

fact that it was done decades ahead of predictions and at a cost vastly less than expected is a testament to all those involved, and I think we have an obligation to make sure that workers' benefits are carried forward and that they are properly compensated for work-related health problems.

Getting to this day has been long and difficult. But the Colorado congressional delegation worked hand-in-glove with the local communities, DOE, and the contractors to work through the obstacles and I think lessons learned at Rocky Flats can be applied to the cleanup challenges at other nuclear-weapons sites.

I look forward to the next major chapter—transfer of most of the Rocky Flats site to the Interior Department for management as a National Wildlife Refuge. But getting that chapter properly written will require some additional steps, notably including the acquisition of mineral rights at Rocky Flats that are now in non-Federal ownership.

To facilitate that acquisition, I have introduced legislation (H.R. 4181) to authorize DOE to expend funds to acquire some or all of the minerals, including \$10 million from its appropriation for fiscal year 2006. The bill also provides that DOE's expenditure of \$10 million for that purpose (or, under certain circumstances, an appropriate payment to specified Federal and State officials for acquisition of Rocky Flats minerals or for habitat restoration at Rocky Flats) will satisfy certain claims the State of Colorado might bring for natural resources damages resulting from past discharges of hazardous substances at or from Rocky Flats).

The bill also would give the Interior Department two additional methods (either instead of or in addition to purchase for cash) for completing such acquisitions—namely: by giving "credits" that could be used instead of cash to pay for oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf; and/or by allowing federal lands or minerals anywhere in the country to be exchanged for the Rocky Flats minerals (under current law, such exchanges can only occur within the same state—Colorado lands/minerals for other Colorado lands/minerals).

Other parts of the conference report are also important for Colorado, including the funding for several Bureau of Reclamation projects in our State, including the Colorado-Big Thompson and the Frypan-Arkansas projects as well as the ongoing construction of the Animas-La Plata project.

Similarly, the conference report provides needed funds for operation and maintenance of a number of reservoirs operated by the Army's Corps of Engineers as well as for other Corps activities in Colorado, including aquatic restoration work involving Goose Creek and Lower Boulder Creek.

I am very glad to note that the bill will provide funds for completing construction of the new science and technology facility at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

I find it highly ironic, however, that the new NREL facility comes at the expense of the very renewable energy research and development programs that would be conducted within it. It's conceivable that we'll have new buildings but nothing to fill them with—no scientists or other NREL personnel, since many of them will lose their jobs due to deep cuts in program funding.

As co-chair of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus in the House, I have

worked for years to increase—or at a minimum, hold steady—funding for DOE's renewable energy and energy efficiency research and development programs.

Given the finite supply and high prices of fossil fuels and increasing global demand, investing in clean energy is more important than ever. DOE's renewable energy programs are vital to our Nation's interests, helping provide strategies and tools to address the environmental challenges we will face in the coming decades. These programs are also helping to reduce our reliance on oil imports, thereby strengthening our national security, and also creating hundreds of new domestic businesses, supporting thousands of American jobs, and opening new international markets for American goods and services.

But for our investment in these technologies to pay off, our efforts must be sustained over the long term. This conference report does not do that.

Though some of the renewable energy accounts are increased from FY05 levels, it is an illusion. The EERE accounts are earmarked so heavily that there is little left of the core programs.

While the biomass line is up slightly from FY05, fully 53 percent of the FY06 funds are earmarked. Wind is slightly reduced from FY05 levels, but this is after repeated cuts—11 percent in just three years. Factoring in earmarks makes the situation even worse. The bill earmarks fully a third of the funds appropriated for wind energy for Member projects. Solar energy funding is down from FY05 levels, and also earmarked—17 percent of the total goes to Member projects.

I am concerned that year by year, DOE's renewable energy and energy efficiency programs seem to be losing—through gradual cuts, shifts of more EERE dollars to hydrogen and fuel cells and out of core renewables technologies, and earmarks.

These cuts will only increase U.S. vulnerability to energy supply disruptions, worsen fuel price volatility, and cause higher energy prices overall unnecessarily, and are especially ill-advised at a time when the need for a secure, domestic energy supply is so crucial.

So, Mr. Speaker, while I regret that they could not adequately address all our needs, in Colorado or elsewhere, I appreciate what the conferees have done and urge the House to pass this important conference report.

SECURE ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND COURT PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1751) to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect judges, prosecutors, witnesses, victims, and their family members, and for other purposes:

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to speak in support of the Secure Access to Justice and Court Protection Act, legislation which strengthens criminal penalties for crimes

against United States judges, federal law enforcement officers and federally funded public safety officers.

Also included in this bill is an important provision from legislation I authored, H.R. 3833—the National Guard Emergency Protection Act, which increases federal protection to our National Guardsmen.

This measure was offered as a result of assaults against members of the National Guard while they were engaged in rescue and law enforcement operations in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. Unfortunately, I found that our National Guardsmen are not protected by federal law if they are assaulted or killed in the line of duty while serving States during Presidentially declared disasters and emergencies. My bill, now included in the Secure Access to Justice and Court Protection Act, extends the same penalties to those who attack both federal and non-federalized members of the Armed Services.

I would like to thank Chairman SENSENBRENNER and his staff for working with me to ensure that our National Guardsmen have the further support of the Federal Government.

TRIBUTE TO PHILIP MCGOLDRICK

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Philip McGoldrick, of Macon, Georgia, for his efforts on behalf of Middle Georgia's children and for his long record of community service and activism.

In September, for its successful efforts to bring the joy of Christmas to underprivileged children in Middle Georgia, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation recognized Macon's Toys for Tots campaign as the 2004 Local Community Organization of the year. With 481 local community campaigns nationwide, this is a tremendous achievement and a great honor for Middle Georgia. As the coordinator for Macon's Toys for Tots campaign, Philip also received a commendation from the United States Marine Corps for his exemplary administration, his tireless dedication, and his commitment to helping children in need.

When I learned of the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, and seeing first hand the nationwide outpouring of support and assistance, it really struck home for me exactly how much a small number of caring people—or even one dedicated volunteer—can do to reduce hardship and suffering. In Middle Georgia, we are extremely lucky to have many kind souls willing to help and support those less fortunate than themselves.

Mr. Speaker, one of Middle Georgia's kindest, most caring souls is Philip McGoldrick, and I am proud to call him my friend. Philip's recent success with Toys for Tots is not an isolated event. He is active in all manner of civic organizations which do tremendous good for the Middle Georgia Community. Philip is a charter member of CrimeStoppers and the chairman of the Macon Sports Hall of Fame, and he founded Macon Youth Day, just to name a few of the many hats he wears.