

INTRODUCTION OF H. RES. 313,  
SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND  
IDEALS OF NATIONAL PUBLIC  
WORKS WEEK

**HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 2009*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I introduce H. Res. 313, supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Works Week, and for other purposes. National Public Works Week is celebrated for a full week each May to celebrate our public works professionals and the important work that they do to keep our country running smoothly.

May 17 through May 23, 2009 will recognize the many duties that public works professionals—those who design, build, operate, maintain and protect transportation systems, water supply infrastructure, sewage and refuse disposal systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities—perform to enhance communities and our nation.

Public works keep our society functioning: providing buildings that house vital government offices, and giving our country rail, highways, airports, and public transit to move goods and passengers.

Similarly, public works help maintain public health: providing systems for waste and sewage disposal, while supplying us with crucial water for our homes, businesses, and agriculture. Pipelines safely transport natural gas and hazardous liquids through 2,300,000 miles of pipelines throughout the country.

Many people take for granted our public works, recognizing their importance only when problems are encountered. When water supply is not efficient, when infrastructure crumbles, and when accidents in moving transportation occur, we are then forced to reflect on what needs to be invested in the larger public works sector of our economy.

The “2006 Status of the Nation’s Highways, Bridges, and Transit: Conditions and Performance” report by the Department of Transportation confirms that investment in the Nation’s highway, bridge, and transit infrastructure has not kept up with the growing demands of the system.

The 111th Congress has worked to aggressively address our critical transportation and infrastructure needs. In February, Congress enacted the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (P.L. 111–5) (“Recovery Act”), which provides \$64.1 billion of infrastructure investment to enhance the safety, security, and efficiency of our highway, transit, rail, aviation, environmental, inland waterways, public buildings, and maritime transportation infrastructure. The \$64.1 billion of Federal transportation and infrastructure investment will create or sustain more than 1.8 million jobs and \$323 billion of economic activity.

In addition, in March, the House passed H.R. 1262, the “Water Quality Investment Act of 2009”. H.R. 1262 significantly increases funding for capitalization grants to States for state water pollution control revolving funds, grants for alternative water source projects to meet critical water supply needs, grants to municipalities and States to control combined

sewer overflows and sanitary sewer overflows, and grants for projects to remediate contaminated sediment in the Great Lakes areas of concern. The bill also provides a uniform, national standard for monitoring, reporting, and public notification of municipal combined sewer overflows and sanitary sewer overflows.

I strongly support investment in our Nation’s infrastructure, as well as the men and women who keep our public works, quite simply, working.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MICHAEL F.  
JAGGARD

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 2009*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Michael F. Jaggard, Captain, USN (RET), who is retiring after more than 41 years of faithful service to our Nation, as both a military officer and career civilian employee. He has offered selfless dedication to which we are all grateful.

In 1967, Mr. Jaggard began his federal career in the United States Army as an Infantryman, serving with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in the Republic of Vietnam from January 1968 to January 1969. Upon his release from active duty, Mr. Jaggard returned to civilian life and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas A&I University in 1971.

Mr. Jaggard continued his government service by enlisting in the United States Navy in 1973. Upon graduating from Officer Candidate School and until 1977, he served as the Supply Officer aboard the USS *Will Rogers* (SSBN 659). He subsequently worked as an instructor at the Navy Supply Corps School in Athens, Georgia, and in 1979 he served as Assistant Supply Officer aboard the USS *Emory S. Land*. Upon completion of that tour in 1981, he attended the Navy Postgraduate School where he earned a Masters of Science in Management degree.

After graduate school, Mr. Jaggard became a Principal Contracting Officer at the Naval Sea Systems Command for four years. From 1986 through 2001, he continued his federal career completing many successful tours in the Navy, assuming various leadership roles that have taken him across the world. He served as the Executive Officer and Commanding Officer of the Naval Regional Contracting Center, Philadelphia; Submarine Supply Support Officer to the Commander Submarine Force, US; Supply Officer aboard the USS *Orion* home ported in La Maddalena, Italy; Commander, Defense Contract Management Command, United Kingdom; and Deputy Commander for Contracts at the Naval Sea Systems Command.

On October 1, 2001, Mr. Jaggard retired from the Navy as a Captain. Upon retirement he was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in the civilian ranks and served as the Chief of Staff/Policy to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Acquisition & Logistics Management in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition. He has been taking on

the challenges of military acquisition and procurement ever since.

It is through the commitment and sacrifice of Americans like Mr. Mike Jaggard that our nation is able to continue upon the path of democracy and strive for the betterment of mankind. I am proud, Madam Speaker, as a fellow Virginian, to thank him and his family for his long and honorable service to our nation. On behalf of the citizens of Virginia’s Eighth Congressional District, I wish him fair winds and following seas as he concludes a distinguished career.

A TRIBUTE TO HEARTLAND  
HONOR FLIGHT ORGANIZERS

**HON. LEE TERRY**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 2009*

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to four of my constituents who have touched the hearts of countless members of the “Greatest Generation” and their families.

Bill and Evonne Williams and John and Connie Liebsack organized the Heartland Honor Flight program a few years ago. Since 2008, in conjunction with the Nebraska Veterans of Foreign Wars, five separate flights of nearly 750 World War II veterans have been brought to Washington, D.C. to visit the Iwo Jima Memorial in Arlington and the World War II Memorial on the National Mall. By the end of this April, another 750 veterans will have made an Honor Flight visit to Washington, and there are still veterans on a waiting list.

These men and women, most of who are seeing the World War II Memorial for the first time, are often moved to tears as they recall their war time experiences in Europe and the South Pacific and the comrades they knew who sacrificed for our liberty and freedom. Many of them, for the first time, open up to their loved ones about how their service to our Nation has affected them and their lives all these years.

Madam Speaker, it is important to note that this undertaking is entirely underwritten by private donations. Airfare, meals, and medical assistance are provided free to these veterans—nearly \$1 million has been raised so far. Across America, we lose more than 1,000 WWII veterans each day so it is vital those who are still among us have an opportunity to visit the Memorial. The Honor Flight network has the goal to bring 25,000 WWII veterans to the Memorial in 2009. How has this been accomplished? Through the hard work, dedication and compassion of people like Bill and Evonne Williams and John and Connie Liebsack.

It is an honor for me to come to this floor and pay tribute to Bill, Evonne, John and Connie and the many other volunteers from Nebraska who have gone the extra mile to fulfill the dreams of WWII veterans. I congratulate them on their achievements and I call on all of my colleagues to offer them encouragement and support as they continue to bring as many veterans as possible to Washington in the coming months.

THE COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICY SERVICES (COPS) IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, thank you, Chairman CONYERS for holding today's very important Markup on H.R. 1139, the Community Oriented Policy Services (COPS) Improvement Act of 2009. The COPS program was designed to help bring about fundamental changes in policing by drawing officers closer to the citizens they protect. And, in scores of communities across the nation, the COPS program did just that.

The idea of community policing is to get away from the traditional "call and response" model, in which officers run from one emergency call to the next. It involves sending officers into the streets and into the neighborhoods to build relationships with residents, identify the sources of crime problems, and solve them before they get worse. The success of the COPS approach to policing is dependent upon the relationships built between the police and the members of the communities they serve.

Since 1995, COPS has awarded more than \$10 billion to advance community policing, including grants awarded to more than 13,300 state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to fund the hiring and redeployment of nearly 117,700 officers. In addition to funding law enforcement positions, the Office of Community Policing Services has been the catalyst for innovations in community policing and broad implementation of effective law enforcement strategy. Presently, departments that employ community policing serve 87 percent of American communities.

On March 16, 2009, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder announced that the Department of Justice will be accepting applications for \$1 billion in Recovery Act Funds for the COPS program. Approximately 5,500 law enforcement officer jobs will be created or saved in law enforcement agencies across the country through funding provided by the Department of Justice.

Recently, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, H.R. 1, included \$4 billion in Department of Justice grant funding to enhance state, local, and tribal law enforcement efforts, including the hiring of new police officers, to combat violence against women, and to fight against internet crimes against children.

Similar to Edward Byrne Justice Act Grant (JAG) awards, Recovery Act funds that are authorized for COPS can also be used to hire new officers or rehire recently laid off officers, fill unfunded vacancies and help prevent scheduled layoffs within law enforcement agencies.

COPS funds are allocated directly to the local level governments and law enforcement agencies and provide a three-year period of funding.

Specifically, H.R. 1139, the "COPS Improvements Act of 2009," reinvigorates the COPS program's ability to accomplish its critical mission by establishing three grant programs: (1) the Troops-to-Cops Program, (2) the Community Prosecutors Program, and (3)

the Technology Grants Program. The Troops-to-Cops Program would fund the hiring of former members of the Armed Forces to serve as law enforcement officers in community-oriented policing, particularly in communities adversely affected by recent military base closings.

The Community Prosecutors Program would authorize the Attorney General to make grants for additional community prosecuting programs that would, for example, assign prosecutors to pursue cases from specific geographic areas and to deal with localized violent crime, among other crimes.

The Technology Grants Program would authorize the Attorney General to make grants to develop and use new technologies to assist State and local law enforcement agencies reorient some of their efforts from reacting to crime to preventing crime.

The investment in COPS through the Recovery Act although crucial is a one-time investment limited to the purpose of hiring officers. The reauthorization of COPS is necessary for the program to continue past the investment of the Recovery Act. Reauthorization is also necessary so that the COPS program can include the innovative aspects of the program as explained above.

The Houston area has made great strides in reducing crime. I am confident that with programs like COPS Houston can better combat crime.

CRIME STATISTICS

According to Houston Police Department statistics:

VIOLENT CRIMES

Violent crimes in Houston increased less than 1 percent in 2008 compared with 2007. Homicides dropped by 16 percent.

The number of homicides dropped from 353 in 2007 to 295 last year.

Sexual assaults increased more than 8 percent from 2007.

Aggravated assaults increased at 9.1 percent.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Of the 1,092 additional aggravated assault cases in 2008, more than half were reports of domestic violence.

NONVIOLENT CRIMES

Nonviolent crimes declined more than 10 percent in 2008.

Property crimes dropped by more than 10 percent.

Auto thefts decreased last year, dropping more than 21 percent to 15,214, down from 19,465 in 2007.

While Houston has made great strides in combating crime, more must be done to ensure the safety of Houstonians in their communities and their respective neighborhoods. I believe that the COPS program will be of benefit to the people of the 18th Congressional District as well as other communities in Texas and in communities around the United States.

AMENDMENT

The COPS program was designed to help bring about fundamental changes in policing by drawing officers closer to the citizens they protect. And, in scores of communities across the nation, the COPS program did just that.

The idea of community policing is to get away from the traditional "call and response" model, in which officers run from one emergency call to the next. It involves sending officers into the streets and into the neighbor-

hoods to build relationships with residents, identify the sources of crime problems, and solve them before they get worse. The success of the COPS approach to policing is dependent upon the relationships built between the police and the members of the communities they serve.

Because the success of the COPS approach to policing is dependent upon the relationships built between the police and the members of the community it served, I am offering an amendment.

H.R. 1139 requires that the Attorney General shall provide for a scientific study of the effectiveness of the programs, projects, and activities funded under this Act in reducing crime. The study is to be completed within four years of enactment of this bill.

My amendment specifically requires that:

"Such study shall include identified best practices for community policing that have demonstrated results in building and strengthening the relationships between police departments and the communities such departments serve."

The requirement that the study identify "best practices" in community policing is important because the enumeration of these best practices will serve as an unequivocal benchmark by which the successes of the COPS program can be measured.

These "best practices" would establish bright line rules to analyze community policing and the derogation of which will require retooling and adjustment of the community policing measures involved. Moreover, the Attorney General is in the best position to complete this study and certainly is in the best position to determine what constitutes "good" community policing. My amendment would support and strengthen the development of good community policing methods. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment in its entirety.

TRIBUTE TO THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS SOCIETY

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 2009*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a group of individuals whose dedication and contributions to the military community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated military community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. The Distinguished Flying Cross Society (DFCS) is such a group and I wholeheartedly support their efforts to build a National Distinguished Flying Cross Memorial at the March Field Air Museum (MFAM). This monument will "perpetuate the memory of those persons who have been and those who will receive the Distinguished Flying Cross."

I am honored to represent Air Force Village West (AFVW), a "Continuing Care Retirement community" (CCRC) that is home to and also provides medical care for over 680 retired military officers, their wives and widows. All the Services are represented among the residents: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Public Health Service and NOAA.