views on transatlantic relations, the differences between the European and U.S. views of the world, the future role of NATO, relations with Russia, and the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The next day, the delegation met with Sten Tolgfors, the Minister of Defense for Sweden. The Minister briefed us on Sweden's global outlook, their participation with NATO in the Balkans and Afghanistan (they have 290 troops and lead a PRT in the north), Russia, and the reforms they have instituted within the defense establishment, including the decision to pursue an all-volunteer professional military (they, like the Finns, have a conscript military). Sweden, like Finland, does entertain the possibility of future NATO membership but the Minister told the delegation that currently the parliament is split on the idea and so it is not on the government's current agenda. The delegation then proceeded to a working lunch hosted by Ms. Karin Enstrom, head of the Swedish delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and attended by other parliamentarians. The discussion was lively and covered the entire spectrum of U.S.-Swedish relations. Following lunch, the delegation met with State Secretary Frank Belfrage from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Discussions centered on Russia, Afghanistan, and Sweden's upcoming presidency of the European Union. One of Sweden's priorities will be climate change and preparing the EU's positions for the Copenhagen Conference on climate change that will be held in December. The Secretary expressed his hope that the United States and EU will work closely together on this issue and to help forge a consensus on the follow-on efforts to the Kyoto Climate agreement.

Madam Speaker, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly provides a unique opportunity for Members of Congress to engage in serious discussions on critical issues with our colleagues from other NATO member states, associate and observer states. I believe our delegation, and thus this Congress, benefits greatly from the information we exchange and the personalities we meet during these meetings. I look forward to our next NATO PA session in November in Edinburgh, Scotland.

In conclusion, I would like to again acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our Embassy staffs in Oslo, Helsinki, and Stockholm, and the men and women of the U.S. Navy vessels we visited while in Norway. I especially want to thank our entire military escort group from the United States Air Force, including the pilots. Our diplomatic corps and military personnel provide a quiet but invaluable service in ensuring our safety and this group of diplomats, servicemen and women was no exception. I thank them for their hard work and their dedication to duty.

HONORING SISTER FRANCINE LAGOCKI, PRINCIPAL OF SAINT RICHARD SCHOOL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Francine Lagocki, Principal of Saint Richard School in recognition of her career of devoted service. Sister Lagocki's retirement at the end of the 2009 school year will mark the end of nearly seven decades of selfless service to our nation's youth. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sister Lagocki's outstanding commitment to educational excellence. Sister Lagocki embodies the positive influence that teachers and school administrators can be on students every day across this great country.

In Sister Lagocki's accomplished career as an educator, she served as a classroom teacher in three parish schools before becoming assistant principal at Good Council High School. Sister Lagocki then served as principal of St. Mary School and St. Roman School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, before returning to Illinois to serve as Principal for St. Wenceslas in Chicago, and then finally St. Richard School on the Southwest Side.

St. Richard School is a Catholic school that serves the parish community and is both an expression of and a witness to the faith of its people. Believing that a child's development best occurs within the framework of a positive and structured environment, St. Richard School offers innovative and high quality educational programs. The aim of these programs is to challenge each student while teaching basic skills, within a Christian atmosphere where mutual respect, order, and values are high priorities.

It is my honor to recognize Sister Francine Lagocki, who served as an example of one of the best in K–8 school leadership and helped foster a greater understanding of the principal's key role in meeting the challenging responsibility of educating children.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on Congressionally-directed project funding, I am submitting the following information regarding project funding I requested for Southeast Louisiana as part of the Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill.

Requesting Member: Congressman STEVE SCALISE

Bill Number: Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Bill

Account: Department of Justice, COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Washington Parish Sherriff's Office

Address of Requesting Entity: 1002 Main Street, Franklinton, Louisiana 70438

Description of Request: I have secured $291,000 for the Washington Parish Sheriff's Office. The funding will provide law enforcement equipment, and provide proactive and reactive law enforcement activities for the safety of citizens and law enforcement officials engaged in law enforcement activities. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman STEVE SCALISE

Bill Number: Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Bill

Account: Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs—Juvenile Justice

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Boys Town Louisiana

Address of Requesting Entity: 700 Frenchman Street, New Orleans, LA 70116

Description of Request: I have secured $147,000 for Boys Town Louisiana, New Orleans, LA. The funding would be to expand an integration of the Boys Town Treatment Family Home program and its Home Family Services program to serve more at-risk girls and boys and their families. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

CONSUMER ASSISTANCE TO RECYCLE AND SAVE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, though I voted for the Consumer Assistance to Recycle and Save or the CARS Act, I have serious reservations about it. Unfortunately, despite its good intentions, it will send jobs overseas and it does little to help our ailing climate.

I cosponsored H.R. 1550, an earlier version of the bill. That version allowed consumers to get a voucher for cars assembled in the U.S. The version under consideration today has no such assurances, which means that significant amounts of the funds will go toward the purchase of cars made in countries like China. We are giving with one hand and taking with the other.

Our auto industry needs our help more than ever. Yet we are handing over money, jobs and infrastructure to our international competition. It is made worse by the terms of the GM bankruptcy which requires that plants in the U.S. are closed while shipping auto manufacturing jobs to other countries like Mexico and South Korea. We can't protect the auto industry by sending their work to other countries.

ENERGY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I would first like to thank Rep. ELLISON for holding this special order tonight as Congress works to break away from business-as-usual with regards to our nation's energy future.

I would also like to thank the Chairs of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, Representatives WOOLSEY and GRIJALVA, for your leadership and your tireless efforts to promote proper stewardship of our communities by protecting the environment.

It is so important that we continue to call for action on these issues surrounding global warming and the continued degradation of our environment that is perpetuated by our dependence on fossil fuels.

As I have said time and time again—there is no denying the interconnection between our stewardship of the environment and the state