

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