

After meeting with local educators and principals I was inspired to reform "No Child Left Behind" to better meet the needs of both educators and students. This bill will allow high schools to stay competitive with graduation rates as well as give them a chance to have better annual assessment scores by allowing limited English proficient, LEP, students have more time to learn English before being tested.

Currently, when a student with disabilities does not graduate in the standard number of years (3 or 4 years), they are misrepresented as a dropout against that school's graduation rate even though the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA, allows students with disabilities to stay in school until their 22nd birthday. Adding the provision outlined in my bill to ESEA would align it with IDEA, standardizing the statutes.

Current law allows limited English proficient, LEP, students to wait until they have been in the United States for 3 years before being tested for English fluency. This bill simply extends that period of time to 5 years. By doing so, LEP students will have more time to become proficient in English before being tested and therefore reflected in the school's annual assessment.

Education is the basis for success and "No Child Left Behind" is focused on ensuring that our children receive a quality education—the necessary foundation for a successful life. My bill offers two minor but substantive changes to current law that will help our schools, students, faculty and staff to better our education system. I ask for your support and the support of my colleagues to pass this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor St. John's United Church of Christ in Breese, Illinois. For 150 years, St. John's has been one of its community's cornerstones. Before a frame church was built in the summer of 1858, services were held in the homes of settlers and led by the people themselves. In 1859, the Rev. Christepler Starck was called as the first resident pastor. A parsonage was built in 1861 and the church's membership continued to grow.

Throughout its 150-year history, St. John's UCC in Breese, Illinois has served both its local community and the world. St. John's works with House of Manna, a local food pantry, and runs a vacation bible school for local children. St. John's members prepare meals for local seniors and send care packages to servicemen and women in Iraq. As an active contributor to the wider outreach of the United Church of Christ, St. John's gives to meritorious national and international organizations.

St. John's also embodies the spirit of neighborliness: with its active involvement in yearly ecumenical services; in its close working relationship with a local catholic church; and when it gives freely of space and time to local community organizations.

I join with my fellow Representatives to congratulate St. John's on 150 years of faith, service, and neighborliness.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR TOM ROWLAND OF CLEVELAND, TENNESSEE

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Mayor Tom Rowland of Cleveland, Tennessee, which is in my district. On Monday, September 8, 2008, at 3:05 p.m. Tom Rowland made history. He became the longest-serving mayor in the city of Cleveland's history with 17 years of service. He was elected Mayor of the City of Cleveland in 1991 and is currently serving his fifth term. His dedication and hard work have made Cleveland home to 11 Fortune 500 manufacturing companies as well as increasing the tourism economy tenfold.

Tom has served the City of Cleveland in many capacities with integrity and distinction, including: past president of the Tennessee Municipal League; selected Mayor of the Year, 2004 by the Tennessee Municipal League; member of two standing committees of the United States Conference of Mayors; past president of the East Tennessee Mayors Association; vice chairman of the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, the highest position you can hold and not be on the state legislature; cochairman of the Tennessee-Virginia AmTrak initiative; executive committee member of Southeast Tennessee Development District; on the Cleveland Utility Board and Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Council; member of the Tennessee State Rail Advisory Commission; and past Chairman of the Tennessee Vocational Rehabilitation Board.

Tom is a veteran of the United States Air Force, having retired recently as a Colonel from the Tennessee State Guard. He is the founder of Cleveland 100, an organization that assists surviving family members of officers, firemen and emergency personnel killed in the line of duty. He spearheaded a project to build Tennessee's first memorial to fallen police, fire and rescue personnel. The Emergency Services Memorial was dedicated in May of 2000. Tom is the only Mayor in Tennessee serving on the Homeland Security Council.

And if that isn't enough, Tom and his wonderful wife, Sandra, founded the Empty Stocking Fund, an annual drive that provides Christmas gifts each year to foster children in this community. In 2006 they consolidated the fund in cooperation with the Creating Christmas Memories Foundation.

Madam Speaker, Tom actually lived in many cities before settling in Cleveland in 1964. He was born in Florida, but his father worked for a hotel chain. The chain would buy new properties and it was his dad's job to move to those places and get the business up and going. The family moved about every 2 years. Tom came to Cleveland to work for WCLE radio station, of which he eventually became co-owner. In 1991, when a long-time member of the city commission retired, Tom was

tapped to fill out the unexpired term of 6 months. When the sitting mayor decided not to run for reelection, he encouraged Tom to seek the promotion. Madam Speaker, the rest, as they say, is history.

The City of Cleveland is very fortunate to have a man of this caliber at its helm. So today, I congratulate my friend, Mayor Tom Rowland, for this historic accomplishment.

THE FEDERAL AGENCY PROGRAM REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE ACT

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to announce that yesterday I introduced H.R. 7071, the Federal Agency Program Realignment and Closure Act of 2008, legislation that will change the way Washington does business once and for all.

It is clear that the Federal Government is bogged down with rampant spending, continually growing entitlement programs, an ever increasing annual budget and a Federal deficit that economists predict will hit \$500 billion by 2010. When the U.S. Military needed reform and more efficient spending, Congress and the Department of Defense employed the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, BRAC, to evaluate military needs and spending saving taxpayers untold billions of dollars. If it is good enough to reform our Nation's military, it is good enough to be applied to the entire Federal Government.

I introduced this bill to apply the proven BRAC model to all Federal agencies and programs. This commission will consist of 17 bipartisan members, including both public and private sector officials, providing an objective, non-partisan, and independent review and analysis of all Federal agencies and programs. The commission will target agencies and programs that perform a duplicative function, would perform better at the State level or in the private sector and create a list of recommended realignments and closures. Congress will then have an up or down vote on the commission's recommendations. All saved funds will be used solely for deficit reduction meaning it cannot be used to fund new government programs.

Spending in Washington, DC, is completely out of control. I believe that if we are going to keep putting new spending and programs on the table, then we absolutely must have a mechanism to take old things off of the table. The American people understand that if you spend too much of your budget this month you cut back the next month and they expect their government to work the same way. My legislation will help drain the swamp in Washington and put the Federal Government back to work for the people.

TRIBUTE TO W. STUART SYMINGTON III

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the memory of

W. Stuart Symington III, the Nation's first Secretary of the Air Force.

W. Stuart Symington was born in 1901 in Massachusetts. After graduating from Baltimore City College in 1918, Symington enlisted in the Army as a private and at age 17 became one of the Army's youngest second lieutenants. After World War I, Symington entered Yale University and graduated in 1923.

In 1938, after several years in the iron and electric manufacturing businesses, Symington accepted the presidency of Emerson Electric Company. During World War II, Symington transformed Emerson Electric into the world's largest builder of airplane gun turrets.

Symington resigned from Emerson Electric in 1945 to join the administration of President Harry S. Truman. When the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force was first created in 1947, Symington became the first Secretary of the Air Force. During his tenure, Symington worked hard to give the new United States Air Force (which had previously been part of the Army) respect, championing the United States Air Force Academy, and the success of the Berlin Airlift.

He served as Secretary of the Air Force from September 18, 1947 to April 24, 1950, after which Symington ran for and served four consecutive terms as a Senator from Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor the memory of W. Stuart Symington, III. It is with great pride that I congratulate a fellow Baltimore City College graduate on his significant contributions to the United States Air Force and the Nation.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I submit the following earmark disclosure and certification information for seven project requests I made included within the text of H.R. 2638, the "The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009."

Requesting Member: Congressman CHIP PICKERING.

Bill Number: FY 09 Defense Appropriations Bill.

Project: Regional Counter Drug Training Academy.

Project Amount: \$2.5 million.

Account: 01 Operating Forces Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Regional Counterdrug Training Academy.

Address of Requesting Entity: 219 Fuller Road, NAS Meridian, Mississippi 39309.

Description of Request: NGB identified an FY2009 unfunded requirement of \$24.2M for Counterdrug Schools. Funding for NGB Counterdrug Schools is essential. Current Counterdrug (CD) Schools funding status impacts their ability to support DoD and Law Enforcement/Community Based Organization training and CNNTF support. Inconsistent funding has prevented CD schools from developing long-term training plans to maximize their capabilities. In FY2006, non-availability of funds forced one of the five Counterdrug

schools to shut down. Failure to correct this unacceptable trend will increase the Nation's ability to field an adequate number of law enforcement professionals dedicated to combating drug trafficking at the national, state, and local levels. With appropriate funding, CD Schools will also be better positioned to provide counter narcotics-based training programs critical to domestic law enforcement against Narcoterrorism.

The RCTA Meridian budget has shown little growth since FY2000, yet the costs associated with training law enforcement officers have increased by approximately 20%. The requested funding would restore training opportunities to the FY2000 level of approximately 5000 students per year.

Requesting Member: Congressman CHIP PICKERING.

Bill Number: FY 09 Military Construction/Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill.

Project: Fitness Center Addition.

Project Amount: \$6.34 million.

Account: Military Construction; Navy & Marine Corps.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Naval Air Station, Meridian.

Address of Requesting Entity: 255 Rosenbaum Avenue, Meridian, Mississippi 39309.

Description of Request: This project would add to the existing fitness facilities in order to ease overcrowding. It will also upgrade mechanical and electrical systems, reduce maintenance costs, and provide space for military water survival training.

The Fitness Center is required to support 4078 active duty and reserve military, DoD and Contract personnel. The existing fitness facilities are incapable of meeting the present DoD Fitness Standards. Additionally, some of the facilities such as the gymnasium have significant roof leaks which contribute to maintenance, mold, and mildew problems.

Requesting Member: Congressman CHIP PICKERING.

Bill Number: FY 09 Defense Appropriations Bill.

Project: MQ-5B Hunter Tactical Unmanned Aircraft (UAS).

Project Amount: \$5 million.

Account: Op;A Other Procurement, Army; Tactical Unmanned Aerial Sys (Tuas)Mip.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: UAS Project Office, Redstone Arsenal, PM Tactical Concepts, UAS Project Office, SFAS-AV-UAS.

Address of Requesting Entity: Redstone Arsenal, AL.

Description of Request: The MQ-5B Hunter units provide Army Warfighters with real-time Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition (RSTA) and Strike (Armed Reconnaissance) employing the Viper Strike munition.

The Hunter has now flown approximately 60,000 flight hours and nearly 30,000 hours in the OIF theater. The system has proven a proactive platform in winning the IED fight by providing "eyes" over the U.S. Army's main supply routes in OIF. Demand for the MQ-5B Hunter's day/night and Strike capability will remain high even as overall troop levels in a theater of action draw down.

Funding will (1) provide four new production or eight retrofit MQ-5B Air Vehicles to replace 'A' configuration Air Vehicles deployed with the 1st Armor Div Combat Aviation Brigade in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and (2) support

another unit scheduled for employment in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

Requesting Member: Congressman CHIP PICKERING.

Bill Number: FY 09 Defense Appropriations Bill.

Project: Simultaneous Field Radiation Technology (SFRT).

Project Amount: \$2.3 million.

Account: RDT & E, Defense-Wide; Advanced Concept Technology Demonstrations.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Navy, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command.

Address of Requesting Entity: U.S. Navy, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, North Charleston, South Carolina 29419.

Description of Request: Early research of Simultaneous Field Radiation Technology (SFRT) has provided initial findings that strongly indicate the potential for significant improvement over conventional antenna technology. Research conducted in 2006, and validated by SPAWAR, resulted in the transitioning of SFRT from a pure theoretical model and conceptual prototype. Preliminary tests with the National Guard and Coast Guard have generated a keen interest within DoD for assessment of SFRT in a multi-dimensional operations environment of networked manned and unmanned tactical and wireless systems.

The FY09 request is intended to provide the means to incorporate the technology baseline of SFRT with emerging technology as a new generation of advancements could significantly reduce antenna size and weight, minimize the negative effects of required antenna vertical polarity, and measurably enhance the performance of robots and unattended ground sensors.

Requesting Member: Congressman CHIP PICKERING.

Bill Number: FY 09 Defense Appropriations Bill.

Project: Silicon Carbide Power Electronics for More Electric Aircraft (MEA).

Project Amount: \$3.2 million.

Account: RDT & E, Air Force.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Air Force Research Laboratory, Propulsion Directorate AFRL/PRPE.

Address of Requesting Entity: Air Force Research Laboratory, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio 45433.

Description of Request: The Joint Strike Fighter Program has documented that Silicon Carbide (SiC) power electronics technology reduces weight and expense in technology for the MEA program. This technology is a key to the Air Force's high-temperature power electronics planning, as presented in the Air Force's planning chart. This project provides a strong base of funding to develop the core SiC high-temperature power electronics needed for the high-temperature engine and flight actuators on JSF and other platforms. SiC based power electronics have been identified as a critical technology to achieve high-speed Mach 2 and Mach 4 aircraft where temperatures required can be up to 350 degrees Celsius, twice the capability of conventional power technologies. This capability will enable improvements in the More Electric Aircraft program and provide substantial benefits for Long Range Strike aircraft programs, ensuring that the United States is able to protect itself quickly, and with improved safety for the war fighter.