by the Pleasant Valley High School Boys Cross Country team. This past fall Pleasant Valley captured the Iowa Class 4A Cross Country Championship!

The Pleasant Valley team finished the course with a team average time of 16 minutes, 10 seconds. And the individual winner of the meet was Pleasant Valley runner Devin Allbaugh who finished the course in 15 minutes, 39 seconds.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Pleasant Valley Boys Cross Country team, both on and off the court. Perhaps Paul "Bear" Bryant, the late, great coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide football team, says it best: "Show class, have pride, and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself." This past weekend, Pleasant Valley proved just that.

SALUTING BRIAN KROHN

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize an outstanding student from my district whose research has helped develop a new biodiesel production method that will help move our country in the direction of energy independence.

Brian Krohn, a Senior Chemistry Major at Augsburg College in Minneapolis recently conducted a summer research project aimed at

investigating new ways to produce biodiesel. His project developed a new, innovative chemical reaction that has never before been described in scientific literature. This new process—"Mcgyan Process," named for the three scientists officially credited with the discovery, can convert a much wider range of feedstock oils and animal fats into biodiesel. The Mcgyan Process can make more biodiesel fuel, faster and with a minimal environmental impact. The wider range of renewable oils that can be used through the Mcgyan Process also has the potential to foster additional environmentally sound discoveries that can help move our country in the right direction of renewable energy.

All of these discoveries were made possible by the research and ideas initiated by Brian Krohn and the learning environment fostered by Augsburg College. Brian's success should serve as a reminder of the potential that exists within every student. With the appropriate encouragement, support and a positive working environment truly amazing discoveries can occur.

Madam Speaker, we salute Brian Krohn and all our nation's remarkable students, teachers, and scientists who are persistently working to bring knowledge, ingenuity and hard work together to move our country toward energy independence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, May 21, 2008, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall vote 341.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" for rollcall vote 341.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 6049, the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act. This legislation will extend and expand important tax incentives for renewable energy, will spur business investments, cut taxes for millions of Americans, and retain and create hundreds of thousands of green jobs.

The Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act includes \$18 billion in tax incentives to spur green jobs and energy independence. I am pleased that it includes a six-year extension of the investment tax credit for solar energy, and between one and three year extensions of the production tax credit for addition sources of renewable energy. It also provides tax credits of \$3,000 or more to purchase fuel-efficient, plug-in hybrid vehicles and includes important incentives for energy conservation in commercial buildings, residential structures, and energy efficient appliance. This bill also includes \$3 billion in tax credit bonds for State and local governments to make energy con-

servation investments in public infrastructure, investments which I hope can be targeted toward low-income communities and our schools.

Without these energy tax extensions, our nation could lose an additional 116,000 jobs this year. With additional long-term repercussions in the growth of an industry which has enormous potential at in an otherwise uncertain economic time.

This legislation also invests \$37 billion to spur job creation and cut taxes for millions of middle-class families. It will help the families of more than 13 million children by expanding the child tax credit to those earning \$8,500 a year, saves 3.4 million teachers money by providing a deduction for classroom expenses, extends tax relief under the Earned Income Tax Credit to 22,000 American servicemen and women in combat, and would help more than 4.5 million families better afford college.

At a time when families are struggling in a slowing economy and oil prices reached yet another record on the world market, this bill is a much needed step toward securing our energy and economic future. I hope my colleagues and the President will join us in enacting this important legislation which makes needed investments without increasing the national debt.

HONORING WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES AND FEMALE VETERANS

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1054 to express my appreciation to the one million plus female veterans across our Nation and the thousands of women serving in our armed forces today. I want to thank these brave heroines who sacrifice much to not only protect our safety but also defend our freedoms.

Our brave men and women, who have chosen to join our all volunteer military, share not only a passion for their country but a respect for the ideals that it promotes. While women served honorably in World War I, they were not permitted to participate in the armed forces as equals until the passage of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948. This legislation made it possible for women to serve in active duty and reserve military occupational specialties, other than nursing, and as equals to their male counterparts.

While women are still prohibited from serving in front line military units, their ability to wear the uniform and assist our efforts at home and abroad must be commended. It is important to remember that during our 10 year involvement in Vietnam, eight service women lost their lives. More recently, 110 women have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the Global War on Terrorism. These brave women are not only soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. They are our daughters, our mothers, our sisters, and our aunts. They are an integral component of our community and we must remember that as they deploy or are lost in action, we too suffer along with their families.

As we honor those serving today and those who have served in the past, we must rededicate ourselves to providing the benefits and

care that they require and deserve. We must ensure that the proper medical services are available to service men and women for their use while on active duty and once they return home. Today, the percentage of women in the military is at the highest level ever. My home State of Ohio currently has over 65,000 female veterans. I am deeply concerned about the impact these high service levels are having on the well-being and stability of America families and I am committed to working on this issue in Congress.

The 11th Congressional District of Ohio is represented by an outstanding group of women serving in our Nation's armed forces and our State's national guard. Their service and sacrifice is greatly appreciated and will not be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO U-2 PILOTS

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the heroic feats and commendable military service of 11 U-2 pilots of the 4080th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing. Based out of Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, Texas, these men weathered great danger in flying critical surveillance missions over the Caribbean during the height of the Cold War.

On October 14, 1962, their efforts provided the first convincing evidence that Soviet medium range ballistic missiles were present in Cuba; and thanks to their courage, our country was able to recognize and navigate one of the greatest national security threats of the 20th century, the Cuban Missile Crisis. At great personal risk, the unit exposed some of the deepest and darkest secrets of our country's adversaries.

Named "Operation Brass Knob", this distinguished group of pilots ventured over Cuban airspace armed only with cameras. Declassified documents and the pilots' personal accounts reveal that each was engaged by the enemy; indeed, on the 27th U-2 flight over Cuba, and during the pinnacle of the crisis, Major Rudolf Anderson Jr. was shot down and killed by a strategic air missile. Nevertheless, the intelligence photographs these pilots compiled gave President Kennedy the information needed to initiate a naval blockade of Cuba and ultimately dissuade the Soviet Union.

On November 26, 1962, President Kennedy awarded the 4080th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing with the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. Kennedy nobly remarked, "The work of this unit has contributed as much to the security of the United States as any unit in our history, and any group of men in our history!"

While President Kennedy's decisionmaking during the Cuban Missile crisis is properly designated as lore, the 11 U-2 pilots have spent the past 45 years in relatively humble obscurity. Because of the sensitivity of their mission, most of these men were denied the public praise and recognition warranted by their mission.

And so today I applaud the Val Verde Historical Commission for its decision to honor these men by placing a commemorative historical marker in Del Rio, TX, on behalf of the 11 pilots of Operation Brass Knob: Majors Ru-

dolf Anderson Jr., Buddy L. Brown, Edwin G. Emerling, Richard S. Heyser, James A. Qualls, and Captains George M. Bull, Roger H. Herman, Charles W. Kern, Gerald E. McIlmoyle, Robert L. Primrose, and Daniel W. Schmarr. A ceremony will take place May 23, 2008, and five of the six surviving pilots will be in attendance.

As we approach Memorial Day, let us pause, reflect, and give thanks for the efforts of our men in uniform, both those whose efforts will be infamous and those whose service will be unheralded by the public at large. I am proud to represent the district from which the men of Operation Brass Knob staged their valiant flights, and I wish to congratulate them on their upcoming recognition.

INTRODUCTION OF COHEN-ISSA LIBEL TOURISM LEGISLATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, today, I, along with Congressman DARRELL ISSA, introduced a bill that would address the phenomenon of "libel tourism," which occurs when plaintiffs seek judgments from foreign courts against American authors and publishers for making allegedly defamatory statements, often to get around first amendment-based constraints on American defamation law. This phenomenon threatens to undermine our Nation's core free speech principles. U.S. law places a higher burden on certain defamation plaintiffs and with respect to certain types of allegedly defamatory speech in order to safeguard first amendment-protected speech. Other countries, including those that generally share our legal tradition, provide no such protection, and American authors and publishers should not be forced to restrict their speech to comport with more limited foreign standards.

Our legislation will codify the principle that, while U.S. courts will normally enforce the judgments of foreign courts, they should not do so when foreign judgments undermine our Constitution. Specifically, our bill prohibits U.S. courts from recognizing or enforcing foreign defamation judgments that do not comport with the first amendment. This is a straightforward solution that is designed to discourage foreign defamation plaintiffs from filing suit against American authors and publishers in foreign courts and instead encourage them to file suit in the United States.

I would like to thank the Association of American Publishers and the Media Law Resource Center for their valuable feedback during the drafting of this bill and for their support for this legislation. I urge my colleagues to become cosponsors of this bill.

HONORING STATE CHAMPION WRESTLER BYRON TATE OF CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results

achieved by Clinton High School wrestler Byron Tate. This winter Byron captured the Iowa Class 3A Individual Wrestling Championship in the 215 pound weight class.

Byron won a thrilling championship match. He defeated his final opponent in a 5-2 decision.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of Byron and the Clinton High School Wrestling team, both on and off the court. Perhaps Paul "Bear" Bryant, the late, great coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide football team said it best: "Show class, have pride, and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself" This year, Byron Tate and Clinton High School proved just that.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, oil prices have now reached \$135 a barrel and regular gasoline averages \$3.81 per gallon around the country. Meanwhile, the big five oil companies are reaping the rewards of record prices. The major oil companies recorded more than \$123 billion in profits in 2007. However, rather than reinvesting the bulk of those profits to advance a strategy that vigorously incorporates renewable energy alternatives, oil company profits have been spent largely to fund huge increases in stock buybacks designed to prop up stock prices. ExxonMobil—the largest of the major oil companies—recorded \$40 billion in profit in 2007 and spent \$31.8 billion repurchasing shares of its own stock. Meanwhile ExxonMobil only spent \$10 million investing in renewable energy in 2007.

The oil industry in the past 5 years has undertaken one of the largest stock buybacks in the history of capitalism. Spending on share buybacks for the five major oil companies went from under \$10 billion a year in 2003 to nearly \$60 billion a year in 2007. Big Oil has increased spending on stock repurchases from \$7.9 billion in 2003 to \$57.7 billion in 2007—an increase of 630 percent. The increase in Big Oil's spending on stock buybacks in recent years has been so remarkable, and indeed unprecedented, that Exxon spent more repurchasing its own shares in the first quarter of 2008—\$8 billion—than all the major oil companies spent on stock buybacks for all of 2003.

The money being invested by Big Oil in all types of production still pales in comparison to the value being returned to shareholders in the form of dividends and stock buybacks. While ExxonMobil has increased capital investment in drilling and exploration from \$12 billion in 2003 to \$15.7 billion in 2007—an increase of roughly 30 percent—ExxonMobil has increased spending on stock buybacks from \$5.9 billion in 2003 to \$31.8 billion in 2007—a five-fold increase.

The legislation that I am introducing today, the Renewable Investment and Consumer Protection Act of 2008, would impose a 10 percent fee on all stock buyback transactions entered into by major oil companies and redirect that revenue to fund investment in renewable energy and low-income energy assistance programs. If the oil companies refuse to

help American families by finding alternatives to \$4 gasoline, then it is time for Congress to ensure that we invest in renewable technologies such as solar, wind and biofuels that can help American consumers, our economy and our planet.

TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR SAUL
FRIEDLANDER

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate UCLA history professor Saul Friedlander, who was recently awarded the Pulitzer Prize in General Non-Fiction for his work, *The Years of Extermination: Nazi Germany and the Jews, 1939–1945*.

Professor Friedlander was born to German-speaking Jewish parents in Prague in 1932 and raised in France during the Nazi occupation. Not until 1946 did he discover that his parents perished at Auschwitz. After immigrating to Israel at the time of its birth as a nation, he was able to pursue his passion for knowledge. After studying in Israel and Paris, he received his Ph.D. from the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva.

In 1983, Saul Friedlander served as a visiting professor at my alma mater, the University of California, Los Angeles. Four years later he was invited to join the faculty full time, receiving the 1939 Club Chair in Holocaust Studies. He later founded the influential journal, *History and Memory* and has established himself as one of the world's premier Holocaust historians.

Professor Friedlander has authored multiple titles on the Holocaust, including *Nazi Germany and the Jews, The Years of Persecution: 1933–1939*, which is considered to be the definitive work on the period. It led to a MacArthur Foundation Award, which he used to research and write his Pulitzer-winning volume. That work vividly depicts Jewish life throughout all of Europe and provides a modern understanding of the enactment of anti-Semitic policies in the World War II era.

Professor Friedlander's work is not limited to the academic, however; he has also served on commissions working to shed light on the Holocaust-era activities of corporations and governments.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the ongoing work of Saul Friedlander and his dedication to educating students and the global community, researching the Holocaust, and putting the indescribable into words.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN JOHN
SHIMKUS ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE
ARMY RESERVE

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a distinguished and dedicated military officer who has served this Nation with

great honor and distinction. Congressman JOHN SHIMKUS will retire as a lieutenant colonel from the United States Army Reserve on June 1, 2008, after nearly three decades of exemplary service in the United States Army and the United States Army Reserve. His career is a great example of the ideals that we expect and cherish from our Warrior-Citizens. Thanks to his service to our Nation, we all live a little freer and we are all more secure in our rights and duties as citizens of the greatest nation in the world. Today, I'm proud to take a few minutes to read a resolution I introduced to this Congress today to honor the outstanding career of Lieutenant Colonel JOHN SHIMKUS.

A RESOLUTION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HONORING THE SERVICE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN M. SHIMKUS, UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel John M. Shimkus, United States Army Reserve, was born on February 21, 1958, in East St. Louis, Illinois;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in general engineering;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus graduated from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, Illinois, in 1997, with a master of business administration;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus is a graduate of the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Infantry Mortar Platoon Officers Course, Jungle Warfare School, Airborne School, Ranger School, Infantry Officer Advanced Course, and the Master Fitness Trainer Course;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus is a graduate of the Reserve Component Combined Armed Services Staff School;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus attended the Reserve Component Command and General Staff College;

Whereas following Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus's entry into the Army, he served at the tip of the spear of the cold war as an infantry officer with the 1st Platoon, 54th Infantry in Bamberg, Germany, where he was our Nation's sentry, ready to fight at a moment's notice against Soviet tanks rolling toward the Fulda Gap;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus continued his commitment to selfless duty when after serving more than five years on active duty in the Army, he transitioned to the Army Reserve;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus served in many leadership positions in the Army Reserve, which included 7 years as a United States Military Academy Liaison Officer, where he helped our Nation select the best candidates to become future leaders of the Army;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus was elected to public office for the first time in 1989 as a township trustee in Collinsville, Illinois;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus was elected to serve his first term as a Representative from the 20th District of Illinois in 1996 in the 105th Congress, and has continued to dutifully dedicate his service as a statesman in the 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, and, presently, the 110th Congresses;

Whereas over a multifaceted career of distinguished public service dedicated to the preservation of the principles upon which our Nation was founded, from his plebe days at West Point to the halls of Congress, in his every step Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus has embodied the epitome of excellence in

statesmanship, service to country, and to his fellow citizens;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus's commitment to public service commands the Nation's highest respect and gratitude;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus embodies all seven Army core values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage; and

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus has had a tremendous positive impact on the Army Reserve: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the House of Representatives

(1) honors Lieutenant Colonel John M. Shimkus for his service of over 28 years on the occasion of his retirement from the Army Reserve on June 1, 2008;

(2) commends Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus for his dedication and commitment to excellence as an infantry officer and leader;

(3) recognizes the tremendous dedication and fortitude with which Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus has led an exemplary career in public service, three times the citizen, having balanced his time in the Army Reserve with the demanding duties of his roles as husband, father, businessman, community leader, high school teacher, citizen-soldier, and Congressman with consummate professionalism and boundless devotion to each;

(4) recognizes Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus as a soldier, leader, and statesman, for displaying the highest levels of leadership, professional competence, integrity, and moral courage throughout his distinguished military service.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor for me to present the distinguished credentials of Lieutenant Colonel JOHN SHIMKUS before the Congress today. It is our good fortune that Congressman JOHN SHIMKUS continues to serve our Nation in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING PAULINA TUL-ORTYL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Paulina Tul-Ortyl of Toledo, Ohio on the 40th anniversary of the commencement of the Echoes of Poland

It is with the deepest appreciation that I pay tribute to Paulina Tul-Ortyl upon reaching the 40th anniversary as the founder, director and choreographer of the Toledo-based "Echoes of Poland" song and dance ensemble. Her enthusiasm, energy and dedication to the performance of Polish folk dances and songs have given appreciative audiences, through the United States, Canada, and Poland, the satisfaction of seeing and hearing the essence of absolute beauty.

Paulina was born and educated in Poland and has a degree in dance choreography from the prestigious Catholic University of Lublin. She has blessed the Toledo community with her talents, her pride of our Polish-American culture and her generous nature, providing numerous years to the development and awareness of the artistic and cultural gifts in our Toledo youth.

The Echoes of Poland was founded in the fall of 1967, when Paulina was asked to prepare a group of young people to perform some of the traditional aspects of the Polish Christmas celebration. She gathered some of her friends from the Nebraska Avenue and La-grange Street areas in Toledo, OH, for the

church pageant. During the first few years, the troupe held practices once a week. They were asked to participate at many local festivals and church functions. At that time, the ensemble practiced at several places in Toledo including St. Anthony's, The Argonne Post, Polish Falcons, PNA Hall and the Lagrange-Central Center. Today, the group practices at the Polish Roman-Catholic Union of America (P.R.C.U.A.) hall on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

Through the weekly practices, Paulina has instilled in her members a great sense of pride and love for Polish folk customs through dancing and singing. A nonprofit organization, the Echoes of Poland have performed at festivals and concerts throughout the United States and in Canada. In 1977, the ensemble traveled to Rzeszów, Poland for the Triennial World Festival of Polish Folk Dancers. One reviewer said, "By the end of the performance, everyone in the audience was tapping feet or clapping hand to the infectious rhythms." Since 1979, the group has staged their own concerts in the Toledo area to show our full repertoire of regional and national dances. During the mid-seventies, Mrs. Ortyl began a children group to train the young members for the adult ensemble. By starting at a young age, the children become familiar with many of the rudimentary skills in the art of song and dance. In 1980, a Kapela, a Polish band, was added. The dancers certainly enjoy dancing and singing to a live musician.

Because of Paulina's untiring drive and inspiration, the ensemble was awarded first prize from a field of 64 competitors at the Rzeszów, Polish Folk Festival in 1980. The ensemble won the highest honor for authentically portraying Polish Folk culture by performing the Dozynki, the Polish Harvest Celebration. The Ensemble has made the trip to the Rzeszów Festival seven times and always performs admirably.

Through the years, Paulina has received numerous proclamations, certificates, awards of appreciation and recognition for her outstanding contribution in the field of preserving one of the most endearing aspects of Polish culture; the traditional folk songs and dances from the several distinct regions in Poland.

For example, On October 16, 1983, The Echoes of Poland Folk Song & Dance Ensemble held their Fifteenth Anniversary. Mrs. Ortyl was honored for her dedication in perpetuating Polish culture among hundreds of youth in the Toledo area.

In 1996, WGTE Public Broadcasting was putting together a special on the Polish people of Toledo for their Cornerstones series entitled "The Polish in Toledo" and contacted Paulina about providing the music for this endeavor. Paulina got some musicians together and recorded all the folk music for this 41-minute tribute to the Poles in Toledo.

In 1997, The Ohio House of Representatives recognized the members of the Echoes of Poland for their valuable contribution to the preservation of our Polish culture through song and dance.

On January 16, 1999, the ensemble had the honor to welcome Lech Walesa, former leader of Solidarność and former President of Poland, to St. Adalbert for an informal meeting with the Polish community.

In the spring of 2002, Echoes of Poland celebrated their 35th anniversary. Paulina remains the sole choreographer and director of

the ensemble. Paulina was presented an appreciation award from P.R.C.U.A. and recognition award from Polish American Congress at the Annual Spring Concert for all her years of dedication.

The Echoes of Poland, under Paulina performed their first television show in America, "Polka Bandstand" in October 2004. They performed a suite of dances from the Lublin region and Kujawac Obarac to an enthusiastic live audience.

Therefore, it with sincere gratitude that I extend heartfelt congratulations to all Paulina has done to strengthen our community through the Echoes of Poland. I wish her unrelenting energy, enthusiasm and success as she continues her journey as being the director and choreographer of this most esteemed and talented group.

Sto Lat Paulina!

HONORING MONTICELLO'S STATE CHAMPION BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by the Monticello High School Boys Cross Country team. This past fall Monticello captured the Iowa Class 2A Cross Country Championship.

The Monticello team finished the course with a team average time of 16 minutes, 55 seconds. And the individual winner of the meet was Monticello runner Nate Dotterweich who finished the course in 15 minutes, 43 seconds.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Monticello Boys Cross Country team, both on and off the court. Perhaps Paul "Bear" Bryant, the late, great coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide football team says it best: "Show class, have pride, and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself." This past weekend, Monticello proved just that.

TRIBUTE TO MR. SIDNEY LAPIDUS

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. Sidney Lapidus and to congratulate him on receiving the Emma Lazarus Statue of Liberty Award. Mr. Lapidus' deep commitment to the American Jewish Historical Society has ensured that its collection is preserved and expanded for generations to come.

A graduate of Princeton University and Columbia University Law School, Sidney began his career as an attorney with the Securities and Exchange Commission in New York. A retired partner at Warburg Pincus LLC, one of the country's leading private equity firms, Sidney also serves on the Boards of Directors of Lennar Corporation, one of the Nation's largest homebuilders; Knoll Inc., a leading manu-

facturer of office furniture; and the Neiman Marcus Group, a leading upscale retailer.

Sidney contributes to and advocates on behalf of a number of charitable causes, several of which concern American history and Jewish affairs. He served as president of the American Jewish Historical Society from 2003 to 2007 and is now its chairman. He is a member of the advisory councils for Princeton University's History and Judaic Studies Departments. He is also a vice chairman of the American Antiquarian Society and is a trustee of the New York Historical Society. In other areas, he is chair of the United Neighborhood Houses of New York and a member of the Executive Committee of New York University School of Medicine.

Mr. Lapidus has balanced his distinguished career and philanthropic work with an equally impressive family life. He and his wife, Ruth, live in Harrison, NY. They have three married children—Gail, Janet and Roy—and six grandchildren—Sara, Eric, Kate, Henry, Jessica, and Zack. An avid skier, Sidney also collects British and American books about politics and economics from the 17th and 18th centuries.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize my good friend Mr. Sidney Lapidus for a successful career in finance and unparalleled devotion to charitable causes. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring his tremendous accomplishments.

HONORING JON LESTER

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Jon Lester, a resident of Puyallup, Washington, for his bravery in surviving cancer and his achievements as a pitcher for the Boston Red Sox in Major League Baseball.

Jon graduated from Bellarmine Prep School in 2002. That same year, the Red Sox drafted him. He played for the Red Sox's minor league team, the Portland Sea Dogs.

In 2005, Jon led the league in strike-outs, was named the Eastern Pitcher of the Year, and was selected for the Eastern All-Star Team. The following year, Jon was diagnosed with anaplastic large cell lymphoma and had to undergo chemotherapy. Following his treatment he returned to Major League Baseball in 2007. Lester was an integral component of the Red Sox's World Series victory, closing out the final game.

On the 19th of May, 2008, he threw a no-hitter against the Kansas City Royals. It was the first no-hitter since September 2007, and the first by a left-handed Red Sox player since 1956. Bowing to Jon's achievement, Kansas City manager Trey Hillman could only explain, "We're on the wrong part of history."

Jon also found time for philanthropic work for the Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida, the Boston Parks and Recreation summer program and the Boys and Girls Club of Chelsea, Massachusetts.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Jon's courage, his athletic gifts, and his deep concern for his community.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5658, which provides funds for the Sonobuoy Flight Vehicle. I am requesting funding in the FY09 Defense Authorization bill, Navy RDT&E account for the Sonobuoy Flight Vehicle, manufactured by Sparton Electronics, located at 5612 Johnson Lake Road in DeLeon Springs, Florida 32130.

The deteriorating condition of the aging P-3 Orion fleet and the recent termination of the S-3 Viking program have resulted in fewer manned airborne ASW platforms available to the Navy's surface forces. While full operational capability of the new P-8 Poseidon is not expected until 2017–2020 or beyond, Navy surface combatants are in urgent need of a low cost, organic system to rapidly deploy acoustic sensors at a distance from the force. SFV capability will be critical where there is a deficiency in organic airborne ASW assets, or in the littoral in situations where a hostile coastline poses a threat to manned ASW aircraft.

This is the first year funding will be needed to begin the research and development phase of this project. There will be no cost share, as this project is being developed for the Navy. Requested government funding of \$2.6M for the Sonobuoy Flight Kit will achieve the following: 1. Detailed design of SFV and system components. 2. Land-based flight trials verifying overall system performance, including range, speed, and endurance of the SFV. 3. Complete a production tooled design capable of supporting LRIP testing. 4. Design and fabricate a compact ship-based launch mechanism for use on LCS or other surface combatants.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF BEN BUERGER

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, Mobile County and indeed the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the memory of Mr. Ben Buerger.

Since 1956, "Mr. Ben" owned and operated Ship and Shore Supplies Inc. on Dauphin Island; his store was truly the heartbeat of the island. His business sold everything from groceries to plumbing fixtures, building supplies and boating needs. He may be best known for riding out 1979's Hurricane Frederic in his store, which was one of the most devastating hurricanes ever to hit the central Gulf Coast. Following the storm, "Mr. Ben" set up temporary quarters on the island and worked to provide a consistent supply of necessities to the island's residents when they needed them the most.

"Mr. Ben" was always there to give a helping hand. For example, in 1959, when the lift span to the old Dauphin Island Bridge became stuck, he used his own boat to ferry stranded

tourists and others to the mainland for free. In recognition of all of his efforts on behalf of the people of his community, Mobile's Press-Register awarded "Mr. Ben" the M.O. Beale Scroll of Merit in 1963 and in 1968.

To say that Ben Buerger was active in the Dauphin Island community is an understatement; he was truly an ambassador for the island. He served as president of the Dauphin Island Businessman's Association, president of the Dauphin Island Volunteer Fire Department and president of the Mobile County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department. "Mr. Ben" also served in the U.S. Navy and was a veteran of World War II.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Ben Buerger will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Barbara Buerger; his daughters, Karen Rebecca Moore and Kathryn Barker; his step-daughter, Michele Oliver; his sister-in-law, Caroline Buerger; his granddaughter, Kari Howell; his great-grandson, Nathan Howell; and his step-grandchildren, Anjel Clark and Alex Oliver—as well as the countless friends and fellow islanders he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DOUGLAS K. RAMSEY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor my good friend Douglas K. Ramsey by entering his name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today I pay tribute to Douglas K. Ramsey, for his service to the United States of America during the Vietnam War.

Mr. Ramsey is truly an American patriot. Following graduate studies at Harvard University, Mr. Ramsey entered the United States Air Force and served two years as a lieutenant in the field of communications intelligence.

In 1960, following his service in the United States Air Force, Mr. Ramsey joined the United States Department of State and was assigned to the Bureau of Intelligence and Research. Mr. Ramsey arrived at his duty post in Saigon, Vietnam, on May 3, 1963. While working for the State Department's diplomatic effort in Vietnam, Mr. Ramsey served in a number of capacities, including Assistant Provincial Representative in Hau Nghia.

On January 17, 1966, Mr. Ramsey was captured by a Viet Cong ambush party while transporting food and medical instruments to assist refugees and evacuees. During his time in Viet Cong custody, Mr. Ramsey suffered from malaria as well as neglect at the hands of his captors. He was finally released on February 12, 1973.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Douglas K. Ramsey. He is truly an unsung hero and an American patriot. In these times when we often recognize the members of our armed services for their sacrifice and dedication in defense of America, we must also pause and

reflect upon the service of our men and women in the diplomatic corps, who also risk their lives in defense of our way of life. I thank Mr. Ramsey for his service to America and the Boulder City community, and wish him the best in his future endeavors. As we celebrate Memorial Day this weekend, I urge my fellow Nevadans to pay tribute to the service of our fellow citizens in defense of freedom and democracy.

TRIBUTE TO KORYNE KANESKI HORBAL

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two of my constituents including one of the most remarkable women I know—and the extraordinary things she has done and continues to do. Koryne Kaneski Horbal of Columbia Heights, Minnesota, is a tireless force for equality who defines the word trailblazer.

She has served as Chairwoman of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) Party, founder of the DFL Feminist Caucus, and a Member of the Minnesota Democratic National Committee (DNC) where she started the DNC's Women's Caucus. President Jimmy Carter named her Ambassador to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women where she served for four years. During that time she, and noted author and feminist, Gloria Steinem, became good friends and have since worked together on many projects. Koryne has been a contributing writer to MS. Magazine, and now serves as a consultant to Augsburg College, in Minneapolis. In recognition of Koryne's contribution to society, Augsburg College established the Koryne Horbal Lecture Series to continue opening the windows of opportunity for young women and men that reflect Koryne's commitment to a gender equal society. Fittingly, next month Koryne Horbal will receive a "Humane With Respect" honorary college degree from Augsburg College that she didn't have the opportunity to acquire in her younger years.

Koryne is a loyal and dear friend—and a loving grandmother. If you asked Koryne, of all her renowned accomplishments; all the barriers she's broken down; all the glass ceilings she's shattered; all the myths she's proven wrong; what she is most proud of? Undoubtedly, and without hesitation, she would say loving grandmother—to a young man named Bryce Horbal whom she has raised since infancy. Bryce is a 13 year old honors student at Columbia Heights Middle School in my district. This young man, who towers over his grandmother at over 6 feet, reflects the values that have shaped his young life—instilled in him with a nurturing and loving hand by his grandmother. Almost three years ago, this young man wrote a poem that shows us why the accolades and accomplishments Koryne has achieved pale in comparison to the grandson she has raised. Bryce Horbal is a young man of whom much will be expected.

Madam Speaker, Bryce Horbal's poem:

"I am the homeless man who lives on the corner of main street asking for spare change holding a bottle of scotch in my hand;

I am the child whose mother and father left them in an orphanage because they couldn't handle the responsibility;

I am the person peering over the edge of a building considering to jump off because life is too hard to live;

I am the soldier in Iraq who gets killed by a road-side bomb fighting for the United States of America;

I am the little kid in Africa with HIV fighting to live without food or water on their own.

I am the person holding out my hand to the homeless man on main street giving him my spare change;

I am the new family to the child in the orphanage who I have just adopted;

I am the arm that pulls the person peering over the edge backwards to the thing we call 'hope';

I am the person who jumps in front of bullets to save our troops in Iraq because every person in this world means something;

I am the cure for HIV and I have just gone into the little child in Africa along with food and water;

I am each and every one of you who cares about others."

**PINECREST SINGERS RECEIVE
NATIONAL RECOGNITION**

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we wish to recognize some singers from Moore County in our district who won a national competition. Because of the quality of performance of the Pinecrest High School Chamber Ensemble and Sotto Voce last year in San Francisco, both choral groups were able to participate in this year's Heritage's "Festival of Gold" National Choral Competition at Orchestra Hall in Chicago.

They were competing against 21 other high schools from across the nation and both groups took first place in their respective divisions. The scoring was determined by three reputable judges in the world of choral music and based out of 100 possible points. Out of these Pinecrest's 30 member Sotto Voce received an average of 95.33 points, placing them in first place in the Women's Choir division.

Participating in the Sotto Voce division were Paige Baker, Keyvietta Baldwin, Braylin Bayless, Lauren Bonville, Casey Cooper, Ashlee Covington, Brittany Cullifer, Leah Dannelley, Kate Davis, Kelcie Frye, Caroline Gallagher, Erin Hennings, Ginni Holderfield, Lynn Hollyfield, Alease Jeffries, Auriel Jeffries, Haley Johnson, Ruth Jones, Dani Mayo, Gina Mendence, Kelly Nelson, Alexis Oxendine, Catherine Pittman, Michelle Porter, Rachel Stewart, Stephanie Vaughn, Lindsay von Gal, Chelsi Wright, Joanne Wu, Haley Yarborough, and Elise Zawatter.

The Chamber Ensemble, with an average of 96.33, took first place as well in the Chamber Choir division. Singing in the Chamber Ensemble were Braylin Bayless, Kevin Bean, Jonathan Blue, Spencer Bowman, Lia Brazile, Matt Carriker, Rashad Covington, Tolisha Covington, Brittany Cullifer, Leah Dannelley,

Sarah Floyd, Adam Fogleman, Caroline Gallagher, Bradley Gibson, Matt Hazzard, Tyler Herbst, Alease Jeffries, Jordan Kennedy, Kelsey Leach, Kelcey Ledbetter, Le'Quita McKoy, Taylor Miles, Whitney Moore, Brenton O'Hara, Catherine Pittman, Michelle Porter, Aaron Shamberger, Ravon Sheppard, Amanda Smith, Rachel Stewart, Stephanie Vaughn, James Villone, and Josh Warthen. Pinecrest High Choral Director James Brown told The Sandhills Pulse, "This performance in Chicago solidifies just how talented and dedicated my students are in the Choral Program at Pinecrest . . . we graced each performance with intensity, passion and extreme professionalism."

In addition to the competition, a number of students were involved in an Honors Choir that was made up of selected members from all of the participating choirs. These students were responsible for learning four pieces on their own prior to arriving in Chicago and performed under the baton of Dr. Anton Armstrong, conductor of the St. Olaf Choir. The students participating in the Honors Choir from Pinecrest were Lauren Bonville, Matt Carriker, Ashlee Covinton, Kate Davis, Kelcie Frye, Caroline Gallagher, Bradley Gibson, Erin Hennings, Alease Jeffries, Auriel Jeffries, Ruth Jones, Brenton O' Hara, Alexis Oxendine, Rachel Stewart, Stephanie Vaughn and James Villone. Brown also told The Sandhills Pulse, "This year's tour will be one of my most memorable because of all aspects: my first group of graduation seniors who worked with me throughout their entire high school choral experience, fantastic chaperones and phenomenal accompanists."

Again, we are proud to report that the Sixth District is home to these outstanding young singers.

THE DAILY 45: CURTIS HOLDEN

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. Yesterday, in Oakland, California, two men were shot and killed in separate incidents. My heart goes out to the family of 35-year-old Curtis Holden. My heart also goes out to the other victim, whose name was not immediately released. There have been 55 homicides so far this year in the city of Oakland.

How do we explain these senseless killings to our children? We must replace the culture of violence with a culture of peace.

Americans of conscious must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

**REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE
GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON
UNDER PRIME MINISTER FOUAD
SINIORA**

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, although I support the legitimate Government of Lebanon, I could not support H. Res. 1194 because it contains language calling upon the United States "to immediately take all appropriate actions to support and strengthen" the current Government of Lebanon.

I believe this wording is unnecessarily broad and could be construed by some to implicitly endorse military action against any state or organization that this administration deems a threat to the Lebanese government. Because the resolution does not expressly exclude the use of force as one of the "appropriate actions" to be taken by the United States, I was not able to support it.

**HONORING DUBUQUE SENIOR HIGH
CHAMPION SWIMMER JORDON
HUFF**

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by Dubuque Senior High School swimmer Jordan Huff in the 2007-2008 season. This year Jordan won two individual State championship events. Jordan captured titles in the 200-yard freestyle and the 100-yard freestyle.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of Jordan and the Dubuque Senior High School Boys Swimming Team, both in and out of the pool. Perhaps Paul "Bear" Bryant—the late, great coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide football team—said it best: "Show class, have pride, and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself." This year, Dubuque Senior High School proved just that.

HONORING DAVID COOK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday May 22, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize David Roland Cook of Blue Springs, Missouri, for the great achievement of winning the 7th season of American Idol.

For the past 7 years, tens of thousands of Idol hopefuls from across the Nation auditioned for a shot at being the next American Idol. David started his journey by traveling from Blue Springs to the regional auditions in Omaha, Nebraska where he impressed the judges with his version of Bon Jovi's "Livin' on a Prayer." David's performance earned him a trip to Hollywood to compete on the show.

Throughout the season, David showed great strength and a commitment to his music by putting his own personality into each of the songs he performed, and quickly stood out among the contestants. With the support of his family, friends and all of Blue Springs, David never gave up and due to his hard work and passion for music he became the new American Idol.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating David Cook on being named the new American Idol. I am proud to represent such a hardworking and gifted individual in the Sixth Congressional District. I know that all of Blue Springs joins me in wishing him the very best in his future endeavors.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
MERRILLVILLE ALLIANCE OF
TRANSYLVANIAN SAXONS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take this time to recognize the officers and members of the Merrillville, Indiana, branch of the Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons (ATS). On Saturday, May 31, 2008, the Merrillville Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons will host a celebration honoring its 100th Anniversary, while also celebrating the ATS National Constitutional Convention at the Radisson Hotel in Merrillville, Indiana.

The Saxons originated in Germany and traveled eastward to settle in eastern Hungary during the 12th and 13th century. Following the conclusion of World War I, the Hungarian boundaries were altered and the Saxons' home became Transylvania, one of the three major provinces of Rumania. In Rumania, the Transylvanian Saxons were oppressed as minorities by the totalitarian Rumanian government, causing many to migrate to the United States.

The ATS was founded as a fraternal organization in 1902, with a mission of providing a safe community for immigrant families of Transylvanian Saxons to share and enjoy their language and traditions. The Merrillville Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons was established in 1908 under its parent organization to offer the same community to the 3,000 plus Transylvanian Saxons who had immigrated to Northwest Indiana. The fraternal fellowship provides cultural activities such as singing, dancing, and family and youth exchange programs. The officers of the Merrillville ATS, who so selflessly give to their organization, share the goals of the national organization and allow for their longstanding traditions to remain a part of their lives.

This year's celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Merrillville Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons will recognize the continuous efforts of the Merrillville Lodge's officers: President Jeffery Szostek, Vice President Daniel Schuffert, Recording Secretary Raymond S. Palyok, Treasurer Donald Bowman, Secretary Randall B. Floyd, and Trustees Walter Szostek, John Sumichrast and Jim Smith.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the officers and members of the

Merrillville Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons for the efforts, activities, and leadership they have provided in maintaining their Transylvanian Saxon history and culture as part of Indiana's First Congressional District.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT
JOSEPH FORD OF KNOX,
INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Sergeant Joseph Ford, originally of Knox, Indiana. Sergeant Ford was a proud member of Bravo Troop First Battalion 152nd Cavalry 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Indiana Army National Guard. He died on May 10 when his vehicle rolled over during a training exercise near Al Asad, Iraq. While his death leaves us all mourning a life cut short, I also wish to celebrate the life of this tremendous young man.

For most of that life, Sergeant Ford was simply known as Joey. When Peggy Shidaker, his high school French teacher, learned of his death, she said "He enjoyed life and we enjoyed having him," and she noted how he had been a student who made her laugh. Maybe he made her laugh because he genuinely enjoyed school and learning and made frequent trips back to Knox High School to visit his old teachers after he graduated. This love of learning showed up throughout his life; one of the first things Lieutenant Josh Chastain noticed about Joey after he joined the National Guard was his interest in world and military history. Lieutenant Chastain noted, "He was a really intelligent kid. He knew a lot." This passion and interest in history, both ancient and modern, led Joey to varied interests: he loved to fence, and he aided a school production of *The Three Musketeers* by choreographing the fight sequences. It also led him to leave Knox following high school to attend the University of Southern Indiana and major in history.

But Joey's passion in history reflected a passion for his country. This passion—this patriotism—kindled in him the desire to serve his country. And Joey did not only want to serve, he wanted to serve in the infantry, joining a National Guard unit based in New Albany rather than one more conveniently located in Evansville, where he was in USI's ROTC program. He was so dedicated that when he looked at military service following high school, he realized he had to do a lot of work to meet the fitness requirements; he did not hesitate to put in that effort, and he ended up losing seventy pounds to fulfill his dream of serving.

He became a proud member of the Indiana Army National Guard. Peggy Shidaker remembered him once again returning to Knox High School following his enlistment, "He was so proud that he came back to tell me he was going into the National Guard, and we were really proud of him and happy for him. He found his passion in serving his country." The passion to serve his country did not stop at the water's edge: Lieutenant Chastain noted that Ford wanted to be the gunner on an armored vehicle rather than the driver and said

of Joey, "He exemplified what a dedicated soldier is." This dedication is honored in his posthumous promotion from Specialist to Sergeant and the awarding of a Bronze Star.

Great as his love of country was, he loved his family even more, in particular his parents, Dalarie and Sam, and his wife Karen. Married just last June, Joey had met the love of his life during his time at the University of Southern Indiana. His friend and fellow Guardsman, Keith Auspland, noted that his conversations with Joey during training and in Iraq generally ended not with concerns about the mission but rather with concern for his family. Ausland wrote in his tribute to Joey that "Joe was a new husband and loved his wife dearly." Having deployed to Iraq in March, Joey had his goal of returning to Indiana in June to celebrate his anniversary with his wife.

When his mother Dalarie was asked the one thing she would want her son remembered for she said, "He was just so kind to everybody. At the memorial service, it was amazing just to see all the unique people who loved Joey. He never wrote off anyone and was friends with everybody: all shapes, sizes, and walks of life. He was a gentle soul." Today I honor and remember this gentle soul, this man who loved his wife and family, and followed his love of his country to service in a foreign land. Yet at the same time, I acknowledge our grief. He will be missed. May God bless Joey, his family, his fellow soldiers, and his country as we celebrate his life, and share in this collective sorrow.

IN RECOGNITION OF SAN FRANCISCO'S
MEMORIAL TO HARVEY
MILK

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, today marks the birthday of a civil rights icon and hero to millions of men and women, not just in San Francisco where he made his strongest impact, but all across the globe.

Seventy-eight years ago, Harvey Milk was born in New York. After college at Albany State College, he enlisted in the United States Navy, but was dishonorably discharged when authorities discovered that he was gay.

In 1970, Harvey landed in San Francisco, the city that would become his home and legacy. He opened a business there and began attending the Board of Supervisors meetings, using his bigger-than-life persona to introduce the public and San Francisco's elected officials to the plights of gays and lesbians. Today, there are many such voices, but Harvey Milk was a trailblazer.

When he appeared on the scene, even in San Francisco, arguably the most tolerant city in our Nation, it wasn't safe or accepted to be outspoken on issues facing lesbians and gays. Even politicians within the community were silent, both about their lives and the issues that affected them. But Harvey wasn't one to be quieted or closeted. He told anyone who would listen—and more importantly, forced those who wouldn't—about the injustices, inequities and outright discrimination suffered by gays and lesbians. His voice resonated for anyone labeled "different" or outside the mainstream.

In 1977, after three unsuccessful attempts for elected office, Harvey Milk won a hard fought race and was elected to the San Francisco County Board of Supervisors. Notably, he became the first openly-gay elected official in the United States. Tragically, Harvey's tenure in office was cut short.

On November 27, 1978, just weeks after working with former Governor Ronald Reagan to defeat the Briggs Initiative that would have banned gays and lesbians from teaching in public schools, Supervisor Harvey Milk was assassinated in San Francisco City Hall, along with Mayor George Moscone, by former Supervisor Dan White.

The episode and ensuing trial was one of San Francisco's darkest times. Harvey Milk's assassination, like that of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, provided a foundation upon which people of divergent views could come together. Today, gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered people have more than just one seat at the table and are represented by a wide range of officeholders at every level of government.

If Harvey Milk were alive today, I believe he would be as proud of his legacy as we are of him. I also believe he would still be fighting for the dispossessed and voiceless everywhere.

Madam Speaker, today the City of San Francisco unveils the Harvey Milk City Hall Memorial. I rise to commend the city for honoring this civil rights pioneer, devoted community leader, inspiration to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, and truly great American.

COMMEMORATING MAY 19 AS
ATATURK, YOUTH AND SPORTS
DAY IN TURKEY

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate May 19 as a very significant day in the history of our dear friend the Republic of Turkey. In Turkey, May 19 is celebrated as the commemoration of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the Founder of the Republic of Turkey. It was May 19 in the year 1919 when Mustafa Kemal landed in the Black Sea port of Samsun and the war of independence began. Under his leadership less than a year later the Turkish Grand National Assembly was established and a few years later the Republic of Turkey was born a new nation.

Ataturk had a vision for Turkey and he set about reforming her. His vision of a pro-western, secular, and democratic state under the rule of law quickly became reality.

President John F. Kennedy said, "The name Ataturk reminds mankind of the historical accomplishments of one of the greatest men of this century. His leadership gave inspiration to the Turkish nation, farsightedness in the understanding of the modern world, and courage and power as a military leader."

It was in 1934 that Ataturk demonstrated his commitment to the rights of women by giving them full political rights. He understood that a country can only flourish when it's people are truly free.

My hero, General Douglas MacArthur described Ataturk better than most could ever at-

tempt. "He was a soldier-statesman, one of the greatest leaders of our era. He ensured that Turkey got its rightful place among the most advanced nations of the world."

May 19 is a very important day when it all began. On this day a great leader began his journey, a vision became reality and a great nation was born. We should all learn a lesson from this man's life. A leader with a vision coupled with determination can lay the roots for a great future. Turkey's neighbors who today wrestle with their own beginnings should take note.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FOUNDING OF THE
CONGRESSIONAL CLUB

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Congressional Club on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of its founding.

The Congressional Club was founded to promote friendship and cordiality amongst those in public life regardless of their political affiliation. It was also founded to bring together the wives of Members of Congress in a social setting.

The Congressional Club is the only club in the world to be founded by an Act of Congress, a high honor to the club and evidence of its important place in Washington, DC political life. While founded by an Act of Congress, the Club does not receive Federal funding and subsists solely by membership dues and the sale of cookbooks.

The Congressional Club Cookbook was first published in 1928, and is a popular item in the gift stores on Capitol Hill. There have been 14 editions of the Cookbook that contains recipes and signatures of Members of Congress and their spouses, First Ladies, Ambassadors and members of the Club.

The Club has played a significant role in the community and each year donates tens of thousands of dollars to charities in the name of the First Lady. Among the recipients of the charitable donations are the United National Indian Tribal Youth, literacy programs, the White House Library, youth dance troupes, domestic shelters, and child care centers.

The Congressional Club is an organization that leads by example. It promotes friendship, civility, community service, and generosity despite a difference of opinion with your neighbor, and it is truly an example that we should all work diligently to follow.

I want to take this opportunity to wish the Congressional Club a happy 100th anniversary and look forward to the many good works that will be done by the Congressional Club in its next 100 years.

HONORING RICHARD APLING FOR
HIS YEARS OF SERVICE WITH
THE CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH
SERVICE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to praise a public servant who is finishing 20 years of outstanding service to the Congressional Research Service. Members of Congress and their staff who are engaged with Federal education and disability legislation have benefited from the wisdom and professionalism of Richard Apling, Specialist in Social Legislation Rick joined CRS in 1988 and has worked with Members of Congress and their staff on many of our most critical education issues. Rick has received numerous outstanding performance ratings as well as the gratitude of all of the Members and staff whom he has served throughout his career at CRS.

Rick earned a bachelor's degree from Oberlin College, two master's degrees from the University of North Carolina, and a doctorate in education from Harvard University. Previous to joining CRS, he worked as a middle school history teacher and as a senior research associate at two private sector firms, senior research associate at Advance Technology, Inc., and at Policy Studies Associates.

Since he began his service at CRS 20 years ago, Rick has been a nationally recognized expert on numerous aspects of major Federal education policy. Rick has been the lead policy analyst responsible for a variety of important and complex education programs and statutes, particularly the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA, and the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act. Rick has also been responsible for a number of the larger programs authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, ESEA, including the Impact Aid program, and the increasingly important and complex issues of assessments and accountability for students with disabilities at the intersection of the ESEA and IDEA.

Rick is a leader in developing analytic capacity within the entire Education and Labor Section of CRS' Domestic Social Policy Division. He never fails to provide valuable input to colleagues; he has advised staff from throughout Domestic Social Policy Division, DSP, on allocation formula programming and a wide range of data analysis issues and has frequently served as a very effective mentor for junior staff.

Rick is a thoughtful, responsive and hard-working civil servant who has supported Members of Congress and staff with his tremendous depth of knowledge, history and analysis—always with a wry smile and incredible patience. His ability to research details and explain complex information is unparalleled, and no matter how tight the deadline or how stressful the situation, Rick always responds in a friendly and composed manner. Rick's work is an outstanding example of high-level analytic support for the legislative process, and collaboration and leadership in capacity building. He will be missed greatly, but his influence will continue to be reflected through support of Congress' deliberations by the many

remaining CRS staff whom he has mentored or advised, who will carry on his tradition of service.

I am proud to thank Rick Apling publicly on behalf of this Congress for his many contributions to our Nation and, in particular, on behalf of students with disabilities.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR KENO
HAWKER OF THE CITY OF MESA

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Keno Hawker, who is stepping down as Mayor of the great city of Mesa after eight years of extraordinary service. As a member of the Mesa City Council and as Mayor, Keno has been a tireless advocate for the residents of Mesa. Keno has taken his fiscally responsible approach to better the city he serves and has helped to enhance quality of life of the region we share.

Mayor Hawker has served his community well since 1986 when he was first sworn in as a city council member. The population of Mesa has almost doubled since then and, through his leadership, the city has continued to be a high-quality place to live and raise a family. Keno has also served the greater community as the Chair of the Maricopa Association of Governments Regional Council. He also served as Vice Chair, National League of Cities Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations (FAIR) Steering Committee.

Additionally, he served as Chair of the MAG Regional Council Transportation Subcommittee, Vice Chair and as a member of the MAG Air Quality Policy Committee and the Governance Task Force. Keno was also instrumental in building the new Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, which is evolving into a major job center and reliever airport for our fast-growing region. Keno's hard work will spur economic growth and improve the quality of life for the people of Mesa for years to come.

I commend the citizens of Mesa for selecting such a deserving public servant. As a former Mayor of Mesa's neighboring city of Tempe, I understand the tremendous impact that a dedicated leader, like Keno Hawker, can have on their community.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Keno Hawker's continued work and advocacy for the fine citizens of the city of Mesa and Arizona.

HONORING THE REPUBLIC OF
AZERBAIJAN

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan, a fast growing young democracy which secured its independence in 1991 after the dissolution of the former Soviet Union. There are few countries in the world which gain a second opportunity for independence, like

Azerbaijan. This May 28 the Republic of Azerbaijan celebrates the 90th anniversary of Republic Day, the day the nation and people first gained their independence.

It was May 28, 1918 when Azerbaijan declared independence from the Russian Empire. The February 1917 fall of the tsarist monarchy in Russia had created favorable conditions for the development of national movements within its border lands. By establishing its independence, Azerbaijan, then the Democratic Azerbaijan Republic, became the first ever secular democratic republic in the world with a predominantly Muslim population. Although independence lasted only 2 years before Soviet forces invaded in 1920, the period was distinguished by nation building, the arts, education, and economic growth.

The Republic of Azerbaijan's re-independence in 1991 did not come easily. As independence fervor was sweeping through the former Soviet Republics in 1990, peaceful demonstrations were taking place throughout Azerbaijan. Tragically, on January 1990, then President Mikhail Gorbachev sent troops to Baku. Civilians were no match for the onslaught of tanks and fully armored military personnel. The excessive force resulted in more than one hundred and thirty civilian lives.

The Azerbaijani people eventually prevailed when the Soviet Union collapsed. On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament adopted the Declaration on the Restoration of the State of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and on October 18, 1991, the Constitution was approved.

Located in a highly political, dynamic and sensitive region between Russia and Iran, Azerbaijan is a confident member of the Council of Europe, United Nations, Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe, and participates in NATO's Partnership for Peace program.

Azerbaijan is a strategic partner to the United States, and cooperates with the U.S., both bilaterally and multilaterally, (through the GUAM framework (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Moldova) to prevent illegal trafficking and to secure borders Azerbaijani troops, like U.S. troops, are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan on behalf of their country and in support of the global effort against terrorism.

The United States recognized the sovereignty of Azerbaijan in 1918 and again in 1991. I applaud their leadership as a democratic republic and strategic partner in the region and worldwide. Congratulations to all Azerbaijani citizens, and Azerbaijanis around the world, on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of Republic Day.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. EVERETT. Madam Speaker, in accordance with House Republican Conference standards, and clause 9 of House rule XXI, I submit the following information for the record regarding my program requests in H.R. 5658, the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act of 2009:

Title: Advanced Hypersonic Weapon Technology Demonstration.

Account: Army RDT&E.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Westar Aerospace & Defense Group, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 890 Explorer Boulevard, Huntsville AL, 35806 U.S.A.

Description of Request: Provide funding for \$7,000,000 for the Advanced Hypersonic Weapon (AHW) Technology Demonstrator program for the US Army Space and Missile Defense Command to reduce risk and flight test validate critical technologies (hypersonic boost-glide, thermal protection, precision navigation, guidance and control, and secure 2-way in-flight communication) required to enable the successful execution of the emerging USSTRATCOM mission for prompt global strike. TPS technologies are viewed by USSTRATCOM as the key to executing the prompt global strike mission. The prototype C3 capability would provide missile launch command and control associated with flight test demonstration supporting critical test execution and flight safety. As a potential spiral for weaponization, AHW would provide a ground launched forward-deployed mid-term option to destroy time sensitive/high value targets at long distances with a minimal deployment logistics tail.

Title: Composite Rotorcraft Airframe Development.

Account: RDTE, A.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: GKN Westland Aerospace.

Address of Requesting Entity: 3951 Alabama Highway 229, Tallassee, Alabama 36078.

Description of Request: Provide funding of \$2M for the development of a composite floor sub-structure to be demonstrated on the Black Hawk helicopter. Approximately \$75,000 is for program management, \$50,000 is for engineering planning, \$200,000 is for tooling, \$200,000 for design engineering, \$75,000 is for material purchase, \$500,000 is for generation of material mechanical property testing for use in design/analysis of the test structure, \$400,000 is for process development through part manufacture, \$500,000 is for structure testing. Recent DoD requested changes to the Black Hawk helicopter (H-60) includes Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS) and Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) configurations. Studies have identified the aircraft airframe as the area for potential weight reduction. Lightweight airframe development has been conducted in SARAP (Survivable Affordable Repairable Airframe Program) through the demonstration of a lighter, low cost cabin for the Black Hawk. As part of this technology demonstrator cabin, a floor sub-structure used thermoplastic composite materials to reduce the weight by almost 25% over the baseline metal structure while, at the same time, reducing costs. Further development is required to take full advantage of the savings that composite materials technology can offer.

Title: Close Combat Missile Modernization (Javelin).

Account: RDTE, A.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Lockheed Martin.

Address of Requesting Entity: 5500 County Road 37, Troy, AL 37081.

Description of Request: \$10M used to initiate obsolescence management of the guidance section of the Javelin Missile. The various efforts are divided between Raytheon and Lockheed Martin on a 60/40 work share arrangement. The 60/40 work share is divided

by the program management office. Raytheon work will be done in Tucson, AZ at approximately \$5.4M of effort. Lockheed Martin work will be done in Orlando, FL at approximately \$3.6M of effort. The work in Orlando will consist of: Trade Studies, Guidance Section System Architecture, Guidance Section Software Architecture, Guidance Section Requirements, Phase I Design, Phase I Analysis, and Phase I Development Environment. The increase will develop the path forward for a fully funded RDTE effort to enhance Javelin's capability as a system by first enhancing the missile capability to provide longer range, in-flight correction, and beyond-line-of-sight capability. A new Javelin (Javelin II) missile would be manufactured at the LM Pike County operations at Troy, AL.

Title: Space Control Test Capabilities.

Account: RDTE, A.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Davidson Technologies, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 530 Discovery Drive, Huntsville, AL 35806.

Description of Request: \$10M to finalize development and validation of the Space Control Test Capability for the United States Air Force. Of the funds provided approximately \$5 million or 1/2 of the available funding is for final development of a version of SCTC which will join the already developed closed-form version to give a new combined capability to analyze important transient command/control situations (e.g. satellite outages). The combined version provides both closed-form steady-state and transient-event analysis capabilities, builds upon Air Force selected analytical engines, and is already in the hands of the users in support of Terminal Fury. The addition completes the required analytical suite. Approximately \$5 million or 1/2 of the funding is for tool validation. When completed, the combined SCTC tool is the only tool of its type and caliber in the Air Force analytical inventory. Completion of this combined tool in GFY 2009 is needed to provide quantitative data support for acquisition decisions. The tool will provide decision time-lag and throughput data for combination steady-state and transient situations to quantify performance of alternative system implementations. The Air Force will use these performance predictors to make sound, quantitative-based acquisition decisions for upcoming space systems in areas such as OCS, DCS, SSA and communications now and in the future, providing additional AF funding to enhance operational capabilities as required.

Title: Chapel—Fort Rucker, Alabama.

Account: Military Construction, Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Congressman TERRY EVERETT (through Army Out-year Budget).

Address of Requesting Entity: 2312 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515.

Description of Request: A \$7.1 million project to construct a chapel at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Construct a standard-design chapel complex featuring a sanctuary (400 seat capacity) and an activity center that is capable of seating an additional 239 people in a separate or combined service. The sanctuary includes a raised pulpit area and a baptismal suite. The facility also includes 15 religious education classrooms, two multi-purpose rooms, blessed sacrament room, sacristy/robing room, choir room, resource center, nursery, restrooms, kitchen, storage, and administrative space for

two Chaplains, Education Director and Assistant. Supporting facilities include utilities, electric service; emergency and security lighting; fire protection, detection and alarm systems; paving, walks, curbs and gutters; parking; storm drainage; information systems; and site improvements. Access for the handicapped will be provided. Heating and air conditioning (54 tons) will be provided with separately-zoned, self-contained units. Anti-terrorism/force protection (AT/FP) measures are included.

Title: Gunfire Detection System for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.

Account: Army RDTE.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Radiance Technologies.

Address of Requesting Entity: 350 Wynn Drive, Huntsville, AL 35805.

Description of Request: \$9 million for a wide angle weapons detection sensor that can detect, classify and locate a variety of weapon fires including Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPGs), MANPADS, small arms, mortars, tanks and artillery. This Weapons Watch (WW) Technology can process these events in near real time (less than a second) and disseminate the information over existing command and control channels immediately. This sensor, detecting from a variety of airborne platforms can cue other sensors or weapon systems to positively identify and neutralize the hostile weapon system. The basic sensor technology has been demonstrated as part of the Oveiwatch ACTD and has also been deployed to support current operations. At less than 30 pounds, it has flown on both manned and unmanned aircraft proving its ability to accurately detect at extended ranges while on the move. The Army Aviation Center is ready to integrate this technology on both manned and unmanned aircraft to provide both enhanced targeting and aircrew survivability. In concert with AMRDEC (Huntsville), PM UAV (Huntsville) and the Directorate of Combat Developments (Ft. Rucker), the contractor will provide simulation software and WW hardware to the USAAVNC for testing and certification through the Aviation Technical Test Center (AATTC). Aviation experts from both the Wiregrass area and Huntsville will develop the techniques, tactics and procedures to fully employ the capabilities of this system.

Title: Study of Warfighting Initiative for Future Technologies and Tactics (SWIFTT—A).

Account: Army RDTE.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC).

Address of Requesting Entity: 6723 Odyssey Drive, Huntsville, AL 35806.

Description of Request: \$3 million will enable completion of a study being conducted with the U.S. Army Air Maneuver Lab, Fort Rucker, AL to develop manned and unmanned air vehicle teaming solutions for current and future war fighter requirements. Additionally, funding will address critical emerging issues in support of Aviation modernization efforts and desired capabilities of Aviation war fighters to expedite the delivery of solutions to the field. Funding will be allocated for the following: (1) upgrade the existing AMBL facility's modeling and simulation tools and infrastructure (10%) and (2) execute local and distributed simulation experimentations (90% labor).

VOLUSIA HONOR AIR GUARDIANS

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, May 17, 2008, 102 Volusia County veterans from the Second World War visited our Nation's Capital as part of the Honor Air program. The trip was made possible through the Rotary Clubs of Volusia County and with the support of sponsors and the 49 Guardian escorts.

It was my pleasure to assist in hosting the veterans during their visit to our Nation's capital. They first stopped at the World War II Memorial to pay tribute to their fellow patriots. In the first visit for all of the servicemen, it was a moving occasion. It was an emotional moment as these heroes stood among the stone columns, fountains and pools that comprise the Memorial.

In the afternoon, the Volusia veterans paid their respects at Arlington National Cemetery. Veteran leaders and I had the privilege to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in a solemn tribute to those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. The day concluded with visits to the Woman in Services Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial and the Iwo Jima Memorial.

As the Congressman from Florida's Seventh Congressional District, it was my honor to play a part in our Volusia County heroes' visit. I would like to acknowledge former U.S. Senator Bob Dole, a fellow World War II hero and Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England who both graciously addressed the group. I ask that the United States House of Representatives join me in expressing our appreciation to the 49 Guardians, who through a sense of duty and at personal expense, escorted the World War II veterans on that memorable day.

The May 17, 2008 Volusia Honor Air Guardians included:

Joesphine D. Alexander; Stephen E. Alldredge; Jerry L. Autry; Jerry L. Autry, Jr.; Peter D. Bauer; Roger B. Baumgartner; Ken Bradley; Melina Brannon; David Franklin Brannon II; William Herschel Breneman III; Michael W. Brooks; Joseph Bryant; John F. Cheney; John H. Childress; Leslie Stafford Coggins; Robert L. Doyle II; Geoffrey E. Felton.

Thomas B. Fleishel; William B. Flowers, Jr.; Thomas R. Fowler; Eleanor Gustavsson; John Jeffrey Harting; Raymond H. Heffington; Robert Michael Hill; Randall Jackson; Ben F. Johnson; Russell L. Kelton; Candace Lankford; Gerald H. Lyons; Jeffrey A. Malmberg; Jefferson J. Mancinik; William C. Mancinik; James Mazurak; Clair Roach Metz.

Charles Paiva; Albert J. Razzetti; Alessandra Razzetti; Joseph Frank Rudolph; Thomas D. Smith; Brad Strickland; Theodore J. Surynt; Donaldson Paul Taylor; Carolyn Gannett Teal; Parke Stafford Teal; Kevin Thomas; Warren A. Todd; Alexander B. Veech; Gery Walker; and Douglas Allen Wedekind.

HONORING BOB IDEN

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize to Dr. Bob Iden for his 11 years of outstanding service to Lake Highlands High School and his community.

After graduating from Lake Highlands High School, Dr. Iden attended Kilgore College on a football scholarship and finished his bachelor's and master's degree at North Texas University. Upon graduating, he continued to use his athletic background as a coach and teacher for the Richardson Independent School District for nine years. After working for the administration, Dr. Iden was hired to be the principal at his high school alma mater, Lake Highlands High School.

During his eleven years as principal, Dr. Iden's school received numerous honors under his leadership. In 2002, Lake Highlands High School was named a Blue Ribbon School, one of the highest honors a school can receive. In addition to numerous students being named National Merit Scholars, this year one of his students was named a Rhodes Scholar. Dr. Iden has received national recognition in *Newsweek* and *U.S. News and World Report* for his achievements, and he has become a tremendously well-respected and valued member of the Lake Highlands community.

This year Dr. Iden will retire from his career in education. I would like to wish Dr. Iden the best of luck in his future endeavors. While his time as an educator has come to an end, the results of his hard work will no doubt continue to be seen for generations to come.

Madam speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Dr. Bob Iden for his devotion to education and for helping to shape a brighter future for our community and our country.

HONORING BARBARA AND EDWARD COGAN

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Barbara and Edward Cogan, educators who both recently retired after more than 30 years of distinguished service. Day after day they energetically taught our youngsters valuable life skills, while raising their family in the great community of Hacienda Heights, California, and volunteering with programs that have enhanced education throughout the 38th Congressional District.

Barbara Ruth Cogan grew up in the great city of Montebello, California, and began teaching in 1970 at Belvedere Elementary School. She later joined the staff of Basset High School in 1975 after receiving her credential in Special Education. Over the past 33 years there she has worked in the OH (Orthopedically Handicapped) department, providing tireless support to her students and always strove to ensure that each and every young adult in her classes reached their full potential.

Edward Cogan grew up in East Los Angeles and began his career in the field of mathematics as an engineer in Pomona, California. Starting in 1972 he also began teaching, working in both the Hacienda/La Puente and Los Angeles Unified School Districts, finally retiring from El Sereno Middle School in Los Angeles. His lessons on computer science and programming were years ahead of the internet revolution and provided a generation of students with the inspiration to pursue further careers in technology.

Barbara and Edward also spent many years volunteering in the 38th District. Many of their summers were spent contributing to the programs of the Youth Science Center in Hacienda Heights, an organization dedicated to inspiring people of all ages to discover the excitement of science and technology. Their involvement as parents also extended to countless hours of enthusiastic support to local schools, little leagues, and youth activities.

Madam Speaker, today I would like to personally acknowledge and congratulate Barbara and Edward Cogan for their many years of dedicated work and I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding their efforts as educators. I wish them both continued success, health and happiness in the future.

HONORING THE ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the outstanding results achieved by the Assumption High School's Girls' Basketball Team who won the Iowa Class 2A 2008 Iowa State Championship.

I congratulate the Assumption Knights for defeating the Mar-Mac Bulldogs 46-27 on Friday, April 29, 2008, at the Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines.

This victory was the result of a remarkable defense that held their opponent to 30 percent shooting in the championship game, and an even stronger offense that shot 61 percent from the field in the second-half of the championship.

From 2004 to 2007, the Lady Knights won 94 percent of their regular season games only to finish just shy of the state championship. But in 2008, the Knights' perseverance was rewarded! They finished a perfect 27-0 and brought Assumption High School its first girls' basketball state championship!

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of Assumption High School. Perhaps Paul "Bear" Bryant, the late, great coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide football team says it best: "Show class, have pride, and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself." This past season, Assumption High School proved just that.

HONORING A FALLEN HEALTHCARE WORKER

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. WEINER. Madam Speaker, several months ago, the Kingsbridge Heights Rehabilitation Center in the West Bronx unilaterally decided to stop making payments to the health care fund for its employees. Before some of my colleagues "tisk tisk, well that's just the free market at work"—as the *Daily News* and their award-winning columnist, Errol Louis, pointed out—this center has made \$5.2 million in profits last year and its CAO, Helen Sieger, made \$700,000 in salary—all of it paid for by Medicaid funds, our tax dollars.

Audrey Smith-Campbell and 220 of her colleagues decided they weren't going to take it; they were going to go on strike. Audrey Smith-Campbell was not a union activist or an ideologue. She was for 30 years a certified nurse assistant, caring for our parents and our grandparents, giving them dignity in their most vulnerable moments. She knew she wasn't ever going to get paid what she was worth but she wanted to be paid at least enough to live on.

Audrey Smith-Campbell is dead. She died after having a severe asthma attack because she couldn't afford to pay for her medication when she was on strike. She should be honored for the way she lived—and we should all be ashamed for the reasons she died.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PENSION PROTECTION ACT ERISA AMENDMENTS OF 2008

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Pension Protection Act ERISA Amendments of 2008, PPAEA. Although I voted "no" on final passage of the Pension Protection Act, PPA, in 2006 due to a number of provisions, which put thousands of New Jersey jobs and retirees' plans at risk, I do believe there are many beneficial aspects of the law that are helping to protect the retirement plans of working Americans and retirees across the country.

For workers retired from a single-employer plan, PPA provided a better method of ensuring that an employer may continue to offer retirement benefits to their employees by meeting their plan financing obligations. This change made it far less likely that taxpayers would have to step in and pay the bill for thousands of retirees. PPA also provided smaller businesses with a bit more flexibility, by giving some of them a new plan option. One such option is known as the "Defined Small Employer Defined Benefit Plan" or "DB(k)," which I authored. DB(k) relieves employers of the administrative burden tailored for large plans and provides them with the best of both the defined benefit and defined contribution world.

For people who work for or are retired from multi-employer plans, the 2006 law gives those employers—and the funds to which they

belong—an opportunity to receive some relief from external circumstances that caused those plans to be in jeopardy; and again, relieving taxpayers of potential liability and obligation.

In 2005, on the eve of the introduction of PPA, the economic forecast predicted an avalanche of more defined benefit plan terminations, placing the solvency of the pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation, PBGC, as well as hundreds of millions of retirees' assets at risk. With several major companies expecting to either eliminate or freeze their defined benefit plans a few years ago, PPA has been instrumental in slowing the decline in defined benefit, DB, plans. Nevertheless, DB plans are still on the decline. Today, less than one in five workers in the private sector—20 million workers—has a traditional defined benefit plan, while 401(k) plans are on the rise, dominating the retirement landscape. Today over 50 million American workers are covered by a 401(k) plan. Whether these plans are adequate to provide the average American worker with a comfortable retirement remains a question we will continue to examine in the coming years.

Solving the problem of providing retirement coverage, which is both affordable and adequate, is a priority of mine, but before we address it, we must first make sure PPA is measuring up to its fullest potential. The purpose of PPAA is to correct a number of anomalies in PPA, which in many cases, subvert the policy goal of a particular provision. Though most of these anomalies were not intentional, if left uncorrected they have the potential to strip thousands of retirees of a lifetime of savings and force many employers to drop their retirement plan for their current employees.

As I indicated in the hearing I chaired last year in the Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, HELP, I am not interested in upsetting the fundamental agreements of PPA. Rather, I am most interested in vindicating those agreements and making them work better.

With the support of the Chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor and my good friend from California, GEORGE MILLER, and several other colleagues, I look forward to working with Members on both sides of the aisle to help pass a bill to further protect retiree assets, provide employers with a funding method that holds them accountable but provides flexibility, reduce burdensome transaction cost to plan sponsors and pensioners, and provide employers with additional investment tools to ensure that all retirees under their plan receive their promised benefit.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR WALLACE J. NICHOLS

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Wallace J. Nichols, who served as Mayor of Fountain Hills from May 2003 to May 2008. Mayor Nichols has exemplified the leadership, dedication, and insight that constitute a great public servant.

Mayor Nichols has a long and impressive record of service to the Fountain Hills commu-

nity. He served as an elected officer and Chairman of the Fountain Hills Sanitary District, Los Arcos Multipurpose Facilities District Board of Directors, Scottsdale Boys & Girls Club Board of Directors, Fountain Hills Boys & Girls Club Advisory Chairman, Chairman of the Fountain Hills Community Center Advisory Commission, and on the Citizens Committee/Community Benefits Committee Board.

Notably, he was instrumental in bringing the Boys and Girls Club to Fountain Hills. Mayor Nichols' support began on the advisory committee in Fountain Hills. Later, he became the head of the Four Peaks Branch fundraising campaign on the Boys & Girls Clubs of Scottsdale board. After tireless efforts from Wally, the Four Peaks Branch now boasts enrollment of nearly 1,000 children and teens. With overwhelming support from the Fountain Hills community, the Club is now offering more programs than it ever has, including outreach efforts with the neighboring Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation. Wally truly understands that strong communities are built upon the foundation of strong families, and that strong families are borne from constant commitment to kids.

Mayor Nichols has not only worked to secure a brighter future for Fountain Hills' youth, but also a greener, more sustainable one. Valley Forward—an environmental organization that surveys communities every four years and assigns them letter grades in air, land, water, and transportation—labeled the Town of Fountain Hills the "most improved" community out of 16 Maricopa County governments in its 2008 report. Under Mayor Nichols, great strides were taken in trail access, economic development plans, and mountain and wash protection.

Other local affiliations include the Noon Kiwanis, Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce, Friend of the Fountain Hills Community Theater, Senior Center, Civic Association, Library Association, Republican Club, Fountain Hills Historical Society, and the Four Peaks Community Church. Focus on such organizations has helped create the sense of community involvement and civic participation in the Town of Fountain Hills.

As the former mayor of Tempe, I understand the challenges that governing a city can pose. Wally faced these challenges head on, with grace and unwavering commitment to the people he served.

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing gratitude for the improvements Mayor Nichols has made upon Fountain Hills, and remembering the positive legacy that he has created for Arizona.

MUNSTER WE THE PEOPLE TEAMS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to the outstanding achievements of an exceptional group of students from Munster High School, located in Indiana's First Congressional District. Two exceptional teams from Munster High School, Team Adams and Team Jefferson, accomplished the extraordinary feat of finishing in first and second place, respectively, in the State competition of the We the

People: The Citizen and the Constitution program. Following their victory at the State level, Team Adams went on to compete in the national finals held in Washington, DC+, from May 3-May 5, 2008. For their knowledge and understanding of the American Government, these extraordinary young people received an honorable mention as one of the top ten finalists at this year's national competition.

The We the People program, administered by the Center for Civic Education, is a program that reaches over 28 million elementary, middle, and high school students. The goal of the program is to provide students with an understanding of the fundamentals of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The program helps students to understand their rights under the American governmental system.

The people of Munster, as well as the entire northwest Indiana community, can be proud of this truly remarkable class of students. Team Adams consisted of the following students: James Burgwald, Sarah Chowdhury, Sophia Griggs, Nicole Hong, Megan Hruska, Grant Huebner, Daniel Jayakar, Robin Jiang, Neil Keshvani, Charlie Krull, Alicia Nieves, Paige Patterson, Blake Platt, Michael Pudlow, Matt Stewart, Nicholas Stoffregen, and Julianne Watterson. Team Jefferson was comprised of: Danny Alexander, Eric Anderson, Keriann Ballanco, Katharine Banks, Arefin Chowdhury, Lorian Estes, Amy Fuhs, Carly Gibbs, Russell Gonzalez, Jonathan Harangody, Jessica Hilbrich, Nithin Krishnan, Viraj Maniar, Samantha Mardyla, Martha Mihich, Lana Muhrez, Molly Poczonet, Abhinav Ravi, Christopher Witter, and Meagan Yothment.

Madam Speaker, I would like to once again extend my most heartfelt congratulations to the members of Munster High School's We the People program, as well as their coach, Mr. Michael Gordon, and all of the community and faculty members who have instilled in these students the desire to succeed. The values exhibited by these young people and their interest in the history and fundamentals of our great Nation serve to inspire us all. I am proud to represent these fine individuals in Congress, and I am proud to have been given this opportunity to recognize these future leaders. I look forward to watching their achievements as they continue to rise to the top.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF DR. JACK HYMAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of an outstanding doctor, a wonderful man, and a truly great American, Dr. Jack Hyman.

Dr. Hyman was born in Tampa, Florida, and graduated as valedictorian from Plant High School. After graduating from the University of Florida, he entered Tulane Medical School and received his M.D. in 1941. He spent a year training in Urology before he was commissioned in the U.S. Army as a first lieutenant. He served in World War II as a physician in the Pacific Theatre of Operations. Just two short days after he returned from the war, Dr. Hyman married his longtime sweetheart, Frances Levy.

Upon his return from the war, Dr. Hyman completed his fellowship training in Urology at the Ochsner Clinic in New Orleans. During this time, he received a Master of Science degree from Tulane University and became a diplomat of the American Board of Urology and a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Hyman then opened his first practice in New Orleans at the Ochsner Clinic. In 1948, Dr. and Mrs. Hyman moved to Mobile where he continued to practice medicine. In 1970, Dr. Hyman opened his second private practice, Urology Associates of Mobile, where he practiced until his retirement in 1998.

Dr. Hyman's service to his community did not stop at the doors of his medical practice. He served as president of Providence Hospital medical staff, president of the Mobile Infirmary medical staff, president of the Mobile County Medical Society, trustee of the board of directors of Mobile Infirmary, trustee of the Mobile Infirmary Foundation Board, president of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, president of the Alabama Foundation for Health Care, and founding director of SouthTrust Bank.

And make no mistake, Dr. Hyman's service did not go unnoticed. In 1994, he was awarded the Samuel Buford Word Award, the Alabama Medical Association's highest honor, in recognition of extraordinary service to humanity. Additionally, the Tulane Medical Alumni Association awarded Dr. Hyman the C.D. Taylor Award in 2003, in recognition of his outstanding service to the community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated doctor, community leader, and friend to many, as well as a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather. Dr. Jack Hyman will be dearly missed by his family—his lovely wife of 62 years, Frances Levy Hyman; their children, Phillip Hyman and his wife Mary, Bob Hyman and his wife Diane, Cathy Mosteller and her husband Matt, and Ellen Cunningham and her husband Russ; his grandchildren, Julie Hyman Wilkins, Jake Hyman, Michael Mosteller, Clifton Mosteller, Frances Mosteller, Jack Cunningham, Callie Cunningham; his great-grandchild, Tate Wilkins; his sister, Selma Cohen—as well as the many countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

I WILL! A TRIBUTE TO TECH. SERGEANT WILLIAM JEFFERSON, JR., UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, Poet and Capitol Tour Guide Albert C. Caswell, who has been the author of many heartfelt tributes to our military servicemen and women, recently penned a poem in honor of Tech. Sergeant William Jefferson Jr. who died from injuries caused by an improvised explosive device on March 22, 2008. As an instructor at the Combat Control School, he trained more than 400 combat controllers in 4 years. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Air Force Combat Action Medal. Sergeant Jefferson epitomizes the dedication and courage of our brave men and women on

the frontline, who sometimes make the ultimate sacrifice to defend their country and its values. I am proud to submit the following into the RECORD.

I WILL!

I Will fight,
and I Will bleed!
All so my Country,
may live in peace!
And, I Will lead!
All for God,
and Country Tis of Thee!
And, I Will give up . . .
My wonderful wife, and watch her grieve!
And never again,
My sweet little child Tyler, so see!
As all of this world, I so leave!
And not ask why, so indeed!
But for The Greater Good . . .
All of this, I so would!
I may die, and I may bleed!
All so we can be free!
As I so look up to The Heavens above . . .
And ask The Lord all in his love, to watch
over my family!
For I Will!
Dedicate my entire life to thee . . .
As I Will!
In the darkest nights of war, so be . . .
Strong, and full of courage . . . Me!
All for my Country Tis of Thee . . .
All for my brothers and Sisters in arms . . .
I Will forever fight on continually!
As I Will, carry that charge . . .
All with, what's inside of me!
As I Will!
Gaze, into That Face of Death!
And give up, all that I have so left . . .
All so to insure!
That my children . . .
Shall not ever have to go off to war!
As I Will, so stand for peace . . .
As I Will, hear Our Lord's Call Sign . . . calling me!
As an Angel in The Army of Our Lord, I Will
Be!
Until, up in Heaven, Kristy, Tyler, Mom,
Dad, and Family!
One day, we Will all so meet!
And Give up all, that I so love and need!
All for what I believe!
I Will!
In memory of A Real American Hero . . .
Tech Sgt. William Jefferson Jr. May our Lord
bless you and your wife Kristy and your
daughter . . . and he will!

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THOMAS HAROLD RIDDLE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the memory of a distinguished civic leader in Santa Clara County, Mr. Thomas Harold Riddle. Harold spent his entire life serving his community and country and helping those around him. He was a loyal soldier, a gifted educator, an active minister, a party activist, a loving husband, and a devoted father.

Harold Riddle was born in Washington, DC, and grew up on a farm in Central California. During World War II, Harold and two of his brothers bravely served our country in the Marine Corps and saw action in the Pacific Theater. After the War, Harold returned home to California and earned his teaching degree and

credentials from San Jose State University. He also went on to receive his master's degree in education from Stanford University. Harold's distinguished teaching career spanned 50 years and in 1973 he was recognized as California's Outstanding Teacher of the Year in Industrial Arts Education.

Harold met his future wife, the former Loretta Mezza, while they were both teaching students at San Jose State. They married after receiving teaching degrees in 1948 and would have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this August. Harold and Loretta Riddle were honored last month by local Democratic Party leaders with the Don Edwards Lifetime Achievement Award for their active involvement in civic activities. Loretta was a legislative staffer for Assemblyman and State Senator Al Alquist for over 30 years. Harold served for 12 years on the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee.

More important than his personal achievements, Harold will be remembered because he always made time for those that needed his time. From influential politicians to struggling high school students, Harold offered a friendly ear and sound advice. Harold is survived by his wife Loretta, his daughter Judy Riddle-Skintuay, and his sister Ruth Cooper. Our community mourns the loss of a great civic leader, friend, teacher, and family man.

DEVELOP AMERICAN ENERGY

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, "if we open a quarrel between past and present," Winston Churchill reminded us, "we shall find that we have lost the future."

Mr. Speaker, I fear that Sir Winston's words are applicable to the House today. We are pondering questions about the imprudent decisions of our past, and not acting wisely in the present. And we are thus at risk of losing America's energy future.

For the 15th day in a row, the average price for a gallon of gas set a new all-time high at \$3.83 a gallon. Many of my constituents in Idaho, and many Americans will spend more than \$50 every time they fill up at the gas station—in fact, for those who drive some of the most popular vehicles sold in the United States, filling their tank will cost more than \$98.

This should be no surprise. Today the United States imports a little less than 1/3 of our crude oil from OPEC nations and another roughly 1/3 from non-OPEC nations who gain the benefit of OPEC price increases from production restrictions and we produce a little more than 1/3 of from American sources. OPEC is essentially dictating the high prices we are paying at the pump.

Yet American families are being faced not only with record high fuel prices but also rising food prices with each passing day. In only two years, the price of a gallon of milk has risen by nearly 70 cents. The price of bread, in the same period, is up more than 15 percent. And on it goes.

When food staples and gas are both going up in price, the family is hit hard. In other words, it's not just family vacations that are

being cancelled. These high prices also affect the ability of Idahoans to afford to get to work, drive their kids to the doctor and buy some of the simple necessities of life.

The implications of rising fuel prices on education are also becoming apparent with media reports that some school districts are planning four-day school weeks in large part because of the rising cost of busing children to school. The costs of transporting school children will also affects field trips and other extra-curricular activities.

Similarly, American senior citizens and low income households have been disproportionately affected by higher energy costs. In 2006, before the skyrocketing and record breaking fuel price increases we are seeing today, low-income households in America spent nearly 20 percent of their income on energy-related expenditures.

This is a moral issue—an issue which for many low income families, senior citizens and hardworking families affects their access to education and even to their doctors, particularly in a rural state like Idaho.

Congress is and has been in control of the solution. To lower the price at the pump and to break our addiction to foreign oil, we must increase production of American energy, while in the short term conserving and encouraging innovation to increase renewable energy.

At her press briefing last Thursday, Speaker NANCY PELOSI (D-CA) acknowledged one of the universal truths of supply and demand when she said “certainly more supply lowers the price.” I am relieved that the distinguished gentlewoman from California appreciates this elemental economic truth.

In recognizing the truth that supply lowers the price, Democrats followed SPEAKER PELOSI, supporting a bill to halt shipments of crude oil from being put into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. They estimated that the resulting increases in supply of a mere 70,000 barrels per day would decrease prices by 5 cents a gallon at the pump. Although recognizing this truth, my Democrat colleagues continue to oppose the production of American crude oil.

Today, 73 percent of every dollar we pay for gasoline at the pump is the price of producing crude oil. Increasing the supply of crude oil, and thereby reducing the price of crude oil, is the single most effective thing Congress can do to lower gas prices.

And yet while my colleagues across the aisle understand that increasing supply is necessary, they consistently have opposed increasing the supply of American-made energy through increased production of American crude oil.

I find this stunning in large part because our dependency on foreign oil is so unnecessary. As far back as 1980, the then-Democrat Congress—under then-President Jimmy Carter—set aside a specific parcel of land in Alaska for oil and gas development. In 1996 Congress voted to explore and produce crude oil from those lands, but president Clinton vetoed that bill. Since then, Congress has failed the American people in not pursuing the domestic exploration and production of oil. It's that simple.

Congress has continued to erect huge roadblocks to exploration and development of oil on federal lands and has prohibited deep water exploration and development of oil and natural gas resources.

If we are to remain prosperous, America needs energy—American energy from every source possible. This means that we must develop and produce oil and natural gas, but it also means we must be innovative—innovative in conserving energy and innovative in producing alternative and renewable sources of energy.

Electricity is just as vital as gas. It is estimated that our demand for electricity will increase by 25 percent over the next 20 years or so.

For example, there is great potential for woody bio-mass as an alternative and renewable resource. This would allow us in Idaho to remove hazardous fuels from the forest and seek ways to use it to produce energy.

In the Northwest, whenever we talk about renewable and clean energy, we cannot forget traditional hydropower, which provides 60 percent of all power supply to the Northwest.

Hydropower is renewable and for America means no greenhouse gas emissions. Hydropower offsets more carbon emissions than all other renewable energy resources combined. It's a viable, clean and potent source of energy.

Similarly, nuclear power will be essential for our future. It is safe and clean and affordable. There are 104 reactors in the U.S. at present, and licenses for 30 more nuclear power plants are being sought by a variety of companies and groups. Nuclear power is environmentally-friendly and cost-efficient for producers and consumers alike.

In sum, we have substantial energy supplies available on the lands within our own nation.

Tragically, due to the policy changes encouraged by the majority party, Americans across this country have only continued to see higher and higher gas prices.

Congress must not, in some sad tribute to the cramped ideology of an extreme agenda, fail to allow the use of the resources we possess within our borders and within our technological and economic grasp.

America needs a sound energy policy that develops domestic energy from every source available, including crude oil, natural gas, clean coal, hydropower, nuclear power and every alternative source of energy.

To put it another way, we need all the energy we can get from all the sources we can afford to access. Period.

Madam Speaker, let's not lose our future because we dawdle in the present. Let us summon the courage and fortitude to act, and act now. As Winston Churchill, a man greatly honored by our country would, I believe, agree, the American people, and the future they hope for, deserve no less.

HONORING THE PLEASANT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPION BOYS SWIMMING TEAM IN THE 2007–2008 SEASON

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results

achieved by the Pleasant Valley High School Boys Swimming Team in the 2007–2008 season. This year the Pleasant Valley swimmers won 2 state championship events.

In the 100 yard butterfly Zack Bartholomew brought home the title for Pleasant Valley. And in the 400 yard freestyle relay, the team of Will Horvat, John Beck, Jared Dammann, and Zach Bartholomew took the championship.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Pleasant Valley High School Boys Swimming Team, both in and out of the pool. Perhaps Paul “Bear” Bryant—the late, great coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide football team—said it best: “Show class, have pride, and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself.” This year, Pleasant Valley High School proved just that.

RECOGNIZING DR. FREDERICK MARCIANO—SCOTTSDALE HEALTHCARE’S “SALUTE TO MILITARY” HONOREE

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Frederick Marciano, Scottsdale Healthcare’s “Salute to Military” Honoree this Memorial Day, May 26, 2008. Scottsdale Healthcare will be recognizing Dr. Marciano and other physicians with a connection to the Armed Services for their tireless service and sacrifice to this country.

More than 300 medical personnel have received exceptional trauma skill training at Scottsdale Healthcare since the program’s inauguration in 2004. The program is offered in partnership with Maricopa Integrated Health System and has focused on the Air National Guard, Luke Air Force Base, and Davis Monthan Air Force Base.

I commend Scottsdale Healthcare for paying tribute to such a deserving service member. Dr. Frederick Marciano is the Medical Director of Neurology at Scottsdale Healthcare, and was mobilized in April as a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves to Active Duty at William Beaumont Army Medical Center in Fort Bliss, Texas. His clinical areas of expertise include neurotrauma, general neurosurgery, spinal surgery, and brain and spinal tumor surgery.

Dr. Marciano was also deployed in March 2003 to a Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany, where he treated casualties from military operations including Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan), and Noble Eagle (Bosnia). Notably, he was the lead surgeon in the treatment of POW Private First Class Jessica Lynch’s spinal and neurological injuries.

Dr. Marciano has received the National Defense Service Medal twice, the U.S. Armed Forces Reserves Medal, the U.S. Army Service Ribbon, the U.S. Army Achievement Medal twice, the Overseas Service Ribbon, and the Superior Unit Award (Landstuhl).

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Dr. Frederick Marciano’s continued dedication to saving lives and securing our freedom.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE “ENHANCING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATION ACT OF 2008,” H.R. 6104

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, yesterday I introduced the “Enhancing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education Act of 2008,” H.R. 6104. This legislation aims to enhance the coordination of the Nation’s science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education initiatives. Thirty-nine members of the United States House of Representatives signed on as original cosponsors of H.R. 6104. We were joined by our distinguished colleague Senator BARACK OBAMA who introduced a companion bill (S. 3047) along with three of his colleagues.

The intent of this bill is to increase the coordination, collaboration, and coherence of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, STEM, education initiatives for the students of today and the citizens and workers of tomorrow.

As a former teacher, principal and school board member I am committed to improving the education we provide our young people. Developing citizens that are critical thinkers and scientifically literate will help drive a vibrant society and create a sound economy. Our economy depends on our country’s education. Few policy decisions have more economic impact in the long-run than education policies.

Today, more than ever, our economic resiliency depends on the competitiveness of our labor force. Unfortunately, the signs are not good. Over 25 years ago, “A Nation at Risk” identified America’s need to improve STEM education to ensure that we remain competitive in an increasingly global economy. But more than two decades later, “Rising Above the Gathering Storm” presented clear trends in international tests and college enrollments that show that our children are losing their competitive advantage, and so is our Nation.

In this country we have many successful STEM education programs. For example, nearby at the Indian Head Elementary School in Charles County, Maryland, scientists and engineers from the Department of Defense partner with students to develop cutting edge rocketry. Yesterday, two fifth grader students from this school, DeMisha White and Justin Dinch, together with their teacher Mr. Tim Emhoff, shared the incredible value of Federal programs in exciting our children about STEM.

Sadly, this program and the myriad like it are not coordinated. Over a dozen agencies are engaged in STEM education and they are often not aware of the efforts of other agencies—they are working in isolation. According to the American Competitiveness Council, in 2006 the U.S. sponsored 105 STEM education programs at these agencies, at a cost of about \$3.12 billion. The ACC found that “coordination among agencies could be improved to avoid, for example, grants to numerous projects that support the same sorts of interventions . . . there appears to be a lack of communication among the agencies about the work they are funding and the results that are

being generated . . . agencies are often uninformed by the results of earlier projects.” Clearly, our Nation is not maximizing the impact of our STEM education initiatives.

The “Enhancing STEM Education Act of 2008,” is a bi-partisan, bi-cameral bill that will provide a framework for Federal agencies, the States and all stake-holders to work collaboratively. It will help them establish national STEM education goals and to coordinate STEM education initiatives.

The bill has four major components:

(1) Elevating the STEM Education Subcommittee at the President’s Office of Science Technology Policy, OSTP, to the standing committee level. This change would give STEM education a higher profile within OSTP and establish the mechanism for the coordination of Federal STEM education initiatives.

(2) Establishing an Assistant Secretary for STEM Education at the U.S. Department of Education. This Office would bring together the Department’s STEM education efforts and manage programs such as Math and Science Partnerships and the Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program.

(3) Creating the State Consortium on STEM Education. This voluntary group, of at least five States from across the country, would help align State STEM education efforts. Their mission is to coordinate policies to address weaknesses in STEM education. For example, the Consortium will work with stakeholders to identify strategies to improve the representation of women and minorities in these fields.

(4) And lastly, this bill establishing the National STEM Education Research Repository. This clearing house will be a portal to information about all federally funded STEM education programs, making the results of the more than \$3 billion the Federal Government spends annually on STEM education available to local educators.

We need to ensure that all our children are prepared for citizenship in a world that is increasingly dependent on STEM literacy. The recent bleak economic news we’ve been hearing should be a wake-up call that we cannot continue to move forward without a blueprint for our students and our future economic well-being. This is why I introduced the “Enhancing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education Act of 2008.”

I want to thank all my colleagues who joined with me to address the critical needs of our Nation. I especially want to thank Senator BARACK OBAMA, Chairman GEORGE MILLER, Representative VERNON EHLERS, and Representative RUSH HOLT for their leadership. I look forward to working with my colleagues to move this legislation through this Congress.

HONORING JON KIMBELL

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jon Kimbell, Artistic Director and Executive Producer of the North Shore Music Theatre (NSMT) in Beverly, Massachusetts, who after twenty-five years is retiring and embarking upon the next stage of his illustrious career in musical theatre.

Jon Kimbell has been at the helm of NSMT for nearly half of its existence. During that

time, he provided the inspiration, experience and leadership that transformed the NSMT from a seasonal summer stock theater to a year round operation. Jon’s energy and enthusiasm were contagious, and in partnership with a dedicated staff and a committed Board of Trustees, Mr. Kimbell oversaw the theatre’s expansion from a \$1 million organization with 7,000 subscribers in 1983 to a \$14 million operation with 20,000 subscribers in 2008.

The North Shore Music Theatre helped make the region north of Boston a major destination in the cultural tourism industry. During Jon’s tenure, NSMT became a nationally-recognized venue, and it has been named the second largest performing arts organization in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts by Boston Business Journal. Jon Kimbell and the North Shore Music Theatre are important pistons in the engine of the creative economy that attracts so many to the North Shore—both to live permanently and to visit repeatedly.

For a quarter of a century, Jon was true to the mission of the NSMT, and he worked tirelessly to increase the awareness, significance and celebration of musical theater and the performing arts through superb entertainment and educational programs. Under his tutelage, the North Shore Music Theatre established initiatives that expanded the horizons of countless thousands every year—from special needs populations, to underserved communities, to pre-professionals in training programs, and the theatre supported the development of an inter-generational musical theater program that united senior citizens and elementary school students.

Perhaps one of Jon’s greatest achievements came at the most challenging of times. In the wake of a devastating 2005 fire that nearly destroyed the building, Jon guided the theatre with a firm hand and resolve, and utilizing his ever-resourceful personality and connections, he successfully arranged for NSMT to produce much of its season at the Shubert Theatre in Boston. Jon brought life to the old adage that “The show must go on!” He went on to spearhead a recovery effort that allowed NSMT to reopen a mere 110 days after the fire.

It is appropriate that the House recognize this personal milestone of Jon Kimbell. He has been accorded the accolades and been named recipient of numerous industry awards, and he will be remembered locally for having written and created one of the North Shore’s valued holiday traditions, A Christmas Carol. His contributions to the quality of life for the people of the North Shore and beyond cannot be overestimated and will last into the future. Jon Kimbell was an engaged and contributing member of the North Shore community.

Bravo, Jon Kimbell!

HONORING THE BETTENDORF HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPION BOYS SWIMMING TEAM IN THE 2007-2008 SEASON

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by the Bettendorf High School Boys

Swimming Team in 2007–2008 season. This year the Bettendorf swimmers won 4 state championship events!

In the 200 yard medley relay the team of John Gayton, Jon Alves, Andy White, and Jake Hemberger brought home the victory for Bettendorf. In the 200 yard IM and 100 yard backstroke, John Gayton took the titles. And in the 100 yard breaststroke, Andy White was victorious.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Bettendorf High School Boys Swimming Team, both in and out of the pool. Perhaps Paul “Bear” Bryant, the late, great coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide football team said it best: “Show class, have pride, and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself.” This year, Bettendorf High School proved just that.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) for almost 100 years of volunteer service to communities throughout the United States. Service projects over the years have included food drives, clothes drives and blood drives. Boy Scouts have volunteered their time at disaster relief sites, created nature trails and written letters to our brave troops overseas. In fact, participation in service activities by the Boy Scouts America are so numerous that I could not possibly mention them all here. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Boy Scouts of America for providing valuable assistance to our society and I look forward to

their continued participation in communities throughout the U.S.

Unfortunately, the Boy Scouts of America have used valuable resources to legally establish their ability to set exclusionary criteria for membership through a June 2000 Supreme Court ruling. Specifically, “the Boy Scouts of America will not employ atheist, agnostics, known or avowed homosexuals. . .” This discrimination should not be supported by the U.S. government. Congress has a responsibility to encourage equality and as such, should not commemorate any organization that engages in the practice of discrimination in any form.

Furthermore, H.R. 5872 provides that a \$10 surcharge per coin be distributed to the BSA Foundation “in the form of grants for the extension of Scouting in hard to serve areas.” I do not believe that the government should have a hand in raising funds for any organization that actively discriminates. Nor should the government raise funds for an organization that has a history of using valuable resources to legally establish the ability to maintain an exclusionary criterion for membership as the BSA has done.

As such, I must oppose this legislation. This Congress has a responsibility to defend against social injustice. Congress must set policies that demonstrate our ability to overcome, once and for all, the type of thinking that seeks to separate us.

LAKE COUNTY ELECTRICIANS JOINT APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING COMMITTEE BANQUET

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sincerity and admiration that I offer con-

gratulations to several of Northwest Indiana’s most talented, dedicated, and hardworking individuals. On Friday, May 30, 2008, the Lake County Electricians Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee, JATC, will honor the class of 2008 at their annual Apprentice Completion Banquet, which will be held at the Avalon Manor Banquet Hall in Merrillville, Indiana.

This year, the Lake County Electricians JATC will be recognizing and honoring twenty-four graduates who have completed the apprentice training. This year’s inside wireman graduates are: Donald Bullock, Vincent Catalano, Sean Clark, Dustin Greenya, Nicholas Kozlowski, John Lucas, Daniel Marlowe, Kevin Troy Nuss, Christopher Ortell, Jordan Pierson, Christopher Porter, Brian Robbins, Caleb Smith, Timothy Soderquist, Anthony Thames, Brandon Tomassoni, David Turpin, Jr., and John Wajvoda. This year’s teledata technician graduates are: Victor Alvear, Scott Davis, John Hill, Corey Joiner, Randy Mohrs, and Jason Stanley.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These outstanding graduates all exemplify these traits. They have mastered their trade and have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their commitment, hard work, and selfless sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these committed, hardworking individuals. Along with the other extraordinary men and women of Northwest Indiana’s unions, these individuals have contributed in many ways to the growth and development of the economy in Indiana’s First Congressional District, and I am very proud to represent them in Washington, DC.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, page S4851

Recess: Senate convened at 10:00:00 a.m. and recessed at 10:00:29 seconds a.m. in pro forma session, until 9:15 a.m. on Tuesday, May 27, 2008.

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, June 3, 2008, pursuant to the provisions of H. Con. Res. 355.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:15 a.m., Tuesday, May 27

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 p.m., Tuesday, June 3

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: To be announced.

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