

USDA Farmers Home Administration is now USDA Rural Development, and Mr. Maufort works out of the agency's office in Gladstone, MI. He has been instrumental in developing a working relationship between the Native American Tribes in the Upper Peninsula and USDA Rural Development. The Gladstone Office processed the first Tribal Loan in the State of Michigan because of Mr. Maufort's personal dedication to the application.

Dennis Maufort has been a tremendous asset to the Upper Peninsula and all of Michigan over the course of his 37 years with USDA. He processed the first USDA loan for a Michigan hospital in the 1970s at Munising Memorial Hospital, and he also was instrumental in coordinating the first Hydroelectric Power Loan in Norway, MI, in the early 1980s. More recently Mr. Maufort worked with the County Board for Keweenaw County in providing assistance for the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge in Cooper Harbor, MI. Mr. Maufort also worked with the city of Houghton to obtain a loan for the Houghton Public Library which overlooks the estuary in Houghton and provides services for the entire county. These are just a few of Dennis Maufort's many accomplishments since he started working at USDA.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Maufort has been a vital asset to USDA Rural Development during his career. His contact with the communities he has served has increased the quality of life for countless citizens in Michigan. I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Dennis Maufort on a job well done and in wishing him well in his retirement.

DUNCAN HUNTER NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Defense Authorization bill. Despite the 2006 mandate from the American people to end the war and occupation of Iraq, this bill authorizes the funding to continue operations in Iraq well into the 2009 fiscal year. This bill authorizes \$68.5 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition it authorizes the entirety of the administration's request of \$542.5 billion for the National Defense budget. This is a grand total of \$611.1 billion to continue misguided policies such as preemptive strikes, interventionism and peace through strength.

The bill includes absolutely no language calling for the withdrawal of our honorable and brave service members in Iraq, 4,170 servicemen and women have been killed in Iraq, there have been tens of thousands of injuries to our troops and over 1 million innocent Iraqi civilians have been killed as a result of the war. The true monetary cost of the war is estimated to be \$3 trillion. Yet instead of keeping a commitment that we made back in 2006 to end the war, we are once again voting on a bill that will continue to fund it well into the term of the next President. Congress has the ability to end the war and bring our troops home simply by refusing to continue funding.

Additionally, I do not support the authorization for \$465.8 million to continue development of the European Ground-Based Mid-Course Defense, GMD, program despite a lack of assurance that the system will work or is needed for the safety of our nation. Congress' continued funding of the European GMD only lends credence to the administration's misguided claims the system is necessary to defend the U.S. from a long-range ballistic missile attack from Iran despite the fact that Iran is unlikely to pose such a threat to the United States in the foreseeable future.

Continuing to develop the European GMD has consequences for U.S. foreign policy. This deal has exacerbated tensions between the U.S. and Russia. There has also been strong opposition by the citizens of the Czech Republic and Poland to the placement of the radar and interceptors in their respective countries.

This bill continues to reflect the wrong priorities for our nation's security. The continued proliferation of nuclear weapons does not make America safer. What will make America safer is to place a priority on cooperation with the global community on nuclear nonproliferation initiatives. This bill authorizes over \$6.6 billion for the nuclear weapons activities of the National Nuclear Security Administration, and less than \$2 billion for nuclear nonproliferation.

The U.S. administration has established a record of unilateralism that undercuts our nation's credibility in the eyes of other nations. The repercussions of this record include undermining our security and diplomatic integrity. In just under eight years the U.S. administration has backtracked on international treaties and conventions. The U.S. has rejected the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, refused to sign the Land Mine Treaty, withdrawn from the Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty, unsigned the Kyoto Protocol, and blocked a verification protocol for the Biological Weapons Convention.

Continuing to keep "all options on the table" while refusing to engage in diplomacy without preconditions leaves America devoid of any moral authority. The idea that peace (the absence of 'violence') can be brought about through violence and increasing weapons stockpiles is antithetical. The assertion that keeping our nation safe requires us to maintain a pre-emptive strike policy is built on a foundation of fear and continues to drive Americans further away from each other and the world community. The belief that the bulk of our foreign policy should be comprised of insisting other countries do what we tell them, while we fail to engage in any meaningful global cooperation is hypocritical and condescending.

The security of America lies not in defense spending but in ensuring well paid jobs for hardworking Americans, guaranteed health care and a strong education for our nation's youth. We must shift our priorities. This body must stop spending half of America's tax dollars on the funding of the military industrial complex and instead invest in economic projects that really will keep America safer. With our economy in crisis it should be clear that continuing to hemorrhage money on defense spending while our future economic stability is uncertain is not in the best interests of our citizens. Congress must wake up. In other words, I believe that Congress must reassess our current priorities and in so doing begin to provide for the traditional sense of security by first ensuring economic security, health security, and job security for all.

WEBCASTER SETTLEMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 27, 2008

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Webcaster Settlement Act of 2008, and want to thank the gentleman from Washington for his leadership in bringing this resolution to the floor.

H.R. 7084 is a simple yet critical legislative solution that allows private sector actors to keep a negotiating process alive. Why? Because Internet radio royalties operate under a government license, and Congressional approval is necessary to allow a private sector agreement to effectuate outside the government process.

This is a good thing. After all, if I have a choice between a government mandated solution and a private sector agreement, I will take the private sector agreement almost every time.

The Webcaster Settlement Act of 2008 guarantees that our nation's performing artists, musicians, record labels and webcasters can continue copyright negotiations that are making slow but steady progress. And a resolution to the issue is critical, so Internet radio listeners can keep on listening and the people performing those songs can be properly compensated.

The Copyright Royalty Board is small government body tasked with determining royalty rates for the use of music over Internet radio. It is obscure to some, but its decisions are critical to my constituents in Tennessee and Internet radio users across the country. Unfortunately, this body was tasked with the authority to adjudicate a rate structure at the direction of Congress back in 2004. This proved to be unwise, since the Board's decision announced in March of 2007 sparked a lengthy lobbying battle and an acrimonious relationship between two important members of the music industry's family; the copyright holder and the copyright deliverer.

We now understand that the parties are gradually coming together, and growing closer to finding common ground. Congress should do everything in its power to ensure the negotiations continue, and H.R. 7084 is the vehicle to guarantee the talks will continue.

I urge my colleagues to support it, and yield the balance of my time.

IN HONOR OF TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, September 28, 2008

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a proud member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus to congratulate Taiwan on its 97th National Day on October 10th.

The people of Taiwan have many reasons to celebrate and be proud of their country. Having elected President Ma Ying-jeou, the Taiwanese have returned the KMT party back to power, thereby effectively passing Huntington's "two-turnover test of democratic consolidation." By successfully transitioning from one

party to another and back to the original party, the people of Taiwan have proven their democracy is flourishing.

Today, Taiwan is a vibrant democracy with a strong market economy thanks to its strong ties with the United States. Under the new Ma administration, Taiwan will only seek to fortify these ties and continue to prosper as a nation.

Mr. Speaker, I would also be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to push for the 111th Congress to pass a Free Trade Agreement with Taiwan. Taiwan is the United States' ninth largest trading partner, with trade flows between the two totaling \$64.6 billion last year. A Free Trade Agreement would expand trade and improve economic growth, provide enhanced opportunities for U.S. businesses and support an important democratic ally in a strategic region. It is time we put our differences aside and passed this legislation which is long overdue.

A TRIBUTE TO YUCAIPA, CALIFORNIA, CITY MANAGER JOHN TOOKER

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, September 28, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Tooker, a fine public servant who has dedicated the past 17 years to making the city of Yucaipa, California, a better place to live. After serving as city manager for all but 2 years of Yucaipa's cityhood, Mr. Tooker has announced his retirement.

A native Californian, John Tooker was bitten by the public service bug early in his life, graduating from California State University at Long Beach with a specialty in public administration. He has worked in city and county government continuously since then and, through his hard work, has helped improve many communities in California.

John Tooker came to my congressional district in 1991 as the city manager for Yucaipa, California. Since his arrival, the city of Yucaipa has always passed a balanced budget. In addition to his good fiscal housekeeping, Mr. Tooker has been instrumental in building up the parks and community recreation areas during his tenure. He negotiated the purchase of 32.5 acres for a community park site in 1996 and, in the years following, oversaw the construction of a Community Park, Community Center, City Hall and Fire Station No.3.

In addition, the Teen Center and Senior Center have been enlarged and remodeled and numerous city parks have been renovated. With the local community college, the city purchased an Olympic size swimming pool which will be placed in a beautiful new facility for the entire community. The residents of Yucaipa and their families have these great places to relax in no small part due to John's leadership.

Mr. Speaker, John Tooker and his wife are the proud grandparents of a baby grandson, Luke Jonathan Tooker, who was born last month. He will now be able to spend a lot more time with Luke. Please join me in wishing John Tooker health and happiness in his retirement and thank him for his many years of dedicated service.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE BUD CRAMER AND THE HONORABLE TERRY EVERETT ON THEIR RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. BOYD of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Congressman BUD CRAMER on his many years of service to our Nation and to the people of Alabama's Fifth District.

Since I first came to Congress in 1997, BUD has been a respected colleague, a good friend, and a personal mentor. Over the years, I often have looked to him for guidance on different issues before Congress, and he has always given me wise and thoughtful advice. BUD's work on the Defense Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee has served as a model for me. I have seen firsthand his ability to work across the aisle to advance good policy to the benefit of our national defense efforts, our military community, and the American people.

As a founding member of the Blue Dog Coalition, BUD has dedicated his time in Congress to being a good steward of taxpayer dollars and creating a more fiscally responsible government. The Blue Dogs have been able to grow and continue our message of fiscal responsibility because of the groundwork that BUD and other founding members laid over 13 years ago.

BUD, as your friend and colleague, I will truly miss your leadership in Congress. I wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors and hope you enjoy your much deserved retirement.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, September 28, 2008

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Rep. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Military Construction, Navy Account.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Earle.

Address of Requesting Entity: Colts Neck, New Jersey.

Description of Request: This project will upgrade the Main Gate located at Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Earle. These upgrades will provide the proper Anti-terrorism Force Protection (AT/FP) measures required for current security and terrorist threats. Construction will consist of the following: gate access realignment; reinforced ornamental fencing along the public highway; new security fencing surrounding guardhouse area; removal of existing guard house; and removal of existing parking areas; hardened guard house, intrusion detection system (IDS), local area network (LAN), and base wide alarm duress system; site light-

ing with connections tied into existing generator; raised median; rejection area for privately owned vehicles (POVs); permanent vehicle inspection shelter with CCTV, for one truck and two POVs side by side; undercarriage video surveillance equipment; permanent passive barriers from fence and gate to active vehicle barriers; two active (pop-up) vehicle barriers; elevated fighting position; hardening of existing generator; sidewalks on both the inbound and outbound sides; relocate entrances to parking for Family/Housing Services and to Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD); construct new connector road to EOD; demolish existing pass and identification office; construct new pass/i.d., within new inspection facility and provide 54 parking spaces.

NWS Earle has been fortunate to not experience serious assaults or threats; however, continued operations without major security improvements could result in exposing NWS Earle's valuable assets and personnel to terrorist activity.

Detailed Financial Plan:

The majority of the funding (approximately \$6.5 M) will be used for Electronic and Mechanical Utilities and Site Improvements, including: Area Lighting; Water Distribution; Sanitary Sewer System; Paving and Site Improvements; Storm Water Management; and Demolition.

The rest will fund Special Construction Features, which total \$1,515,766 M and include:

Active vehicle barrier—\$91,036.00.

Passive vehicle barriers—\$270,213.00.

Security fencing—\$208,801.00.

Automatic traffic controls/devices—\$245,648.00.

Inspection enclosure (truck/car)—\$85,977.00.

ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support this relief from the Alternative Minimum Tax, AMT. If Congress does not pass this legislation, over 25 million middle-class tax payers would find themselves subject to this tax.

It is important that we provide this relief to millions of American families who want a better life for their families. The current structure of the AMT leaves middle-class households vulnerable to a significant unexpected tax bill while many very wealthy households pay no AMT. In these economic times, enacting AMT relief can put more money in their pockets rather than subject them to taxes that were not intended to apply to middle-class families.

I have long supported and advocated for responsible reform of the Alternative Minimum Tax, which would be offset by other changes that target loopholes and abuses in the tax code. A responsible paid-for fix would also protect future generations of Americans from tax increases by not adding to our national debt. The Federal Government deficit will reach over \$400 billion this fiscal year and it is projected to reach \$500 billion in the next fiscal year.