

Many more stories from Birdseye serve as a testament to its strong Hoosier values and warm community spirit. But the greatest treasure Birdseye possesses is the people of this small Indiana community. Regardless of the challenges they face or the difficulties that lay ahead of them, they illustrate the best qualities of rural America.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent this community in Congress. I want to congratulate Birdseye on its Quasiquicentennial, and look forward to seeing how this unique and wonderful town thrives for decades to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION FACILITIES AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

**HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2008*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, my colleagues and I join together today to introduce the "Smithsonian Institution Facilities Authorization Act of 2008".

I thank my colleagues, including Committee on House Administration Chairman BRADY and Ranking Member EHLERS, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Ranking Member MICA and Subcommittee Chairwoman NORTON, and the Congressional Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, for their efforts to move this important legislation forward. I also thank the Smithsonian Institution for its effort on behalf of the legislation and welcome the new Secretary, Dr. G. Wayne Clough. I look forward to working with Secretary Clough as the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure works to address the enormous repair and maintenance backlog of the Smithsonian Institution facilities and ensure that its facilities meet the highest standards of energy efficiency and conservation.

The bill authorizes the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to design and construct laboratory space to accommodate the Mathias Laboratory at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center ("SERC") in Edgewater, Maryland. The bill also authorizes the Board of Regents to construct laboratory space to accommodate the terrestrial research program of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute ("STRI") in Gamboa, Panama. The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will consider the Smithsonian Institution Facilities Act on July 31. The Committee will also consider S.J. Res. 35, which provides for the construction of the Very Energetic Radiation Imaging Telescope Array System (VERITAS) project in Arizona. Earlier this year, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure reported H.R. 5492, to authorize the Board of Regents to construct a greenhouse facility at its museum support facility in Suitland, Maryland, favorably to the House, and the House passed the bill by voice vote on March 11, 2008. The Committee hopes to bring S.J. Res. 35 to the House in early September. With passage of these bills, the House of Representatives will have completed action on the Smithsonian Institution's construction program for this fiscal year.

Section 2 of the bill authorizes the Board of Regents to design and construct laboratory

and support space to accommodate the Mathias Laboratory at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, Maryland. The bill authorizes \$41 million to design and construct the facility. SERC is a global leader in the study of ecosystems in the coastal zone. The 52,000-square-foot replacement laboratory will be connected to the existing structure to provide an operationally efficient and environmentally sustainable laboratory facility for SERC's research programs. The project will eliminate the use of temporary, unsafe trailers, address substandard, inefficient laboratory facilities, and will substantially reduce the facility's energy use and maintenance costs.

Section 3 of the bill authorizes the Board of Regents to construct laboratory space to accommodate the terrestrial research program of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Gamboa, Panama. The bill authorizes \$14 million to construct the 53,283-square-foot facility. STRI is the principal United States organization devoted to research in tropical biology. Tropical biology is critical to finding untapped resources to add to the important supply of food, pharmaceuticals, and fiber of tropical regions. STRI has outgrown the space available at its current facilities and this bill provides for construction of a new lab in Gamboa, Panama, on the east bank of the Panama Canal. Gamboa is protected by geography from the encroachment of civilization and pollution. The terrestrial research program is critical to understanding the role that tropical plants and soils play in global climate change models and for enriching knowledge of tropical biodiversity.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the "Smithsonian Institution Facilities Authorization Act of 2008", and I look forward to working together with my colleagues on these and other Smithsonian Institution issues.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2008*

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congresswoman KAY GRANGER.

Project name (as it appears in the bill): Security Forces Building/Combat Arms Addition.

Amount received: \$5 million.

Bill number: H.R. 6599.

Account: Air National Guard.

Legal name and address of entity receiving earmark: 136th Airlift Wing, Texas Air National Guard, JRB NAS Fort Worth, 200 Hensley Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76127-1672.

Description of how the money will be spent and why the use of federal taxpayer funding is justified: The Air Force has increased its need for Security Forces personnel. That has resulted in an increase of Security Forces personnel at the 136th Airlift Wing. Current space and facilities are inadequate (the building is less than 50 percent of the authorized and required size). The project is programmed for FY11 but needs to be constructed earlier to accommodate the training and readiness of the 136th Airlift Wing's growing force of Security Personnel and their role in the Global War on Terror. According to the Future Year De-

fense Plan, 96 percent of the amount received would go toward contract costs while the remaining 4 percent accounts for contingency, supervision, overhead, and inspection costs.

Description of matching funds: Matching funds are not required for Military Construction projects.

TRIBUTE TO THE HUMBOLDT PUBLIC LIBRARY

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Humboldt Public Library on its 100th year anniversary. The Humboldt Public Library serves over 4,500 residents of Humboldt, Iowa as well as a number of residents of the surrounding areas in Humboldt County.

In 1908, the city of Humboldt completed its public library with the assistance of an Andrew Carnegie grant. From 1912 to 1963, Mrs. Nellie Pinney served 51 years as the longest serving librarian. At the time of her retirement, the library was circulating 3,500 books a year. Forty-five years later, the Humboldt library has expanded its circulation to 85,000 items to better serve the diverse interests of its citizens and the advanced technology of modern times.

Throughout the many years the Humboldt Public Library staff has thrived to meet the needs of the people in the area by providing excellent information, educational resources and encouraging citizens to read. I congratulate the Humboldt Public Library on this historic anniversary. It is an honor to represent Library Director Nikki Ehlers, the library board of trustees, and all of the Humboldt Library staff in the United States Congress, and I wish the Humboldt Public Library continued success well into the future.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2008*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I submit the following: H.R. 6599—The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs FY09 Appropriations bill. Mr. JERRY LEWIS (CA-41): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Republican earmark guidance, I am submitting for the record the following project that has been included in H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs FY09 Appropriations bill. This project was authorized in H.R. 5658—the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Requesting Member: Congressman JERRY LEWIS

Bill Number: H.R. 6599

Account: Military Construction—Navy

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Marine Corps Base Twentynine Palms

Address of Requesting Entity: 73549 29 Palms Hwy., Twentynine Palms, CA 92277.

Description of Request: Phase I of the Life Long Learning Center (LLLC) project at the