

The bills address programs focusing on: (1) air cargo screening in passenger airplanes, (2) international registered traveler and border security, (3) accountability in Department of Homeland Security contracts, and (4) increased access to the Office of Inspector General at the Department of Homeland Security to report waste, fraud, and abuse.

These programs were initially funded in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 and ongoing oversight and review of these programs must continue.

As the Chairman of the Committee of jurisdiction over these programs, it is my intention to work with the Appropriations Committee and other Members of Congress to provide adequate oversight and vigilance over these programs to ensure our Nation is as secure as possible.

HONORING CONNER HALL,
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Conner Hall, The University of Georgia's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences administrative building, on its 100th anniversary. Initially comprised of a single professor and only a few students, the college was a joint venture, cultivated by the University of Georgia and the Georgia legislature. Recognizing the need for agricultural education, the college became reality under UGA Chancellor Walter B. Hill and Legislator James J. Conner. Today the college has over 1,800 students enrolled in 10 departments with campuses located in Athens, Griffin, and Tifton.

This 100th Anniversary was marked by a Centennial Celebration on April 11, 2008, on the front lawn of Conner Hall in Athens, Georgia. Alumni, friends, and special guests of the University of Georgia's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences gathered to rededicate the building which was erected in 1908.

Construction on Conner Hall broke ground in the same year that Henry Ford introduced the Model-T. Soon afterwards, the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences released several of its own innovations. Scientists developed new equipment, including the peanut combine and the onion harvester as well as created new crop varieties, many of which have become synonymous with the State of Georgia. The college developed Georgia's green peanuts and new varieties of cotton and Bermuda grass. Indeed, one could hardly pass through the State without seeing the boiled peanut stands that line many of Georgia's two lane roads. However, the college has yielded more than just agricultural innovations. In 1918, the college was the first at the University of Georgia to accept women.

In 1941, World War II called Conner Hall, along with one-half of the college's faculty and staff into service. When the men and women of the college were serving their country, Conner Hall was home to the Navy Pre-Flight School. The building has also served as a creamery, cafeteria, a library, and radio station.

In 2003, the college accomplished a superior achievement, successfully cloning its first calf, named KC. In early 2005, KC gave birth to her second calf, named Moonshine, and the college continues to serve the State in the area of biotechnology innovation as well as food safety. I look forward to the next generation of accomplishments as I continue working with the school as it continues down its innovative path.

Advances in agricultural science have overcome the changing demographics since the early 19th century. Consider that in 1935, 6.8 million farms provided sustenance for America's 127 million citizens. Today, less than 1 million farms produce food for more than 303 million Americans. In other words, 15 percent of farms that existed in 1935 provide food for 238 percent more Americans. Such a feat could only be possible through advances in agricultural science and the many lessons studied at the University of Georgia's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

HONORING THE SACRIFICES AND
CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY DIS-
ABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 336. There is no greater American hero than the military veteran, and I am proud to join my fellow colleagues today in honoring the sacrifices and contributions of our disabled American veterans.

The American soldier is the embodiment of hard work, patriotism, and service, and the soldier who has sacrificed his body for the freedom and liberty of others around the world deserves our utmost respect. The blood spilled on our own soil and abroad is a lasting reminder of the commitment that our soldiers have sacrificed for us all, and every citizen owes a deep and lasting gratitude to these brave warriors.

Madam Speaker, our departed soldiers must never be forgotten, and those injured veterans from wars past and those just returning from the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan should receive our Nation's and this Congress's unwavering support and reverence. It is an honor to rise today and praise the bravest of all Americans—the disabled military veteran. America will never forget your valor during our most trying times, and we are forever grateful for your dedicated service and selfless sacrifice to our Nation.

HONORING THE PASCO COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pasco County Library system for receiving the Florida Library Association's 2008 Library of the Year Award.

Each year, an awards committee, composed of members from libraries across the State, reviews nominations for this prestigious award. Although all libraries are eligible, if no library meets the outstanding circumstances, the board can deem it appropriate to withhold the award. However, the Pasco County Library System was selected because of its creative and innovative programming, exemplary service to county residents, and leadership in the community.

Madam Speaker, the Pasco County Library system serves as a model for libraries across my home State of Florida as well as across the Nation. It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Pasco County Library System for its receipt of the Florida Library Association's 2008 Library of the Year Award.

SALUTING MARTHA AND JOSH
MORRIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ON COMPLETION OF FIRST YEAR
OF OUTSTANDING STEM EDU-
CATION

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the Martha and Josh Morriss Mathematics and Engineering Elementary School in Texarkana, Texas, upon completion of its first year of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) focused curriculum. On June 6 classes concluded for the summer, marking the completion of the first year of this innovative, groundbreaking school in the Fourth Congressional District of Texas.

Morriss Elementary, serving children in grades K–5, is part of a vertically aligned K–16 engineering education collaboration between Texas A&M University—Texarkana and the Texarkana Independent School District (TISD). This collaborative effort provides mathematics and pre-engineering integrated curriculum and pre-engineering electives for students, who are admitted on a competitive basis. Students graduating from the elementary school will be able to continue an advanced math and science program through middle school and high school as they follow a path to a college degree in one of the STEM fields.

On May 12, 2008, the House Science and Technology Committee held a field hearing at Morriss Elementary School to receive testimony on efforts to engage students in math and science at an early age, to keep them interested throughout middle school and high school, and to translate that interest into rewarding careers that will be of benefit to the entire Nation from a federal, school district, university, industry and teacher perspective. At the hearing, witnesses praised the efforts being made at Morriss Elementary. We saw first-hand how a community came together and created, with entirely local funding, what could be a national model for K–16 collaboration in mathematics and engineering. The vision for this school began with Dr. James Sullivan, former TISD Superintendent and current Texarkana City Manager, and his wife, Dr. Rosanne Stripling, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Texas A&M University—Texarkana. The plan received the support of the Board of TISD and, coupled with

the generous land donation from Martha and Josh Morriss, became a reality last year.

The school does not have an attendance zone, and any elementary-age student living in the vicinity is eligible to apply for enrollment on a first-come basis without charge. The school is designed for approximately 400 students, with three sections each in grades K–1, 2–3, and 4–5. Due to a very high demand, a waiting list has been established for most of the primary grades.

Texas A&M University—Texarkana Arts and Sciences and Education faculty assist the TISD curriculum personnel and teachers to design the mathematics and engineering integrated curriculum and electives. University faculty develop content and pedagogy courses to train the elementary teachers to deliver the curriculum using effective teaching strategies that promote mastery of the curriculum by all students. All of the Morriss Elementary teachers are required to obtain a Masters Degree and either the Texas Master Mathematics Teacher Certification or Texas Master Technology Teacher Certification through preparation programs offered at A&M—Texarkana.

I am proud of the success of Morriss Elementary and wish to commend TISD Superintendent James Henry Russell and school Principal Rick Sandlin for the wonderful job they are doing. I also wish to congratulate the students and the teachers on the completion of their first year and look forward to monitoring the progress of these students as well as the continued success of Morriss Elementary. Our Nation's ability to continue to lead the world in innovation and competitiveness will depend in large part on our ability to motivate students to succeed and pursue careers in STEM fields. Morriss Elementary is an example of how that thrust can succeed at the local level with the vision and support of educators, parents, community leaders and students.

RACHEL MEIS OF RENTON,
WASHINGTON

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam speaker, I rise today in recognition of Rachel Meis, a young woman from my home district, the Eighth District of Washington, who earned the Congressional Medal. I honored her achievements at my district office during the Memorial Day recess and I do so again today.

Rachel didn't just showcase her selfless and wonderful spirit to earn congressional recognition. She has consistently lived her life in a way that is inspiring and a wonderful example for young people everywhere. Aside from her Congressional Medal, Rachel is a National Merit Finalist, a member of the National Honor Society at Tahoma High School and a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the National Honor Society of Green River Community College—where she participated in Running Start Program courses to supplement her education.

Rachel is also a star on the track. She is a sprinter and qualified for the Washington State championships in four separate events. She finished 11th in the 100 meter, 13th in the 200 meter, 11th in the 4 x 100 meter relay and medaled in the 4 x 200 meter relay.

Most recently, Rachel scored in the top 1 percent of more than 46,000 students in the Department of the Treasury's newly minted National Financial Literacy Challenge—an initiative recommended by the President's Advisory Council on Financial Literacy.

Rachel will attend George Fox University in Oregon starting this fall and plans to major in mechanical engineering. So far in her young life, she has succeeded due to a wonderful attitude and a positive work ethic. I am excited to see what she will accomplish in her future.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER
JORGENSEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jennifer Jorgensen on her exemplary basketball career and congratulate her on receiving the honor of being named Iowa's 2008 Miss Basketball.

Jennifer recently graduated from Southeast Webster-Grand High School and will be attending Pacific University to continue her illustrious basketball career. Jennifer has been recognized with a variety of accomplishments including a three-time first team all-state basketball choice as well as the IBCA all-region team.

Jennifer leaves behind a stellar basketball career, finishing as Iowa women's second all-time leading scorer, fourth in rebounds, and fifth in assists.

Jennifer is a shining example of the dedication and determination present in today's youth and their promise as tomorrow's leaders. It is an honor to represent Jennifer and her family in the United States Congress and I know my colleagues join me in wishing her the best of luck in her upcoming journey into higher education and collegiate athletics.

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT HENDERSON

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Scott Henderson for years of tireless service in my office and to the people of the Fourteenth Congressional District of Florida.

I've had the pleasure of knowing Scott for over 8 years. Throughout that entire time he has been a dedicated public servant, a strong advocate for the principles we share and cherish, and most importantly, a true friend.

I first met Scott when I was running for the Florida Legislature and Scott was working for the Republican Party of Florida. I soon hired him and he helped me win my first race for State Representative in 2000. After taking office, I hired him to be my assistant, and he quickly proved to be an invaluable friend and colleague as we navigated the challenges and opportunities of serving in Tallahassee.

When I decided to run for Congress in 2003 Scott stayed by my side and helped implement a winning campaign. After I was elected to the House, Scott became my Deputy Chief

of Staff. His has been a diverse role—managing special projects, meeting with constituents, and providing critical support for a number of important initiatives.

Among Scott's many accomplishments—and the one I am most proud of—was his critical work to secure the release of two Cuban dentists from Bahamian custody who fled Cuba seeking freedom. Because of Scott's efforts, these dentists were reunited with their loved ones in Florida and today live in freedom.

But after 8 years of working by my side, Scott has been afforded a wonderful professional opportunity that will allow him to continue to grow and flourish in his career.

Scott is moving to New Jersey to become a Manager of State Government Affairs for Covanta Energy, a waste-to-energy company. While we will all miss Scott's presence and good nature in the office, we are excited for him as he begins the next phase of his life and career. I'm certain that he will make significant contributions to his new company and his new community, and know that he will always have a special place in his heart for the State he loves so much.

Madam Speaker, the State of Florida and the people of southwest Florida are better off today because of Scott Henderson's diligent efforts to ensure it remains a great place to live, work and visit.

On behalf of the people of Florida's Fourteenth Congressional District, I want to thank Scott for his years of service to the people of Florida and the Nation. He is my friend, he is a true public servant in every sense of the word, and I wish him all the best as he and his wife Betsy begin this new and exciting chapter of their lives.

TRIBUTE TO DR. FREDERICK
GRASSLE

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Frederick Grassle. On June 16, 2008 Dr. Grassle will be celebrated for his years of service as he steps down from his role as the Director of the Rutgers University Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences after nineteen years.

Dr. Grassle has been instrumental in the tremendous success of the Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences (IMCS). A well-published and involved member of the science community, Dr. Grassle has worked tirelessly to establish Rutgers University and the IMCS as a premier institution for the study of oceanic and aquatic sciences. He has fought for various causes, including the elimination of deep sea dumping, watershed-scale approaches to coastal management, and ensuring we safeguard of our coastal habitats.

In the past two decades, I have been fortunate enough to work with Dr. Grassle to bring about positive change to our precious coastal habitats. Through our collaboration, the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve was designated and the Barnegat Bay Estuary began receiving much-needed assistance by developing and implementing various programs designed to restore its ecological integrity. In addition, we worked