

many of their family and friends attend the event. They have two wonderful children, Richard Jr. and Joi Kneiss, as well as two grandchildren, Justin Richard Kneiss and Courtney Smithgall. The entire extended Smithgall family is looking forward to the anniversary and is very proud of Richard and Constance for making it 50 years together.

Madam Speaker, the union of two souls is a wonderful moment and one to be celebrated by friends and loved ones. It is a sign of true love and affection for two people to make it half a century living in holy matrimony. I want to congratulate Richard and Constance Smithgall on their 50th anniversary and wish them the best of luck as they spend the rest of their lives together.

RECOGNIZING GLENDA PAUL-ALES  
AS THE WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA  
2009 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 23, 2009*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of Glenda Paul-Ales, Walton County, Florida's 2009 Teacher of the Year.

For the past eighteen years, Glenda Paul-Ales has captivated students at Walton Middle School in Walton County, Florida. In her classroom, learning occurs in a variety of ways, as Ms. Paul-Ales seizes upon every opportunity to generate a lesson. Beyond the curriculum that Ms. Paul-Ales assigns lays the doctrine that governs her teaching: "there is no one right way to teach all students." It is thus, through her dynamic integration of technology, class projects, and group discussions that Ms. Paul-Ales is able to propel her students to academic excellence.

In addition to being named Teacher of the Year for Walton County, Florida, Ms. Paul-Ales has received numerous other awards and recognitions. She is a two-time winner of the Walton Middle School Teacher of the Year award and serves as the school's Professional Development Chair. Ms. Paul-Ales is also a Literacy Leadership Team member and serves as the Department Chair for Science in the 7th grade. All of these titles highlight Ms. Paul-Ales's outstanding teaching capabilities and emphasize her engaging personality.

The title of Teacher of the Year is an immense honor and is evidence of the greatness Ms. Paul-Ales has achieved. Beyond the title lies Ms. Paul-Ales's dedication and devotion, to not only her students, but to the entire community. Her teaching skills and affable personality have influenced many and pushed countless students to a higher level of academic achievement. Ms. Paul-Ales's outstanding accomplishments have distinguished her as one of the great teachers in Northwest Florida, and the First District of Florida is honored to have her as one of their own.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Glenda Paul-Ales on this outstanding achievement and for her exemplary service in the Walton County School District.

IN HONOR OF THOMAS JEFFERSON  
HIGH SCHOOL'S "STREET TEAM"

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 23, 2009*

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the students of Thomas Jefferson High School in Dallas, Texas for their commitment to reducing the number of "cheese" users at school. "Cheese" is a deadly combination of black tar heroin and over-the-counter drugs. The addictive combination has taken the lives of numerous teenagers in the Dallas area in the past few years.

Since the first case of cheese was discovered at Thomas Jefferson High School in 2005, it has been considered the epicenter of the cheese epidemic and garnered national attention for the issue. However, a group of students—known as the "Street Team"—decided to take action against this deadly drug trend in their school. These students took the initiative to create and implement a program that catered to the specific environment at their school. With the support of the Greater Dallas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (GDCADA) and the Dallas Independent School District (DISD), they embarked on a multi-faceted social norms campaign to educate their peers and change the perception of cheese usage on campus. By correcting the perception of cheese use, they were able to also change behavior.

I applaud the effort of the "Street Team," the students of Thomas Jefferson and the faculty who have supported them to reduce cheese use on campus.

TRIBUTE TO PHYLLIS MUSE

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 23, 2009*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of Phyllis Muse of Boone, Iowa, who has received the Brown Award for outstanding service at Boone County Hospital.

The Brown Award was established by Weldon J. Brown in honor of his parents Everett C. Brown and Eunice D. Brown. Boone County Hospital recognizes the outstanding services and accomplishments of one of its employees each year with the Brown Award.

Phyllis was nominated by anonymous co-workers to receive the award. She has worked for Boone County Hospital since 1977 as a nurse and now currently as the Boone County Hospital specialty clinic director.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in congratulating Phyllis Muse for her outstanding service to Boone County Hospital. It is an honor to represent Phyllis in the U.S. Congress, and I wish her continued success and happiness in serving her community.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1,  
AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REIN-  
VESTMENT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 13, 2009*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, it is essential that our Nation's ports have a reliable funding stream for vital projects that are "ready to go" in ports around the nation. The Maritime Administration has identified more than \$1.5 billion in immediate opportunities to fund ready-to-go port landside projects. Ports are a key component of our national intermodal transportation system. MARAD has conservatively estimated that funding \$1.5 billion in ready to go projects will add 80,000 direct and indirect jobs to the economy. These port projects are essential to our ports fulfilling their roles in our national defense, transportation, commerce, and homeland security systems. All other transportation modes, including highways, transit, rail, aviation, and ferries have dedicated funding in the Transportation Infrastructure sections of H.R. 1. Ports do not have such a dedicated source of funding. However, I want to state for the record that ports are eligible for funds in the \$1.5 billion discretionary competitive grant funding made available by this bill to the Secretary of Transportation. In addition ports are eligible for funds under the Surface Transportation formula funds made available to States under this bill.

Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of Transportation, working with MARAD, should ensure that ports, like rail, transit, highways and aviation also have a secure stream of funding for much needed "ready to go" intermodal infrastructure investments. Ports all over the country, including in my own State, are ready to put thousands of people to work immediately on vital port infrastructure projects.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the entire House, indeed the entire Congress agrees that it won't do much good to have improved highways, rail, and air transportation if our ports are crumbling, overcrowded, and outdated.

LEGISLATION TO CODIFY TITLE 41,  
U.S. CODE, REGARDING PUBLIC  
CONTRACTS

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 23, 2009*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, Ranking Member LAMAR SMITH and I are introducing a bill to codify into positive law as title 41, United States Code, certain general and permanent laws related to public contracts. This bill was prepared by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel, as part of its functions under 2 U.S.C. § 285(b).

This bill is substantially identical to H.R. 4779, which the Committee on the Judiciary approved in last Congress, updated to incorporate a few enactments that took place after the earlier bill was prepared, and to incorporate a few technical clarifications suggested by interested parties.