

life. She has dedicated her time and effort to serving and inspiring her community and its people, and for this she is worthy of our deepest admiration. I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in wishing Dolly a very happy 90th birthday.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF UNITED STATES ARMY SERGEANT JONATHAN SHIVER

**HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2010*

Ms. GIFFORDS, I rise today to honor United States Army Sergeant Jonathan Shiver, who passed away on January 15, 2010.

Born March 4, 1985 to Paul Edward and Jennifer Ann Shiver in Tucson, Jonathan graduated from Buena High School in 2003 and attended Wyoming Technical College, earning his Associates Degree in 2004.

Jonathan joined the Army in June 2007—a day he said was the day that changed his life. He was an exemplary Soldier, promoted to Sergeant in 2009 ahead of his peers.

His family described him as a caring soul who enjoyed spending time outdoors on fishing trips, listening to country music, playing cards, and spending time with his friends and family.

Assigned to the Army's Third Expeditionary Sustainment Command, he deployed to Iraq where he worked as a mechanic, orderly room clerk, and was later selected to be a General's aide. Jonathan earned numerous commendations and accolades during his career.

We remember Sergeant Jonathan Shiver and offer our deepest condolences and sincerest prayers to his family. My words cannot effectively convey the feeling of great loss nor can they offer adequate consolation. However, it is my hope that in future days, his family may take some comfort in knowing that Justin made a difference in the lives of many others and serves as an example of a competent and caring leader and friend that will live on in the hearts and minds of all those he touched.

This body and this country owe Jonathan and his family a debt of gratitude and it is vital that we remember him and his service to his country.

Sergeant Jonathan Shiver leaves behind his beloved wife Jasmine, his parents Paul and Jennifer of Sierra Vista, his sister Danielle of Phoenix, his grandmothers Brenda Jacobson of Sierra Vista and Marian Shiver of Texas and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

HOBART CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
2009 AWARD WINNERS

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2010*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the Hobart Chamber of Commerce award winners for 2009. These distinguished recipients will be honored during the Chamber's annual awards and installation banquet,

which will take place on Thursday, February 4, 2010, at River Pointe Country Club in Hobart, Indiana.

The Hobart Chamber of Commerce utilizes members of the community in order to improve and develop business, industry, and the professions. Each year, the Chamber members and friends gather together to honor outstanding businesses and volunteers, and to commemorate specific accomplishments within the community. This year, the Chamber will honor the memory of Nancy Norris and Shirley Campbell, two remarkable individuals whose impact on the Hobart community will leave a lasting impression.

Continuing a tradition that dates back more than fifty years, the Chamber will honor its 2009 Outstanding Businesses. The first of the 2009 Outstanding Business award recipients is Alligator Construction. Alligator Construction first opened its doors nine years ago. Owners Dave and Maryann Ferner credit the support of their community for allowing them to grow from a window and siding company to a total remodeling company. Throughout Hobart and beyond, Alligator Construction's quality craftsmanship and commitment to meeting the customers' demands can be seen in the many successful projects they have undertaken. Regional Federal Credit Union, founded in 1961, is also being recognized as an Outstanding Business for 2009. Regional Federal Credit Union continues to flourish as a company committed to community involvement and volunteerism, as well as the promotion of financial education in the school system. The company has seen success and growth throughout Northwest Indiana by providing the community with excellent service in meeting the needs of their customers. The final Outstanding Business for 2009 is Strack and Van Til. What began in 1959 as a partnership between Nick Van Til and Ernie Strack, two local grocery store owners, has emerged as an organization now boasting an astonishing thirty super-market locations throughout Indiana and Illinois. Priding itself on quality products and quality service, Strack and Van Til has been a leader not only in the grocery business but in the Northwest Indiana community as well. Each of these fine businesses is truly worthy of this tremendous honor.

During this year's banquet, the Hobart Chamber of Commerce will honor Ms. Virginia Curtis with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Ms. Curtis, a longtime resident of Hobart, has been a member of the Chamber for more than thirty years and currently serves on its board of directors. Ms. Curtis is credited as the driving force behind the city's Independence Day festivities and was even selected in 2009 as the Grand Marshal for the parade. Well known for her work as a staff writer for several local newspapers, Ms. Curtis also owned a local restaurant and now serves as the president of the Hobart Community Improvement Committee. For her selfless commitment to her community, I congratulate Ms. Virginia Curtis on this prestigious award.

The Hobart Chamber of Commerce will also congratulate Saint Mary Medical Center for an astonishing 103 years of service to the Northwest Indiana community. The hospital continues to be a leader in the healthcare field and has maintained excellence in providing quality care to those in need. For its outstanding service, Saint Mary Medical Center has received countless awards, including the

Distinguished Hospital for Patient Safety Award and the 2008 Hobart Chamber of Commerce Large Business of the Year award. For their many years of service and for the many lives its dedicated staff has improved, I commend the Saint Mary Medical Center.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the Hobart Chamber of Commerce 2009 award winners. For their dedication and commitment to the community of Hobart as well as Northwest Indiana, they are all worthy of the honors bestowed upon them.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2010*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information.

Bill Number: H.R. 3326—Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010

Project Name: Aircraft Evaluation Readiness Initiative (AERI)

Provided: \$2,400,000

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

Recipient: Iowa State University

Recipient's Street Address: 1750 Beardshear Hall, Ames, IA 50011-2035

Description: This project would continue a program to address a range of aircraft inspection needs to help extend the life of the aging Air Force fleet, as part of a partnership between the Center for Nondestructive Evaluation at Iowa State University and the Air Force Materials Laboratory at Wright Patterson Air Force Base.

Bill Number: H.R. 3326—Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010

Project Name: Galfenol Energy Harvesting

Amount Provided: \$2,800,000

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation—Army

Recipient: ETREMA Products, Inc.

Recipient's Street Address: 2500 North Loop Drive, Ames, Iowa 50010

Description: The US Navy has a goal of reducing crew sizes, moving toward all-electric designs and increasing survivability of its vessels. A key strategy is the use of remote sensors to monitor areas and functions of a ship normally covered directly by personnel. The objective of the project is to develop this technology. Magnetostrictive materials like Galfenol offer a unique capability to harvest stray energy from routine ship vibrations and other sources which can power these sensors and the wireless radios used to transmit the data. Remote sensors would communicate information to a central processing station using a wireless network and thereby avoid adding the weight and complexity of additional wiring. An important benefit is the increased survivability of such a vessel in the event of an emergency or attack. By decentralizing command and control functions of a vessel through virtual control centers, damage to any one section of a vessel can be circumvented.

## CONGRESS AND PROGRESS

**HON. CHAKA FATTAH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2010*

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call to the attention of my colleagues an important and insightful commentary in the Sunday Washington Post—"A Very Productive Congress" by Norman Ornstein, resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute.

Norman Ornstein is no raving liberal, nor is AEI considered among the ranks of progressive think tanks. Even more to the point, Ornstein is no fan of this august body. As the editor's note describes, he is co-author of "The Broken Branch: How Congress Is Failing America and How to Get It Back on Track." His study, co-written with Thomas Mann, was published in 2006 when, I might suggest, a great many in the House today would have readily agreed.

So it is significant and, frankly, a hopeful sign for progress in our democracy that Ornstein cites the high legislative achievement of the 111th Congress and the dramatic if overlooked success of President Obama since January 2009:

"... This Democratic Congress is on a path to become one of the most productive since the Great Society 89th Congress in 1965-66, and Obama already has the most legislative success of any modern president—and that includes Ronald Reagan and Lyndon Johnson," Ornstein writes. "The deep dysfunction of our politics may have produced public disdain, but it has also delivered record accomplishment."

Ornstein in particular praises the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act as a monumental achievement that would draw even greater recognition if it had been passed as a series of separate programs to reshape and fund education reform, health information technology, an energy smart grid, far-reaching job recovery and much more—"Instead, the Congress did it in one bill."

I am a dedicated viewer of the Sunday talk shows. This past Sunday my channel surfing failed to locate a single commentator, legislator, scholar or talking head referencing the Ornstein essay. So I am sharing Norman Ornstein's article here in hopes that it will stimulate further discussion, appreciation of the Congressional leadership, and proper perspective of our accomplishments at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue.

[From the Washington Post, Jan. 31, 2010]

A VERY PRODUCTIVE CONGRESS, DESPITE  
WHAT THE APPROVAL RATINGS SAY

(By Norman Ornstein)

When President Obama urged lawmakers during his State of the Union speech to work with him on "restoring the public trust," he was hardly going out on a limb. The Congress he was addressing is one of the least popular in decades. Barely a quarter of Americans approve of the job it's doing, according to the latest Gallup/USA Today poll, while 58 percent said it was below average or one of the worst ever, according to an NBC/Wall Street Journal survey last month.

It's not hard to find reasons why Americans are down on Capitol Hill, and why President Obama's approval rating has dropped below 50 percent in many polls. A year into the 111th Congress, unemployment

remains at 10 percent, and many Americans are struggling to get by—even as they've watched Congress bail out banks and coddle the same bankers now salivating over massive new bonuses. At the same time, the public has had a front-row seat to the always messy legislative process on health care and other issues, and this past year that process has been messier, more rancorous and more partisan than at any point in modern memory.

There seems to be little to endear citizens to their legislature or to the president trying to influence it. It's too bad, because even with the wrench thrown in by Republican Scott Brown's election in Massachusetts, this Democratic Congress is on a path to become one of the most productive since the Great Society 89th Congress in 1965-66, and Obama already has the most legislative success of any modern president—and that includes Ronald Reagan and Lyndon Johnson. The deep dysfunction of our politics may have produced public disdain, but it has also delivered record accomplishment.

The productivity began with the stimulus package, which was far more than an injection of \$787 billion in government spending to jump-start the ailing economy. More than one-third of it—\$288 billion—came in the form of tax cuts, making it one of the largest tax cuts in history, with sizable credits for energy conservation and renewable-energy production as well as home-buying and college tuition. The stimulus also promised \$19 billion for the critical policy arena of health-information technology, and more than \$1 billion to advance research on the effectiveness of health-care treatments.

Education Secretary Arne Duncan has leveraged some of the stimulus money to encourage wide-ranging reform in school districts across the country. There were also massive investments in green technologies, clean water and a smart grid for electricity, while the \$70 billion or more in energy and environmental programs was perhaps the most ambitious advancement in these areas in modern times. As a bonus, more than \$7 billion was allotted to expand broadband and wireless Internet access, a step toward the goal of universal access.

Any Congress that passed all these items separately would be considered enormously productive. Instead, this Congress did it in one bill. Lawmakers then added to their record by expanding children's health insurance and providing stiff oversight of the TARP funds allocated by the previous Congress. Other accomplishments included a law to allow the FDA to regulate tobacco, the largest land conservation law in nearly two decades, a credit card holders' bill of rights and defense procurement reform.

The House, of course, did much more, including approving a historic cap-and-trade bill and sweeping financial regulatory changes. And both chambers passed their versions of a health-care overhaul. Financial regulation is working its way through the Senate, and even in this political environment it is on track for enactment in the first half of this year. It is likely that the package of job-creation programs the president showcased on Wednesday, most of which got through the House last year, will be signed into law early on as well.

Most of this has been accomplished without any support from Republicans in either the House or the Senate—an especially striking fact, since many of the initiatives of the New Deal and the Great Society, including Social Security and Medicare, attracted significant backing from the minority Republicans.

How did it happen? Democrats, perhaps recalling the disasters of 1994, when they failed to unite behind Bill Clinton's agenda in the

face of uniform GOP opposition, came together. Obama's smoother beginning and stronger bonds with congressional leaders also helped.

But even with robust majorities, Democratic leaders deserve great credit for these achievements. Democratic ideologies stretch from the left-wing views of Bernie Sanders in the Senate and Maxine Waters in the House to the conservative approach of Ben Nelson in the Senate and Bobby Bright in the House, with every variation in between. Finding 219 votes for climate-change legislation in the House was nothing short of astonishing; getting all 60 Senate Democrats to support any version of major health-care reform, an equal feat. The White House strategy—applying pressure quietly while letting congressional leaders find ways to build coalitions—was critical.

Certainly, the quality of this legislative output is a matter of debate. In fact, some voters, including many independents, are down on Congress precisely because they don't like the accomplishments, which to them smack of too much government intervention and excessive deficits. But I suspect the broader public regards this Congress as committing sins of omission more than commission. Before the State of the Union, the stimulus was never really sold in terms of its substantive measures; it just looked like money thrown at a problem in the usual pork-barrel way. And many Americans, hunkering down in bad times, may not accept the notion of "countercyclical" economic policies, in which the government spends more just when citizens are cutting back.

Most of the specific new policies—such as energy conservation and protection for public lands—enjoy solid and broad public support. But many voters discount them simply because they were passed or proposed by unpopular lawmakers. In Massachusetts, people who enthusiastically support their state's health-care system were hostile to the very similar plan passed by Congress. Why? Because it was a product of Congress.

Well before Sen.-elect Brown's Bay State upset, it was clear that a sterling legislative record in the first half of the 111th Congress did not guarantee continuing action in 2010 or beyond. And now, Democrats' success at keeping 59 senators in line means little if they cannot find someone on the other side willing to become vote No. 60. With Republicans ebullient over the Massachusetts election, the likelihood is that they will feel vindicated in their "just say no" strategy, Obama's leadership lectures notwithstanding.

If the midterm elections in November turn out to be more like 1994, when Democrats got hammered, than 1982, when Republicans suffered a less costly blow, the GOP will probably be emboldened to double down on its opposition to everything, trying to bring the Obama presidency to its knees on the way to 2012. That would mean real gridlock in the face of a serious crisis. Given the precarious coalitions in our otherwise dysfunctional politics, we could go quickly from one of the most productive Congresses in our lifetimes to the most obstructionist.

And voters would probably like that even less.

## EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. ROB BISHOP**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2010*

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy