

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING MR. AND MRS. TORRY KIDD, SR. ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 65TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Torry Kidd, Sr., on the occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. Torry Kidd, Sr., and Lydia Stallworth were married on June 26, 1942, at Parsonages at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Mobile, Alabama.

Mr. Kidd is a respected member of his church and community. He has been a member of the Greater Mount Olive Baptist Church #2 for over 60 years, recently serving as trustee. In 1942, he began his service with the U.S. Army. Following an honorable discharge, he went to work for McGowin & Lyons Hardware and Supply Company, while earning his degree from Spaulding Business School. Mr. Kidd then went to work for Moore Handley and became the company's first African-American salesperson. When the company relocated, Mr. Kidd became the building manager for World Wide Crating and Packing Company. He retired in 1984 and started Kidd Janitorial Service.

A member of Andrew Street Church of Christ for over 60 years, Mrs. Kidd was born Lydia Stallworth in Gordonville, Alabama. A graduate of Lowndes County Training School, her first job was with a janitorial service. After raising 11 children, Mrs. Kidd returned to the work force and began caring for elderly patients at Cogburn Nursing Home and later at the Medic Center in Mobile. Her skills combined with her compassionate heart led to requests for her service as a private duty nurse, which she was for over 30 years.

Their 11 children: Torry, Jr., Winston, Sr., Anthony, Sr., Christina, Wayne, Sr., Donna, Arnold, Sr., Amos, Beverly, Mark, Sr., and Phillip, Sr. would like me to pass on a special word of appreciation to their parents for the example they have set, the encouragement they have given; and yes, even the discipline they have administered. Mr. and Mrs. Kidd's family are grateful for the love they shared not only with them but with their many friends.

Madam Speaker, in these times where there is so much trouble and turmoil on the television set and all around us in our communities, it is refreshing to know a family that is committed to the values and outstanding morals that Mr. and Mrs. Torry Kidd, Sr., have encouraged in their marriage and family. I have no doubt that this marriage symbolizes the strength of character and love of God that every American should emulate. I know their 11 children, 25 grandchildren, 32 great grandchildren, and their many friends join with me in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Kidd on their 65th anniversary and wishing for them many more happy celebrations to come.

MAJOR GENERAL JAMES H. PILLSBURY

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to MG James H. Pillsbury and his dynamic wife Becky Pillsbury. We hail from the same great State of Texas. These two wonderful public servants have committed their careers to serving our Nation.

This summer will mark the end of General Pillsbury's tenure as Commander of the Army's Aviation and Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, a command he assumed on December 1, 2003. Leaving Huntsville with him is his wife Becky, who has made a lasting impression in the Huntsville community as an area school teacher for the disabled and board member for a long list of organizations serving soldiers and their families.

General Pillsbury is a graduate of Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History. After that, he attended Troy State University, earning a Masters of Science in International Relations. He has completed Infantry Officer Basic Course, Transportation Officer Advanced Course, United States Army Command and General Staff College, and the United States Army War College.

For the past 34 years General Pillsbury has risen through the Army ranks, first commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in May of 1973. He has served here at home and abroad; his most recent position overseas was as the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4, United States Army Europe and Seventh Army. General Pillsbury has been decorated with numerous military honors including: the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal.

Becky also attended Trinity where she graduated with a degree in Elementary Education and Education for the Hearing Impaired and then pursuing her love for children with disabilities by earning a Masters from Pacific Lutheran University in Elementary Education and Learning Disabilities.

She has set a high standard for military wives at Redstone Arsenal. She co-founded the "Dream Factory," a wish granting organization for seriously and terminally ill children; and more recently co-founded "Still Serving Veterans," which affects the lives of thousand of new veterans in offering a wide range of support services as they transition to the civilian workforce.

Even though this outstanding couple is leaving the Huntsville community, they will not hesitate to come back and visit.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating MG James H. Pillsbury and his wife Becky on a phenomenal job in Huntsville . . . and wishing them the best of luck with the next chapter in their lives.

IN HONOR OF MRS. WENDY HARDING

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mrs. Wendy Harding, the 2007 Muscogee County School District Teacher of the Year.

Almost every student that passes through a school, from the teacher's pet to the class clown, has a fond memory of a special teacher who positively influenced their lives. For many students at Columbus' Hardaway High School, that teacher has been a Spanish teacher named Wendy Harding.

Harding knows how to stick with a good thing once she's found it. She stayed happily married and raised two high-achieving children with her high school sweetheart Phil, who was also an educator, until his death from cancer 7 years ago. And Harding has spent every single day of her 31-year professional career at Hardaway High, making her the longest-serving teacher there.

Principal Matt Bell told the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer that Harding is an integral part of the school's success: "She's a leader in the school. She teaches everyone. She heads our mentor program. She cares about every student who comes through her doorway as well as students who don't. If a student doesn't learn in her class, she takes it personally. They all learn at a high level. They see her enthusiasm for her subject and her zest for life and it's just contagious."

Harding says she's wanted to become a teacher since she was 7 years old. Now, she mentors the next generation of teachers, encouraging her own students to pick up the torch that enlightens young minds. Those influenced by her example include her daughter, who last year was named First Year Teacher of the Year in a Texas school district. The skills needed to excel at the head of the classroom obviously run deep in the family blood.

I would like to personally thank Mrs. Harding for her many years of outstanding service to the young people of Muscogee County. Teachers such as her, across Georgia and the United States, make a positive difference every day.

On behalf of Georgia's 3rd Congressional District, I congratulate the Muscogee County Teacher of the Year and wish her many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO DR. PETER B. AJLUNI

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Peter B. Ajluni of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Bloomfield Hills, Michigan on his election to the position of 111th president of the American Osteopathic Association.

In 1965, Dr. Peter B. Ajluni graduated from the Chicago College of Osteopathy to become a board certified osteopathic physician. For 35 years, Dr. Ajluni has delivered high quality service to his patients.

Currently, Dr. Ajluni is a senior orthopedic surgeon in the Bone and Joint Center at the Regional Medical Center in Mount Clemens, Michigan. He has also served as president of both the Michigan Osteopathic Association and the Michigan Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. Furthermore, Dr. Ajluni has served on the American Osteopathic Association Board of Trustees since 1998.

As president of the American Osteopathic Association, Dr. Ajluni will lead 59,000 osteopathic physicians to deliver high quality and cost-effective health care in this vital profession. In addition, Dr. Ajluni will help to ensure the osteopathic community is united in their profession and that they receive the highest quality of education and training programs.

Dr. Ajluni resides in Michigan's Ninth Congressional district with his wife Judy. They have a daughter and two sons. I am proud to have the Ajluni family as constituents.

Madam Speaker, once again, I congratulate Dr. Ajluni on his election as the President of the American Osteopathic Association and for his long dedication to high quality patient care.

H.R. 2775, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE FUNDING FOR THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT PROGRAM

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, today I introduce H.R. 2775, a bill to authorize funding for the Emergency Management Performance Grant ("EMPG") program.

H.R. 2775 authorizes \$1.35 billion for Fiscal Years 2009 through 2011 for the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") to continue to implement the EMPG program. The bill codifies the EMPG program under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act ("Stafford Act").

EMPG is the Federal Government's principal program to build the capability of State and local governments to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards. Administered by FEMA, EMPG is truly a partnership between the Federal Government and State and local governments that has withstood the test of time. This grant program has been in existence, under different names, since the 1950s and derives its authority from the Stafford Act.

As recent history has shown, despite the grave potential threat that terrorism poses, our country faces and responds to the threats of natural hazards far more frequently. The terror of Katrina is still fresh in our memories, and our Nation faces smaller-scale natural disasters every day. Just last month, a region of my district was devastated by a threat that started in the U.S., then roared across the Canadian border: not a terrorist attack, but a 75,000 acre forest fire.

Despite the risk that our country faces from all hazards, EMPG receives a small fraction of what the Federal Government spends on terrorism-specific programs. In April, the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management held a hearing on the Federal Government's programs related to preparedness for all hazards. At that hearing, Members of the Subcommittee learned that in FY 2006, EMPG received only a small fraction—about 10 percent—of the funding allocated to terrorism preparedness programs.

EMPG has a long, successful history of fostering true preparedness capabilities at the State and local level. The program requires a non-Federal share of 50 percent, but state and local governments overmatch Federal funds by approximately \$96 million each year. This 50-percent cost share is specifically designed to require State and local governments to contribute their resources to building strong emergency management capabilities. This is why, unlike many other Federal grant programs, State and local governments have not sought an increased Federal cost share for this program.

Recently, some in Congress and in the Administration have sought to undermine and undo the EMPG program, by proposing changes that stand to gut the core all hazards nature of the program. I introduce this bill today to provide the current EMPG program with statutory reinforcement.

The administration proposed in its FY 2008 Budget request that EMPG should be combined with terrorism programs. I am pleased that the FY 2008 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, passed by the House last week, rejected this misguided proposal and funds EMPG as a separate program. The Committee on Appropriations recognized the importance of the EMPG program as "the one true all-hazard sources of funding for emergency managers," as stated in the Committee report. In the same manner that Congress must wall off and protect the appropriation for EMPG, we must act to reinforce this program through an authorization.

It has been suggested, in the other body, that the EMPG program be codified as an amendment to an act other than the Stafford Act. In fact, the Senate does exactly that in its version of the 9/11 Commission Recommendations Bill (S. 4). This approach would be a mistake. If EMPG is authorized outside of the Stafford Act, DHS may use its administrative authority to turn EMPG into another terrorism preparedness program. This shift would undercut all-hazards preparedness and place States in danger of not being ready for natural disasters and other non-terrorism hazards, which are significantly, even drastically, more likely to occur.

The Stafford Act is the natural and historic home for this program. The authority to prepare for all hazards must be kept together with the authority to respond to, recover from, and mitigate against all hazards, which is found in the Stafford Act. This view is supported by the nation's State and local emergency managers.

One of the key lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina is that separating the programs and organizations that prepare for disasters from the rest of the emergency management system leads to sluggish and ineffective response. Recognizing this mistake, Congress reunited preparedness with the rest of emer-

gency management functions in FEMA at the end of the 109th Congress, by passing the Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act. This reorganization of FEMA became effective less than 3 months ago, on April 1, 2007. Authorizing EMPG as a program separate from the other emergency management programs would begin to undo this much-needed reform, and reinstate the mistakes that led to the Department of Homeland Security's dismal response to Hurricane Katrina.

IN HONOR OF LENORE GOLDEN SHACKELFORD

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Lenore Golden Shackelford of Quitman, GA. In recognition of her 60 plus years of service to her community in south Georgia and her nomination by the National Coalition of One Hundred Black Women as a "Woman Who Inspires."

Ms. Shackelford, a native of Quitman, GA, has spent the greater balance of her life in service to the community there. In 1950 she started her professional career as a Social studies teacher and Girls' Basketball Coach at Morven Rosenwald High School in Brooks County. She went on to teach the fourth and fifth grades at New Empress Elementary School in Brooks County before returning to school and receiving her Certification in Guidance and Counseling from Florida A & M University in 1959.

She returned to service in education as a Social Studies Teacher and School Counselor at Washington Street High School in Quitman, GA. Ms. Shackelford was one of the first certified school counselors in the state of Georgia and the first school counselor in Brooks County.

Ms. Shackelford was a devoted teacher and counselor, who made it her mission to have direct interaction with each of her students in order to help them have productive futures. During her 30 years as a school counselor, Ms. Shackelford was also very active in her community. She coordinated community committees to address personnel issues in the Brooks County School System, organized Human Rights Committees, and played an instrumental role in establishing Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in Brooks County Public Schools.

So, on this the 19th day of June, 2007, I with great honor commend Ms. Lenore Golden Shackelford, for her many years of unheralded service to the people of Brooks County. She is truly a credit to the Second Congressional District of Georgia, the State of Georgia, and the United States as a whole.

§8 GASOLINE IN AMERICA'S SAUDI ARABIA

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Alaska is America's Energy Ace in the Hole. If our Nation truly

wanted to kick our OPEC habit, we would be using our own abundant resources of all kinds, including our conventional resources in Alaska. Not only is Alaska home to North America's largest producing oil field, it is also home to more clean coal than the entire lower 48 States. With modern technology, this resource could be used to produce clean energy and transportation fuels that would last for centuries. The people of the State of Alaska also claim the largest natural gas reserves and by far the largest unconventional natural gas reserves in a form of frozen natural gas known as methane hydrates. It is also home to that small part of ANWR that holds the promise as the largest energy complex yet discovered on our continent. Between its tens of billions of barrels of oil and untold amounts of clean burning natural gas, it could help Americans and generate revenues while providing high paying jobs here at home.

Unfortunately, there has been a decades-long campaign to deny America and Alaskans the benefits of this domestic energy. The consequence is that Alaska's pipeline that once sent over 2 million barrels each day of U.S. oil to American consumers now sends less than 800,000 barrels per day. America now imports the 1.2 million barrels per day that Alaska used to send to the West Coast. America now sends \$84 million per day, over \$30 billion per year, to foreign nations like Venezuela and nations in the Middle East who hate everything America stands for. The oil that isn't produced in Alaska also increases prices for all Americans, who can see it daily at the pump or monthly in their utility bills.

Recently a reporter for the Wall Street Journal, Mr. Russell Gold, traveled to the village of Shungnak, Alaska, to find out what impacts the increased cost of energy are having on the people who live there. It is rich irony, Madame Speaker, that in a State with huge energy resources people are suffering from high energy prices because their government has outlawed the production of this energy. It is reminiscent of Coleridge's lament in the Rime of the Ancient Mariner: "Water, water, everywhere, nor any drop to drink."

It is shameful that it is government policy that some people should suffer from higher costs of energy because others who do not suffer believe costs are not high enough and energy is too available for Americans. I hope Members will take the time to read what may be a story coming to their neighborhoods soon, if Alaska's energy resources continue to be locked away from the American people.

[From the Wall Street Journal, June 9, 2007]

RUNNING ON EMPTY ON A ROAD TO NOWHERE

(By Russell Gold)

SHUNGNAK, ALASKA—When Genevieve Norris was born 59 years ago in this remote Eskimo village, hunters used dog sleds to pursue caribou and moose. Wood stoves kept out the cold during the long, dark winters.

Then Shungnak entered the petroleum age, and fuel was barged up the Kobuk River every summer. Noisy electrical generators arrived, which allowed lights and indoor plumbing to be installed. Soon, nearly every home had snowmobiles, fourwheelers and heaters.

Now as crude-oil prices have doubled in the past couple of years, Ms. Norris and the rest of the village are being priced back out of the petroleum age. She heats her home with wood as much as possible and only occasionally buys gasoline for an outboard engine to

go fishing. "Fuel right now, I'm only purchasing if I have to," says Ms. Norris.

Even though Shungnak is in energy-rich Alaska, home to the largest U.S. oilfield discovered in the past half century, it is at the very end of the oil-distribution system. By the time gasoline makes it here from where it is refined, it costs \$8.11 a gallon, more than twice the current U.S. average.

The U.S. has long enjoyed among the lowest oil prices in the industrialized world—and until recently, even in remote Alaska, fossil fuel was affordable to the majority of people. Decades of cheap energy prompted Americans to use more and more petroleum, lengthening their commutes in the lower 48 states and trading in dog sleds for snowmobiles in Alaskan villages.

Today, the price of oil and all the products made from it has surged and seem likely to remain high for some time. This has raised the unsettling question: What happens to a community accustomed to cheap energy when the energy is no longer cheap?

Remote villages like Shungnak have long been fragile economies with little to offer residents by way of jobs and opportunity. High fuel prices have made a bad situation worse, threatening the survival of Shungnak as well as more than a hundred other remote villages. Some of the estimated 101,000 people living in these villages have left for Alaska's large cities, creating what one former state elected official has called "energy refugees."

These native-Alaskan villages are among countless poorer communities across the world that have been hammered by the new century's energy-price boom. Over all, strong economies such as China and most of the U.S. have held up well despite the sting of higher fuel prices. But in poor regions, the price shock has hit hard. Thousands of Nepalese took to the streets of Katmandu last year, resulting in bloody clashes with police, to protest a 25% rise in gasoline prices. In July 2005, under pressure from the International Monetary Fund, the Yemeni government lifted gasoline subsidies and the resulting riots left 22 people dead. The government buckled and restored subsidies. In Africa, Guinea's decision to reduce gasoline subsidies over the past two years helped spark general strikes and riots that claimed at least 11 lives.

The village of Shungnak was officially founded in 1899, but Eskimos have lived in the region for thousands of years traveling between summer camps and winter camps. Today, the village is a collection of 75 homes, a store, a school, a community health clinic and a city office building along a half dozen dirt streets. The foothills of the Brooks Range rise in the distance over the tundra.

Petroleum didn't arrive here until the middle of the 1960s. As the crow flies, Shungnak is only 310 miles northwest from the Flint Hills Resources refinery outside of Fairbanks, Alaska. But since there are no roads to Shungnak, the journey is a complex route that stretches more than 2,000 miles, passing mountain meadows where grizzly bears graze, caribou herds sipping from glacier-fed streams and mile after mile of rugged, unpopulated coastline.

TANKER CARS

First, fuel from the Fairbanks refinery is loaded onto rolling tanker cars and taken south through Denali National Park, past Mount McKinley and into the Port of Anchorage. Then it's loaded onto a barge and towed through the Unimak Pass, a navigable break in the Aleutian Islands, before it heads north for Kotzebue on the coast.

From there, the fuel is loaded once a year on a shallow-draft barge and pushed up the

Kobuk River during a brief period when the snow melt engorges the river and makes it navigable. By the time it gets to Shungnak, it has traveled a distance equivalent to the drive from New York to Las Vegas.

Last year, one of the barge companies made it up the river and delivered distillate—a blend of heating oil and diesel that powers nearly everything from generators to furnaces—to the school and electric company. The other barge company, less experienced in the region's serpentine rivers, couldn't make it up to Shungnak during the brief window of time that the river thawed. Fuel had to be flown in from Fairbanks on propeller cargo planes, raising the cost to \$8.11 for a gallon of gasoline and \$6.50 for a gallon of heating oil. In February, heat in the town's only two-story building, which holds the city offices, post office and tribal-council office, went out for three days because the tank ran out and no one was willing to pay to fill it up again. The temperature inside dropped to 30 degrees below zero.

MANY JOBLESS

Half of Shungnak village is jobless, according to the state. Commerce Department data suggest that Alaskans living in remote villages like Shungnak already receive about 50% of their income from government programs, two and halftimes the average in the U.S. Now the situation is exacerbated because it is difficult to attract economic activity because of the high energy costs. Village leaders say their only choice is even more government aid.

"Half the village doesn't know how to go out and do a subsistence way of life . . . their lifestyle is living off the store, even though you hear them say 'We're natives, we can survive,'" says Raymond Woods, a member of the Shungnak tribal government.

Some residents are leaving town. Ms. Norris's daughter moved to South Dakota and her high-school-aged son talks about leaving after he graduates.

Those that remain behind are scraping along. Henry Douglas, 48, says he eats less meat and fish than he used to. Like most people here, he receives state energy assistance—credit at the tribal store. He got \$1,500 in January to pay for heating oil. It lasted him through March. Afterward, he used a wood stove in the main room of the log cabin where he lives with his sister and his nephew.

His younger brother, George Douglas, 39, says he's fortunate to have a job as a school-maintenance worker. The paycheck gives him the \$100 required to fuel up his Polaris snowmobile. He uses it to hunt caribou and distributes the meat to three households of relatives, including his brothers. Few of his relatives can afford to hunt much anymore because of the high cost of fuel.

Signs of the cost are everywhere in Shungnak. On a recent visit, there were photocopied fliers posted throughout the village with a stark reminder: May 29 is the day the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative bill collector was scheduled to be in Shungnak. The co-op, known as Avec, has seen past-due accounts soar in the past couple of years. Last year, it took out ads in local papers threatening to cut off paying customers if they allow delinquent customers to move in with them.

Researchers at the University of Alaska Anchorage estimated that one-quarter of household income in remote villages last year went to paying utility bills, double the percentage in 2000. The poorest residents in remote villages spent 61% of their income on utility bills, also double the level a few years ago.

Fuel bills are also swallowing the city's budget. Last November, the village's fuel and

electrical bill accounted for 61% of total expenditures, according to town administrator Helen Mitchell. In response, it has cut costs. The hours for city workers were cut to six hours from eight hours a day last year. The part-time patrolman position was eliminated a couple of years ago.

The result of these crushing bills is that remote villages face a slow decline. Four schools in the last two years have shut their doors when they fell below 10 students and lost most state funding. In Shungnak, school enrollment is off 7% in the past decade. A few miles down the Kobuk River, the village of Ambler has lost 29% of its school-aged population.

Despite shrinking enrollment, the regional school district has been on a building boom in recent years, largely supported by state grants. That, in turn, has only increased its need for fuel. The new schools, despite better insulation, require more petroleum to operate.

NEW SCHOOL

In nearby Noatak, an 18,000-square-foot school was torn down and replaced with one more than twice as large with a new air-circulating system and more lights.

"We have a very fragile economy in most of these villages already and then you add the jolt of high fuel-oil prices. It's my guess that many of these communities will not find themselves viable if fuel prices stay here," says Mike Black, director of community advocacy at Alaska's Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development. The villages, he says, "are begging, borrowing and stealing to get enough fuel."

The extreme costs of fuel in rural Alaska have led to numerous energy experiments. But various efforts to reduce rural Alaska's dependence on petroleum-based energy have struggled. Petroleum is easy to store, handle and transport, says Brent Sheets, head of the federal government's Arctic Energy Office in Fairbanks. "It is hard to beat diesel fuel," he says.

A proposal to build a small nuclear power plant for one small town was shelved when a study concluded that the federal security requirements made the project uneconomic. Solar isn't a good fit for Alaska, because fuel demand goes up in the winter when the state gets little sunlight. The Energy Department office even looked at turbines designed to harness river energy, dodging logs and car-sized icebergs, but plans never made it past the theoretical stage.

One alternative-energy success story is in Kotzebue, the hub community to the west of Shungnak on the Chukchi Sea. On the tundra outside of Kotzebue, where the only sign of life is paw prints from an Arctic fox, are 17 windmills capable of generating one megawatt of electricity. The windmills "are a hedge against rising fuel costs," says Brad Reeve, a Minnesotan who came to the town 30 years ago to run the public-radio station and now heads up the electric cooperative.

As the cost of bringing in diesel has grown, electricity from the windmills has looked better and better. But the windmills have a high upfront cost—they sit on special pilings with chemicals that ensure the tundra remains frozen to hold the windmills steady. And on a recent morning, as a computer in the coop's offices showed 2.8 megawatts of demand, the wind wasn't blowing. All of the electricity came from distillate-burning generators, a reminder that Kotzebue needs to keep a steady supply of oil.

In Shungnak, Mr. Woods, the tribal-government official, says he expects the oil will keep on flowing. Eskimos are accustomed to adapting to extreme conditions, he says. But there is little effort being made to teach children how to hunt the old way. "Their lifestyle now is so convenient," he says.

Hanging out on the steps of the village store after school with friends, 11th-grader Dion Tickett says he didn't grow up learning how to hunt or take care of a team of Alaskan huskies. He grew up watching television and riding snowmobiles, something he and his friends do to pass the time. "There's nothing to do around here," he says.

After school let out on a recent afternoon, Mr. Woods spent \$90 to fill up his Arctic Cat snowmobile to take his son out hunting. But he doesn't expect his son to need these skills. In a couple of years, when his son enters high school, Mr. Woods plans to move his family to east Texas, where he was stationed in the military. Gasoline there costs just under \$3.00 a gallon.

LEWISTON'S RECOGNITION AS ONE OF TEN ALL-AMERICAN CITIES

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the fact that Lewiston, Maine, has been recognized as 1 of 10 All-American Cities by the National Civic League.

Lewiston truly embodies both dynamic change and proud tradition and is extremely deserving of this award. Located in my congressional district in Maine, the city of Lewiston was first settled in 1770 by Franco-American and Acadian settlers, who came to Lewiston to find employment in the mills powered by the nearby Androscoggin River. Textile mills flourished as women from the surrounding countryside came for employment opportunities. The city continued to grow and expand, and by the 1950s, Lewiston had become the State's primary manufacturing center.

Unfortunately, the subsequent decline of textile manufacturing led to unemployment, decreased wages, and a need for new ideas and new industries. In the 1990s, the city began to focus on new downtown construction, bold development strategies, improved post-secondary educational prospects, expanded health care, and new cultural events. In 1992, the town acquired the Bates mill and redeveloped 500,000 square feet of space. Lewiston also joined in a partnership with Auburn, ME, for economic development, busing, 911 services and drinking water. In the downtown area, the Southern Gateway project established Maine's first fully-fiber optic community for telephone, cable and broadband services. University of Southern Maine has begun a new expansion which makes the Lewiston-Auburn College the fastest growing campus within the University of Maine system, while Bates College has been recognized as a best value college by a national publication.

Since 2003, Lewiston has invested \$20 million in affordable housing to provide opportunities for families, and since 2000, it has seen \$350 million in new business construction.

Today, Lewiston is thriving. It is home to almost 36,000 residents, and it is clear that her citizens are working together with great pride to continue building the community. Local institutions are deeply involved in helping Lewiston to grow and evolve. The Androscoggin Leadership Institute is helping the community to understand its current and future needs and find new opportunities for individuals to contribute. The local Thongragg Nature Center

Project is now the largest bird sanctuary within New England; volunteers there ensure safe access to 5 miles of recreational trails. And since the city is now home to a large Somali community, the group United Somali Women of Maine has created a DVD that stresses the importance of education, changing roles of women, and the commitment to preserving their culture for the youth of Lewiston.

It is clear that Lewiston today is a center of business, volunteerism, education, environmental action, and diversity. The citizens are mindful of their proud traditions, and have made something very special in Lewiston, ME. Their achievements are truly something to commemorate, and I congratulate the city of Lewiston for their achievements and for the well-deserved recognition of this award.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2642) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I would like to commend the chairman of the Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee—Congressman EDWARDS, Chairman OBEY, and my colleagues for passing the Military Construction and Veterans Appropriations for FY 2008.

This bill is the largest increase in veterans funding in the 77-year history of the Veterans Administration.

As a result, this measure supports high priority programs such as Homeless Veterans Care, Mental Health Care, and Long-Term Care.

As a former psychiatric nurse at the Dallas Veterans Administration Hospital, I know firsthand the disparities contributed by lack of funding.

I am particularly pleased to see the bill provides increased funding for homeless veterans programs, three centers for Centers of Excellence for Mental Health and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder to become fully operational this year. It also matches the VA's request to fund programs for minority contractor procurement and streamlines the VA billing system.

The Dallas VA has been a leader in outreach to homeless veterans, who comprise almost a fourth of the homeless adults in the Nation.

The North Texas VA Health Care System in Dallas was the first to establish a comprehensive homeless program, which helps homeless veterans with mental and physical illnesses. Dallas is one of eight cities in the country with a veteran's homelessness program targeted towards women.

I am also pleased with the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs FY 08 funding because it includes funds for mental health centers. I have continually advocated for increased access to mental health care by returning veterans through the science committee.

This bill also grants the Veterans Administration request for administrative functions, including operation of Veterans Administration Medical Centers, quality of care oversight, informational technology—hardware and software, legal services, billing, coding activities, and procurement.

Funding for administrative functions is especially important to decreasing claims backlog for veterans waiting for disability and other benefits by adding more than 1,100 new claims processors. The funding also makes five polytrauma centers and three Centers of Excellence for Mental Health and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) fully operational this year. These centers will afford care for those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Subsequently, sufficient funding for procurement and billing activities is in particular important to Dallas, since the Dallas Veterans Administration actively encourages large businesses to partner with small businesses through subcontracting plans.

This bill makes available resources to support military construction projects and ensures America's servicemen and women have more effective training facilities, and better housing, health care and day care facilities. I would like to take this opportunity to once again commend my colleagues, Congressman EDWARDS and Chairman OBEY for providing a comprehensive Military Construction and Veterans Appropriations for FY 2008 possible.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BOB WILLIAMS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE WAVE TRANSIT SYSTEM

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize the outstanding service and leadership of Bob Williams on the occasion of his retirement after 35 years of service in public transportation. For the past 6 years, Bob has served Mobile as the general manager of the Wave Transit System.

Bob began his career in Peoria, Illinois, as a bus operator and rose to assistant general manager. In 1988, he was selected to be assistant general manager of the Transit System in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he served for 12 years.

In 2001, Bob came to Mobile and was responsible for the overall management of day-to-day operations. He oversaw the opening of the renovated GM&O building and helped coordinate relief efforts during Hurricanes Dennis and Katrina. Bob forever changed the face of public transportation in Mobile—new carriers, the MODA, user-friendly routing, neighborhood pick-up service, comfortable rider stations, litter free bus rides, and increased ridership.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Bob Williams for his

tireless service to public transportation in Mobile. I know Bob's colleagues, his family, and his many friends join with me in praising his significant accomplishments and extending thanks for all his efforts on behalf of the citizens of the First Congressional District.

HONORING RODOLFO AND DORA MIRABAL FROM CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of two pioneers in the national Hispanic community, and their home in south Texas. Rodolfo Zepeda Mirabal, Sr., and Dora Cervera Mirabal, were two activists and organizers in the Corpus Christi community who answered the call of patriots and did much to make our community a better, more transparent, place to live.

Rodolfo was among the original founders of the League of United Latin American Citizens, LULAC, and in the 1920s he began publishing his own Spanish-language newspaper, called *El Demócrata*. In the 1930s Dora began an annual publication of a traditional form of Mexican satirical verse for *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead or All Souls Day).

Always civically engaged, Dora founded a bilingual school called *El Círculo de Nuestros Amigos Para Los Estudiantes Bilingües*, which operated at the Mirabal Printing Company and helped Spanish speakers learn English. She became the first female member of the Corpus Christi Mexican Chamber of Commerce, and served as an officer in the Corpus Christi Ladies' LULAC Chapter.

Together Rodolfo and Dora operated Mirabal Printing Company in the heart of the Mexican-American community of Corpus Christi.

In 1938 the couple began publishing a weekly, full-size Spanish language newspaper in Corpus Christi, *El Progreso*, which kept the community informed for 41 years. This paper not only served as a crucial resource to the Hispanic community for local, national, and international issues, but it tried to give the Mexican-Americans in the Coastal Bend inspiration and a voice.

Following Rodolfo's death in 1968, Dora Cervera Mirabal continued work on *El Progreso* until she died of cancer on December 4, 1979. The Mirabals were succeeded by three children: Rodolfo, Jr.; Rosie; and Robert, all of whom carry on the family's printing business today.

Rodolfo and Dora Mirabal were "lost giants" in the advancement of the Mexican-American civil rights movement who inspired not just my generation, but generations to come.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in remembering this extraordinary couple and their outstanding record of civic service to the city of Corpus Christi and the south Texas community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, on Friday, June 15 until the end of the legislative day, I was home in Georgia due to an unexpected medical condition of a family member. As a result, I missed a number of votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

"Aye" on the McHenry 2nd Degree Amendment to the Fox Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (rollcall 466).

"Aye" on the Fox Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (rollcall 467).

"Aye" on the Fallin Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (rollcall 468).

"Aye" on the Drake Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (rollcall 469).

"Aye" on the King (NY) Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (rollcall 470).

"Aye" on the Brown-Waite Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (rollcall 471).

"Aye" on the Burgess Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (rollcall 472).

"Aye" on the Ferguson Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (rollcall 473).

"Aye" on the McHenry Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (rollcall 474).

"Aye" on the Pearce Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (rollcall 475).

"Aye" on the Carter Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (rollcall 476).

"Aye" on the McCaul (TX) Amendment No. 98 to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 477).

"Aye" on the King (IA) Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 478).

"Aye" on the Bilbray Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 479).

"Aye" on the McCaul (TX) Amendment No. 99 to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 480).

"Aye" on the Rogers Amendment No. 2 to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 481).

"Aye" on the Poe Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 482).

"No" on the LaTourette Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 483).

"Aye" on the Tancredo Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 484).

"Aye" on the Tancredo Amendment No. 7 to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 485).

"Aye" on the Royce Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 486).

"Aye" on the Forbes Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 487).

"Aye" on the Rogers (KY) Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 488).

"Aye" on the Rogers (KY) Amendment No. 1 to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 489).

"Aye" on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 490).

"No" on Passage of H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 491).

"Aye" on Hayes Amendment to H.R. 2642, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 492).

"No" on the Blumenauer Amendment to H.R. 2642, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 493).

"Aye" on the Price (GA) Amendment No. 17 to H.R. 2642, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 494).

"Aye" on the Moran (KS) Amendment to H.R. 2642, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 495).

"Aye" on the Garrett Amendment No. 1 to H.R. 2642, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 496).

"Aye" on the Musgrave Amendment to H.R. 2642, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 497).

"Aye" on Passage of H.R. 2642, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 498).

IN RECOGNITION OF PASTOR
DOUGLAS P. JONES

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Rev-

erend Douglas P. Jones, who celebrates his 18th anniversary as pastor of the Welcome Missionary Baptist Church in Pontiac, Michigan, on June 18, 2007, as well as his birthday on June 10, 2007.

After graduating from the University of Cincinnati, Pastor Jones continued his studies in pastoral care administration at Cincinnati Bible College. On April 8, 1989, the Welcome Ministry Baptist Church voted to call Reverend Jones as their pastor. During his years of service, he has earned certificates in various workshops and counseling sessions, as well as special training in administration, management, and planning. Under his leadership, the congregation has seen its membership grow from 165 to over 3,600.

Pastor Jones' tireless efforts and continued dedication to the ministry has allowed him to develop strong support that extends throughout the city of Pontiac and Oakland County. This includes serving as the Chaplain of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, Board Chair of North Oakland Medical Center, and acting as a board member for the Pontiac Oakland Symphony, the Minority Chamber of Commerce, and the Salvation Army. Pastor Jones is more than deserving of the numerous honors and awards that he has received over the past 18 years, including commendations from the City of Pontiac, the State of Michigan, and even recognition from President Bill Clinton.

The impact that Pastor Jones has had on the community is immeasurable. As founder and President of the Greater Pontiac Community Coalition and board member of the Pontiac Youth Assistance Board, he has established programs that guide our youth to a brighter future. In addition, the scholarship established by his church has helped open the doors of success to hundreds of young men and women.

Today I recognize Reverend Douglas P. Jones for his commitment to his faith and community. He has truly worked to help better those around him. I wish him many years of continued success and a happy and healthy birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF STAFF
SERGEANT SHANNON WEAVER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, SSG Shannon Weaver was killed on May 21, 2007, in Baghdad, Iraq, when his vehicle was struck by an I.E.D. Staff Sergeant Weaver was assigned to the A Company, 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 25th Infantry Division stationed in Fort Richardson, Alaska.

Staff Sergeant Weaver had previously completed two operational deployments and was on his second tour of duty in Iraq. Staff Sergeant Weaver will be dearly missed by family and the community of his youth, Piedmont, Alabama. Shannon was a graduate of Piedmont High School where he was a member of the football team. His former teammates recall a young man known for his strong will and determination.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family and for the gratitude

our country feels for his service. Staff Sergeant Weaver, like other brave men and women who have served in uniform, died serving not just the United States but the entire cause of liberty. Indeed, like those who have served before him, he was a true American.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve our Nation. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the House's remembrance at this mournful occasion.

COMMEMORATING UCLA'S 100TH
NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the University of California, Los Angeles for winning its 100th NCAA championship. UCLA is the first university to reach this historic milestone through the hard work and dedication of gifted young student-athletes and their coaches. Beginning with the university's first NCAA championship in tennis in 1950, 16 different men's and women's athletics programs have contributed to these 100 championships, establishing an unparalleled record of excellence. The most recent championship victory was achieved when the women's water polo team captured the 2007 NCAA title. For the talented young women of the water polo team, this represents their third consecutive championship and fifth overall.

Madam Speaker, while this is an occasion to commend these athletes, their coaches, the athletics staff, and the fans who proudly wear the blue and gold, we should recognize not only their athletic achievements, but also UCLA's outstanding tradition of nurturing student-athletes who excel both on and off the field and the contributions they make to their communities as they do so. I am proud and delighted to congratulate UCLA on this occasion. Go Bruins.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker. I was not present during rollcall votes Nos. 444-447 on June 7, 2007, and rollcall votes Nos. 492-498 on June 14, 2007.

On rollcall vote No. 444 I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 445 I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 446 I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 447 I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 492 I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 493 I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 494 I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 495 I would have voted "yes."
 On rollcall vote No. 496 I would have voted "no."
 On rollcall vote No. 497 I would have voted "yes."
 On rollcall vote No. 498 I would have voted "yes."

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND
 VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF
HON. MICHAEL D. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE
 IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 15, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2642) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2638, the Fiscal Year 2008 Homeland Security Appropriations Act.

The tragic terrorist attacks of 2001, and the destruction resulting from Hurricane Katrina in 2005, made clear that we must improve our nation's ability to prepare for and respond to disasters. In the days and weeks following these events, the United States Congress acted quickly to provide our Nation's first-responders with the resources and equipment they need to ensure our security.

The bill before us today provides critical resources for vital national security requirements, including increased border patrol agents, port security improvements, and grants for America's firefighters. Still, although continued funding for such important programs is essential, it is obvious that increased spending alone cannot solve every problem.

Since its creation in 2002, the Department of Homeland Security has at times suffered from wasteful spending decisions and business management shortcomings. Unfortunately, this legislation fails to correct many of these deficiencies—and instead would boost

funding levels well above what experts at the Department have requested.

In 2004, the 9/11 Commission also characterized the federal focus on aviation security following the 2001 terrorist attacks as "fighting the last war," and noted that "opportunities to do harm are as great, or greater, in maritime or surface transportation." In the wake of attacks on subway trains in London and on passenger rail lines in Madrid and Mumbai, it is clear that terrorist organizations are intent on disrupting surface transportation systems and mass transit around the world. Despite the 9/11 Commission's warning, the legislation before us today continues to provide billions for aviation security, while failing to prioritize rail and transit spending.

Mr. Chairman, it is our duty to make certain that we have an effective national security system, capable of ensuring the safety of all Americans. I am concerned that H.R. 2638 fails to adequately achieve this goal and I look forward to working with my colleagues to improve this bill as we move forward with the legislative process.