helping with the preservation of their heritage. His commitment to unity resulted in Moon being presented the Americanism Award by the Society of Daughters of the American Revolution in 2005.

In April of 2005, Moon was elected as a Trustee for York Township, becoming the first Asian American to be elected to that office and the first Muslim elected to government office in the State of Illinois. As a result of his commitment to serving the Asian American community, Moon was appointed as the Asian American Liaison of the DuPage County Republican Party.

Moon Khan has been an advocate for the rights of immigrants, Muslims, and other ethnic groups. His committed service to empowering all ethnicities has affected countless lives throughout the State of Illinois.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, Moon Khan is a remarkable man who has dedicated his life to serving the people of DuPage County and the State of Illinois. Please join me in honoring him for his public service and recognizing the important work he is doing to build a stronger, better America.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding a district funding request as part of H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2009.

1. Florida Army National Guard, Regional Training Institute (RTI) Phase IV at Camp Blanding, FL (Department of Defense, Army National Guard) Project ID: 04ee1.

This project is to complete construction of the RTI at the Camp Blanding Training Site, FL. The readiness of the Florida Army National Guard and Air National Guard in general will be affected if the school cannot adequately accomplish its mission to train soldiers. The student quota continues to grow with the need for new training requirements.

The new campus will serve the full-time mission of the RTI. The completion of the new campus will allow the school to accept all projected students and to provide the support needed to run the regional school. The new campus will provide the school with the area required to adequately perform its essential mission. It will house, feed, teach, and train all students attending the institute; students are from all fifty states and territories. The school averages 800 students per cycle.

DON PITTMAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to honor long-time restaurateur Don Pittman, as he was inducted into the Texas Restaurant Association Hall of Honor in June 2008. From Bar-B-Q to fresh seafood to Cajun delights, Texans take their food very seriously. For Don to receive this honor, he must have done some significant work.

Pittman has been in the restaurant business for almost forty years. His career began in 1970 in Fredericksburg, Texas. He spent some time in Austin before deciding that he should branch out and carve a place for himself. He searched for a location with a community with a positive attitude and decided that Southeast Texas was the best place to start.

Don moved to Beaumont in 1985 and opened eight Short Stop Burger locations across Southeast Texas. He operated these restaurants in Beaumont, Port Arthur, and Orange until the late 1990s. In 1998, he opened a Schlotzky's Deli in Beaumont and another in Port Arthur in 2002. Pittman will serve as President of the Sabine Area Restaurant Association beginning this August. This will be his second term, as he previously served from 1991–1993.

The Texas Restaurant Association Hall of Honor is the highest recognition that a member of the Association can receive. Winners are selected by a committee made up of past TRA presidents and Hall of Honor members. Individuals are honored for their commitment to the foodservice industry, the Association and their communities. This year, they chose to honor Don Pittman for his continuing excellence in serving Southeast Texas.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, I applaud Don Pittman for his dedication to serving some of the best food in the entire State of Texas.

SPECIAL MEMORIAL DAY WORDS OF INSPIRATION FROM FALLUJAH, IRAQ

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, Americans all over our Nation honored our fallen heroes for Memorial Day. We gathered in our national cemeteries, at veterans posts, and at town halls to say thank you to those who paid the ultimate price for freedom and to their families who suffered the greatest of losses.

Many forget that today's heroes also celebrated Memorial Day in the far corners of the world, including the deserts of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan. One such Memorial Day ceremony took place in Fallujah, Iraq, the site of some of the fiercest fighting and where many of our troops gave their lives.

Marine Corps Major General John F. Kelly led the service for our troops in Fallujah saying, "There is something about looking out at real Americans who know the price paid for our protection, and the world's freedoms. Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Coast Guardsmen and Marines—heroes all."

General Kelly knows personally of service and sacrifice, as he is on his third tour of duty commanding Marines in Iraq, his third tour away from his family. He also has two sons serving as Marines in Iraq.

General Kelly told his Marines, "Our countrymen at home should be on their knees every day thanking God we still have enough young people in America today willing to take up the fight as our veterans did from the earliest days of our Nation. They should know that they are protected today by men and women as good as have ever served; as good today as their fathers were in Vietnam, and their grandfathers were in Korea and World War II. In this, my third tour in Iraq, I have never seen an American hesitate, or do anything other than lean into the danger and, with no apparent fear of death or injury, take the fight to the enemies of our way of life."

Those who serve make many sacrifices including having to endure the horror of war. As General Kelly told his troops, "You are all heroes and like many veterans throughout our history, many of us have endured things—sights, sounds and horrors—that will haunt us for the rest of our lives. I know I find great comfort that because I am here those I love and have sworn to protect will never have to deal with memories so terrible. I hope you who have seen these things have the same sense of purpose and balance when you relive the scenes of violence, and of decisions made. America's Armed Forces today know the price of being the finest men and women this nation has to offer, and pay it we do every day in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Madam Speaker, following my remarks, I would like to include for the benefit of my colleagues the full text of General Kelly's letter to his Marines. It is from the heart and it is to the point of what every American service member and their families give to our Nation in the defense of freedom and liberty. General Kelly concludes his message by reading a letter no officer wants to write, that to the mother or father, husband or wife, brother or child of a fallen warrior. In this case it is to the mother of Jonathan Yale, a Marine who died protecting an Entry Control Point in Ramadi, Iraq from a suicide bomber driving a truck loaded with explosives. He and fellow Marine Jordan Haerter fired upon the truck until it exploded before breaching their security point. They both died during their job that day and in so doing saved the lives of 50 other Marines and countless Iraqi policemen.

General Kelly wrote to Jonathan's mother, "I have 25,000 Marines under my care here in Iraq, and I fear for their lives every minute of every day as if they were my own. They are out there every day and every night patrolling the most dangerous places on earth for millions of people at home they do not even know. In times of weakness I wonder why they come, young men like Jonathan, why they come when no one makes them. When everything in our society seems to say "what's in it for me," those like your son think of others—not themselves."

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that every member of this House will read General Kelly's powerful and poignant words and take them to heart as we thank him and every American who goes into harm's way on a daily basis to protect us and our way of life.

MAY 25, 2008.

WORDS FROM A MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY IN FALLUJAH, IRAQ

FALLUJAH, IRAQ.—Major General John F. Kelly dispatched a letter from Iraq stating that they held their Memorial Day ceremony in Fallujah today and it was inspiring.

"Something about looking out at real Americans who know the price paid for our protection, and the world's freedoms. Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen and Marines—heroes all," Kelly said.