

they brought to my attention during my first term in Congress and I look forward to their continued assistance.

The Senior and Aging Issues Advisory Council members are: Harry Anthros, David Braun, Marlene Bluestein, Fred Ebeling, Dr. Mindy Fain, Karen Fields, Sharon Gartner, Doris Goldstein, Mary Gomez, Craig Gordon, Clark Hay, Kathleen Heard, Felipe Jacome, Anna Jolivet, Al Kaszniak, Joe La Cava, Cress Lander, Dr. Allan Levenson, David Likness, Larry Linderman, Marian Lupu, Barbara Matteson, Dr. Fred Miller, Jim Murphy, Steve Nash, Elizabeth Packard, Gordon Packard, Anita Royal, L'Don Sawyer, Bill Santa Cruz, Mattie Stone, Jan Sturges, Helen Symes, Russ Symes, Dr. Tony Vuturo and Carol West.

I commend each of them for their contributions to our work on behalf of seniors and thank them for their service our community.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I submit the following earmark disclosure and certification information for one project request 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: Advanced, Long Endurance Unattended Ground Sensor Technologies.

Project Amount: \$3.6 million.

Account: Defense-wide; RDT&E.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Special Operations Command.

Address of Requesting Entity: Tampa, Florida.

Description of Request: A significant challenge in modern military operations is the ability to achieve and maintain real-time battlefield situational awareness. Achieving battlefield situational awareness requires the ability to robustly and persistently monitor the movements of the adversary in near real-time across a wide range of operational environments including foliage, mountainous, and urban terrain.

The funding will continue the research and development of small, low power UGS technologies that support critical USSOCOM reconnaissance and surveillance missions by providing robust: (1) target detection, classification and tracking; (2) high bandwidth, covert communication of data, voice and video, and (3) data/information exfiltration via satellite communications (SATCOM) for displaying advanced visualization technologies. The proposed UGS capability will provide USSOCOM with the ability to relay critical, actionable intelligence from remote areas of interest to analysts and commanders worldwide in near real-time—ultimately allowing special operations forces (SOF) to think and react more quickly than the adversary. The proposed research program will also have applications in other areas such as border patrol.

HONORING PATRICK R. VECCHIO

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a public servant of rare devotion and accomplishment. My constituent, Patrick R. Vecchio is marking his 30 year anniversary as supervisor of the town of Smithtown, a historic community on the shores of Long Island Sound. His tenure as supervisor is the longest in New York State's 231-year history, and has few rivals anywhere in the Nation.

On October 23rd, I was proud to join the Smithtown Historical Society at its gala in St. James in the town of Smithtown, New York, at which it honored Supervisor Vecchio for his steadfast commitment and countless contributions to the people of Smithtown.

Mr. Speaker, Supervisor Vecchio is a life-long public servant, U.S. Army veteran and retired NYPD detective sergeant. During his tenure as supervisor, he has demonstrated a strong commitment to fiscal responsibility and low taxes while protecting vital government services. His legacy is clear: Today, Smithtown is on solid financial footing and has the lowest debt level of the 10 towns in Suffolk County.

Pat Vecchio is more than an exemplary public servant, he is a friend and a role model. You can always trust that the words that come out of Supervisor Vecchio's mouth will be the truth, to the chagrin of some. As someone who was new to public service when I was elected to Congress in 2002, I learned a lot simply by watching and talking to Pat.

In 1655, an English settler, Richard Smith, struck a unique bargain with local Native Americans where he was entitled to settle all of the area he could ride around on his bull in a day's time. Smith's ride on his bull, Whisper, formed the boundaries of modern-day Smithtown. Richard Smith's ride is the stuff of legends.

I don't know if Pat Vecchio ever rode a bull. But I know he has gotten into a boxing ring with a champion fighter; I know he has guarded the President of the United States; I know he has taken on organized crime and I know he has done it all without a hint of ego. In short, Mr. Speaker, Pat Vecchio's life is the stuff of legends. I am honored and humbled to help honor his lifetime of service to the town of Smithtown and our Nation.

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA
DEVASTATED BY TORNADOES

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, families from my district in eastern North Carolina are working to recover from tornadoes over the weekend that killed two people and displaced up to 125 people.

Please join me in expressing our deepest sympathies to the families affected by this damaging storm. They should know that our thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult time.

Tragically, the tornado claimed the life of 11-year-old Joshua Wiggins, a bright, outgoing sixth-grader at Toisnot Middle School in his hometown of Wilson, North Carolina. He played the drums, enjoyed soccer, and sang in the chorus. The tornado also took the life of Maryland Gomez, a 61-year-old mother from Kenly, North Carolina.

The tornadoes, believed to be EF-2 to EF-3, moved northeast along the Interstate 95 corridor at 45 to 55 miles per hour with winds of 130 to 135 miles per hour.

I want to give thanks to the North Carolina Department of Transportation workers who have been clearing fallen trees from roadways and to the Progress Energy crews who are restoring power along the storm's path.

North Carolina Governor Michael Easley has requested a U.S. Small Business Administration disaster declaration for Wilson and Johnston County areas affected by deadly tornadoes.

Madam Speaker, our hearts go out to the community and especially to the families directly affected by this tragedy. Although this natural disaster may have destroyed many homes and upended the lives of many families, the people of North Carolina are generous and caring. I have no doubt we will pull together to rebuild these communities to make them stronger than ever. I look forward to working with my colleagues to assist the families in need and to helping them to move forward from this tragedy.

CONGRATULATING THOMAS SANTIAGO ON RECEIVING THE "GREEN LIVING AWARD"

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Thomas Santiago for receiving the prestigious "Green Living Award" from the Alley Pond Environmental Center, APEC, on November 13, 2008. APEC, located in Douglaston, Queens, is a superb educational center committed to environmental understanding and awareness. Tom's commitment to using environmentally-friendly green building techniques and protocols for Citigroup's new office tower in Long Island City is a truly groundbreaking example of "green living" in an urban environment and is truly worthy of public notice and praise.

In his role as the Managing Director of real estate for Citigroup in the Northeast U.S., Tom was the driving force behind Two Court Square, Citigroup's second 1.5 million square foot tower in Long Island City. The building is Citi's first ever Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, LEED, Gold certified green building, the national benchmark for rating green buildings. Two Court Square serves as the "green" model for corporate America, not only for being environmentally responsible, but also for demonstrating the economic value of money-saving "green" building technologies and materials.

Under Tom's leadership, Two Court Square is LEED Gold certified because it meets or exceeds stringent criteria in five categories: Sustainable Sites, Energy and Atmosphere, Water Efficiency, Indoor Environmental Quality and