cracking, scaling and spalling of the concrete. Emergency Foreign Object Damage (FOD) repairs have forced runway closures affecting 10 to 15 flights for each closure. No other runways at Edwards AFB can safely support the current and projected test operations without significant test mission delays, and temporary relocation of these missions is not feasible; however, many of the current and planned test missions can be supported by a temporary runway.

This project was programmed by the Air Force in 2003 for FY06, and was incrementally funded over 3 years (FY06, FY07 and FY08). After the project was programmed, the cost of construction materials escalated dramatically, eliminating all management reserve and resulting in a reduction in the planned scope of the project. Providing the final $6,000,000 in FY09 will complete the project as originally scoped, avoid contractor demobilization and remobilization, and avoid reconstitution of the temporary runway to support this work, saving the government over $4,000,000 in cost avoidance on the temporary runway alone.

Requesting Member: Congressman KEVIN MCCARTHY.

Bill Number: S. 3001.

Account: Research Development Test and Evaluation, Air Force.

Project Amount: $1,750,000.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Aerojet-General Corporation.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 13222, Sacramento, CA 95813–6000, USA.

Description of Request: This funding will be used for the Hydrocarbon Boost Technology Demonstrator program and the increase in funding is to return the FY09 funding closer to the planned level at contract initiation. This critical, next-generation liquid rocket engine development effort run by the Air Force Research Laboratory at Edwards Air Force Base will not only provide the highest performing hydrocarbon engines ever developed in the United States, but also will provide higher operability, lower costs and greater safety with higher reliability than any liquid booster engine ever made in the United States and perhaps the world. A match is not required for defense research projects, but I was informed that during the past eight years, Aerojet has invested approximately $30 million in internal research and development funding on this technology and intends continued support in FY09.

THE HERMOSA BEACH SISTER CITY PROGRAM: 40 YEARS OF GOODWILL AND ENDURING FRIENDSHIP

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 27, 2008

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, to many, Hermosa Beach is a beautiful coastal community blessed by perfect weather, endless sun and surf. But few would know that it is home to one of the oldest and strongest international exchange programs in the United States.

It all started in 1967, when the Hermosa Beach City Council established a ''Sister City'' program with the citizens of Loreto, Mexico. Back then, Loreto was a small community on the pristine Baja coast of the Sea of Cortez—famous for sport fishing, whales, cave paintings and colonial missions. Its Spanish mission, founded in 1697, was the first in all of the California's.

Over the past 40 years, the Hermosa Beach Sister City Association (HBSCA) has provided funding and other support for educational and humanitarian programs for Loreto. Among the most notable is the middle school student exchange program. Every spring, Hermosa Beach 7th and 8th grade students travel to Loreto—and vice versa—where they gain language skills, opportunities to learn about a different culture from host families and field trips, and lifetime memories.

The HBSCA also assists the people of Loreto with critical medical care. As recently as 1998, Loreto had no emergency medical treatment facilities. Through a partnership between physicians in Loreto and Hermosa Beach, the HBSCA has been able to provide badly needed medical training and equipment, including paramedic gear and even an ambulance.

Since its inception, Sister City programs have benefited both cities and their citizens. Loreto has become a home away from home for Hermosans, who have in turn helped improve the quality of life for Loretans. One of our Nation's oldest sister city programs shines as a stellar example of the impact global exchange can have on our world.

I congratulate the citizens of Hermosa Beach and Loreto on achieving this impressive milestone.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF IBWC COMMISSIONER, MR. CARLOS MARIN

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 27, 2008

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, it is with deep and heartfelt sympathy that I join my colleagues today in conveying my sincere condolences on the death of my good friend, International Boundaries and Water Commissioner, Mr. Carlos Marin.

On September 17, 2008 aircraft wreckage located in the Sierra Madre mountain range was confirmed to be that of an airplane on which U.S. Commissioner Carlos Marin and Mexican Commissioner Arturo Herrera of the International Boundary and Water Commission were passengers.

At the time of this tragic accident, the Commissioners were traveling to assess Rio Grande flood conditions at Presidio, Texas-Ojinaga, Chihuahua and to coordinate joint response efforts.

Carlos Marin was a brilliant, enthusiastic, and devoted public servant. He played a lead role in the IBWC, overseeing flood control, sanitation, boundary demarcation, and mapping projects. It has been an immense pleasure to know and work with him over the course of my career. I have whole-heartedly enjoyed collaborating with him on innumerable projects along the U.S.-Mexico border. I have admired his ability to bring people together across borders and his dedication to and understanding of the U.S.-Mexican border region. We will all greatly miss his leadership and wisdom.

Above all, Carlos was an exceptional American. He will forever be remembered for his dedication to his country and for his tireless efforts to forge cooperation across borders in the name of the common good.

Madam Speaker, let me once again express my deep regret on learning of Carlos's death. I wish to portray my condolences to his wife, Rosa, his children, and family. All those whose lives he touched, directly or indirectly, mourn at his passing.

HONORING THE MILITARY SERVICE OF SSG WAYNE CARRINGER

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 27, 2008

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of SSG Wayne Carringer of Robbinsville, North Carolina, a courageous and highly decorated World War II veteran who was held for almost 3½ years as a prisoner of war.

Staff Sergeant Carringer enlisted in the Army in September 1939. He survived what has become known as the Bataan Death March, the march from Mariveles to San Fernando where the soldiers, already malnourished and weak, were brutally tortured or killed by the Japanese.

At the end of the march, the soldiers were transported to Camp O'Dell, which Staff Sergeant Carringer has described as a death factory. He was placed into the Zero Ward, the building where the Japanese put the soldiers that were expected to die. Eventually, he was moved to work in the Japanese coal mines, where he endured starvation, malnutrition, torture, beatings, solitary confinement, malaria, and slave labor. His weight plummeted to what he estimated was 80 to 85 pounds. After living as a prisoner of war for almost 3½ years, he emerged from captivity after the end of the war to find that the government had declared him dead in 1943. Staff Sergeant Carringer attributes his survival of the horrendous experience to his faith in God, and said that the experience increased his appreciation for his country and in his fellow man.

Every day we enjoy freedoms made possible by this heroic man and the thousands of other members of our military who have risked or given their lives to protect us, to ensure that the United States remains the land of the free and the home of the brave.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the bravery and sacrifice of SSG Wayne Carringer, and to thank him for defending and preserving the freedoms that each of us enjoys today.

HONORING MRS. EDNA PHARR

HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 27, 2008

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Edna Pharr of Marietta, Mississippi on her 90th birthday. Edna is a cornerstone of the Marietta community, supporting her family members who have provided excellent local leadership to Marietta,