

HONORING WILTON SIMPSON OF  
TRILBY, FLORIDA

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 23, 2009*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Wilton Simpson, a distinguished member of the business community in Pasco County, Florida. Mr. Simpson has recently been named the 2009 recipient of the Lincoln Heritage Award in honor of his humanitarian services to the community and Pasco County and for his commitment to the principles practiced and espoused by one of our greatest Presidents, Abraham Lincoln.

A native of Lakeland, Florida, Mr. Simpson moved to Dade City with his family in 1978. He is a 1984 graduate of Pasco High School in Dade City and 1997 graduate of Pasco-Hernando Community College. A star football player in high school, Mr. Simpson turned down college scholarship opportunities to go into business instead. Today he is married and the father of two children, one son and one daughter.

Beginning his career in construction and asbestos removal, Mr. Simpson chose to enter into the chicken industry about 20 years ago. Founding Simpson Farms in Trilby, FL in 1996, he grew the egg production facility over the years, eventually expanding operations to include 210 acres and more than 1.25 million egg producing chickens. In 2005, Mr. Simpson diversified his holding, with the founding of Simpson Environmental Services, a company that specializes in asbestos removal.

In addition to his business interests, Mr. Simpson has given back to his local community. He serves on the Pasco County Housing Authority, is the current president of the Pasco County Farm Bureau and the Pasco County Fair Association, current chairman of the Board for East Pasco Habitat for Humanity, treasurer and board member of the Pasco Economic Development Council, treasurer and board member of the Dade City Chamber of Commerce, past chairman and current director of the Boys' and Girls' Club, past chairman of Premier Community Health Care, current member of the Pasco-Hernando Community College Board of Trustees, and is a charter member and director of Florida Traditions Bank.

Mr. Simpson coaches his son's little league team, is the 2005 recipient of the Small Business of the Year Award from the Pasco Economic Development Council and the 2008 recipient of the Business Leader of the Year Award from the Dade City Chamber of Commerce.

Madam Speaker, for all these reasons and many more, Wilton Simpson is being recognized with the 2009 Lincoln Heritage Award. He has epitomized the principles practiced by one of our finest Presidents, Abraham Lincoln, and by his actions has improved the lives and welfare of the entire Pasco County Community.

TRIBUTE TO PAT GILLILAND

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 23, 2009*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Pat Gilliland from her position as city clerk of Adel, Iowa.

For the past 25 years Pat has served the city of Adel as city clerk. During a city council meeting, Pat was honored for all her years of service. The Mayor also declared December as "Pat Gilliland Month" and gave her a key to the city.

The City of Adel and the surrounding community will certainly miss Pat's hard work and dedication to her job. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in congratulating Pat Gilliland for her many years of service to Adel, and I wish her happiness in her retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "WHAT-  
EVER IT TAKES TO REBUILD  
ACT OF 2008"

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 23, 2009*

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing the "Whatever it Takes to Rebuild Act".

A disaster can leave the tax base of an affected community eroded, necessitating Federal assistance to pay for essential services. These essential services, including police, fire, and school personnel, are even more critical in the wake of a disaster. To aid communities, Congress created the Community Disaster Loan Program. While this program has worked with great success, there are two significant issues that need to be fixed. The first issue is that this assistance is delivered in the form of a loan and the second is that any loan is limited to \$5 million. Providing this aid as a loan can further delay the recovery of a local community and the \$5 million cap does not allow for adequate assistance for medium or large communities.

The "Whatever It Takes to Rebuild Act" would repeal the requirement that disaster affected communities repay the assistance they receive under the Community Disaster Loan Program. This legislation would permanently repeal the \$5 million cap on these loans, would make states eligible for this assistance, repeal the cap that limits loans to 25 percent of a municipalities operating expenses, and would provide this assistance as grants when the President waives the provisions for a catastrophic event. All of these provisions are aimed at giving the Federal Government the tools and flexibility we need to fully respond following a disaster.

This program was used most recently immediately following Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. While it was able to provide significant benefits, repayment requirements have raised significant hurdles for many recipient communities. In the wake of a disaster, the government should give American communities the financial assistance they need to get back on their feet with no strings attached. That is why

I am reintroducing the "Whatever It Takes to Rebuild Act."

TRIBUTE TO KEN SCHMITT

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 23, 2009*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of Ken Schmitt. Ken is a Farmers National Company Accredited Farm Manager from Carroll, Iowa.

Ken has been named Farmers National Company's 2008 Farm Manager of the year. This award is given annually to one of Farmer Nationals 70 professional farm managers for excellence in performing management duties. The applicants were judged by a panel of agribusiness professionals and presented at the Farmers National Company's annual meeting.

Ken has worked for Farmers National Company since 1986 and due to his hard work has received many awards over the years.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in congratulating Ken Schmitt for this great honor. I wish him health and happiness for the future.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 23, 2009*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act.

Requesting Member: Congressman SAM JOHNSON

Bill Number: H.R. 1105.

Account: COPS Law Enforcement Technology.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The City of McKinney, Texas

Address of Requesting Entity: 222 N. Tennessee, McKinney, Texas 75070.

Description of Request: \$300,000 in FY 2009 Department of Justice COPS Law Enforcement Technology and Interoperability funds to replace the City's Public Safety Radio System and to acquire interoperability capabilities.

The City of McKinney, Texas, was the fastest growing city with a population greater than 100,000 in the U.S. between 2000 and 2006, according to U.S. Census statistics released last year. With a population that has mushroomed from 38,700 to 121,000 in only ten years, resources for many important projects are strained. The current 800 MHz radio communications system, completed in 2001 when McKinney's population was half its current size, now has communications coverage deficiencies, particularly in the newer growth areas in southwestern McKinney. These "dead spots" are experienced by all City radio system users (Police, Fire, EMS, Public Works, etc.) and could compromise officer safety, citizen safety, and the ability to respond adequately in emergency situations. Efforts to

eliminate the coverage deficiencies through adjustments to the current system have had only limited success, and it has become evident that replacement of the system is crucial.

The rapid growth of Collin County dictates the need for interoperability in the event of a crisis. The adjacent cities of Frisco, Allen and Plano, as well as Collin County, are in the process of planning for upgrades to Project 25 digital technology. (Project 25 is a joint multi-phase effort of state, federal and local government with support from the Telecommunications Industry Association to provide unencumbered access to communications interoperability among law enforcement agencies.) The City of McKinney has engaged consultants to develop specifications for a three-to four-site Project 25 radio system to provide agencies with critical coverage improvements, interoperability, and expandability for continued growth.

Replacing the system with Project 25 digital radio system technology will maximize radio spectrum efficiency, ensure an open standard for non-proprietary equipment and interoperability, eliminate existing coverage deficiencies, and allow for continued growth to meet the City's ultimate buildout population. (McKinney's population will ultimately reach more than 300,000.) The Federal government has recognized the importance of interoperable communications equipment to meet the Nation's homeland security needs.

The total cost estimate for a three-site P25 radio system and equipment is \$5,938,000. This request is for \$300,000 in FY 2009 Federal funding to support McKinney's efforts. The City can get the project underway in 2009.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105.

Account: Museums and Libraries.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The National Virtual Vietnam Archive.

Address of Requesting Entity: Texas Tech University, 19th and University Avenue, Lubbock, Texas 79409.

Description of Request: \$571,000. The requested funding will be used to continue to develop and establish the Virtual Vietnam Archive, which is a digitized, online version of the Vietnam Archive. This multi-phased project is crucial in order for the extensive collection of the Vietnam Archive to be available to all Americans, and particularly to Vietnam veterans. The first phase focused on establishing the Virtual Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech. The second phase focused on expanding the Archive to include other private collections and non-government collections. The requested funding will be used for the final phase which focuses on including selected government documentary collections, which are not currently scheduled for digitization by the National Archives.

FY 2009 funding will be used to reproduce the documents contained in Record Group 472; ship documents to the Vietnam Archives at Texas Tech; digitize documents; and make documents freely available online to the American people and to researchers throughout the nation and around the globe.

#### TRIBUTE TO CAROL PETERSON

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 23, 2009*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Carol Peterson, a resident of Mason City, Iowa, from her position as CEO of Allied Purchasing.

Carol began working at Allied Purchasing in 1963 when males dominated the industry. However, she took the challenge head on, starting at Allied running the press and doing printing jobs. Within 10 years, she was promoted to account manager and received a business degree from North Iowa Area Community College. After receiving an additional promotion to sales manager, she received a graduate degree from Syracuse University in sales and marketing. In 1989, Carol became vice president of sales before becoming the company's third CEO in 1995—a position she held until her recent retirement.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in congratulating Carol Peterson for her groundbreaking achievements and thanking her for her hard work and dedication to her job and community. I wish Carol the very best in her retirement.

#### TRIBUTE TO NADIA TORKZADEH

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 23, 2009*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the patronage of Nadia Torkzadeh, a resident of Waukee, Iowa who was named one of the top two youth volunteers in Iowa for 2009.

Nadia was selected to receive the Prudential Spirit of Community Award due to her extraordinary work as a philanthropist. More than 5,000 state youths were reviewed by an independent judging panel to receive the award. The judges made their decisions based on criteria such as personal initiative, creativity, effort, impact and personal growth. This is an extraordinary honor and Nadia will receive a bronze medallion at a local ceremony.

I know my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in congratulating the philanthropy and selflessness of Nadia Torkzadeh. I consider it an honor to represent in Congress young people like Nadia who make a difference in Iowa.

#### TRIBUTE TO JESSICA STAKEY

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 23, 2009*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the patronage of Jessica Stakey, a resident of Kamrar, Iowa who was named one of the top two youth volunteers in Iowa for 2009.

Jessica was selected to receive the Prudential Spirit of Community Award due to her ex-

traordinary work as a philanthropist. More than 5,000 state youths were reviewed by an independent judging panel to receive the award. The judges made their decisions based on criteria such as personal initiative, creativity, effort, impact and personal growth. This is an extraordinary honor and Jessica will receive a bronze medallion at a local ceremony.

I know my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in congratulating the philanthropy and selflessness of Jessica Stakey. I consider it an honor to represent in Congress young people like Jessica who make a difference in Iowa.

#### HONORING MR. REAGAN LEE

### HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 23, 2009*

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Reagan Lee on his impressive first place finish at the 81st annual National FFA Convention, where he won the Botany Division. Reagan lives in Winter Haven and is currently a student in the International Baccalaureate program at Bartow High School.

Reagan's research project focused on the extent of potassium's role in plant nutrition. By measuring transpiration rates and sodium-ion concentration in plants, he found that sodium can actually be substituted for potassium in regulating plant transpiration.

Drawn to the issue because of Florida's nutrient-deficient soil, Reagan hopes his research will have meaningful and practical applications for Florida agriculture. Reagan's research and initiative exemplifies how hard work and creativity can reap personal and public benefits.

It also demonstrates the great opportunities and experience that programs like FFA provide for our young people. FFA is an important tool for teaching our children about agriculture and giving them an opportunity to challenge each other to come up with innovative solutions that could have a positive impact on the public. As a former participant in the Florida 4-H program and a member of the FFA, I truly understand and appreciate the importance of these programs, as well as how difficult these competitions are to win.

I applaud Reagan for this significant achievement, and invite my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in wishing him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

#### TERRORIST ATTACKS IN ALGERIA

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 23, 2009*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I wish to offer my condolences and deepest sympathies to the citizens of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and the families of those who have been killed in recent terrorist attacks in that nation. Just today we have heard that nine security guards were murdered while on duty at an electricity facility near Ziana Mansouriah.