

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING GULFPORT, FLORIDA
POLICE CHIEF G. CURT WILLOCKS

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to G. Curt Willocks, the Police Chief of Gulfport, Florida, who retires after 18 years of service to the people of Gulfport and 38 years in law enforcement.

Chief Willocks was selected to lead the Gulfport Police Department in January 1991 and since then made his priority the development of modern professional standards in law enforcement. Under his leadership, the department earned state accreditation in 2000 and was re-accredited in 2003. He also led a department-wide effort to incorporate the newest technologies into the force's daily work. This includes bringing to Gulfport in-car, digital video recorders and computers.

Chief Willocks also worked hard to improve the process for selecting and training new officers, ensuring that all officers received training that exceeded the state's minimum requirements, and raising the education standards for applicants. More than one-third of all Gulfport officers have a bachelor's degree.

Before coming to Gulfport, Chief Willocks served for 20 years on the Boca Raton, Florida police force, retiring there as Deputy Chief. He has been active in many local and state-wide law enforcement organizations, including serving as President of the Tampa Bay Area Chiefs of Police Association, Chairman of the Pinellas County Police Standards Council, Director of the Florida Police Chief's Association, as a member of the Commission for Florida's Law Enforcement Accreditation, and on the Policy Board for the Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute.

Madam Speaker, Chief Willocks has served our community and our state well. He has instilled pride and the highest standards in the officers who protect our residents, their families and their places of work with dedication and professionalism. It is my hope that my colleagues join me today in thanking Chief G. Curt Willocks for a job well done.

CONGRATULATING THE GRAND
OPENING OF THE MCAULIFFE-
SHEPARD DISCOVERY CENTER

HON. PAUL W. HODES

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. HODES. Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center in Concord, New Hampshire today on its official opening. The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center honors two of New Hampshire's pioneers—Christa McAuliffe, the winner of the NASA Teacher in Space Project, and

Alan Shepard, the first American in space. The incredible courage and curiosity of these two Granite Staters allowed for them to reach for the stars.

Christa McAuliffe taught middle school and high school students at Rundlett Junior High, Bow Memorial Middle School, and Concord High School between 1978 and 1985. On July 19, 1985, she was selected from a field of roughly 11,000 applicants to participate in NASA's Teacher in Space Project. Christa McAuliffe's mission on the flight was to teach schoolchildren lessons from space, and to encourage students to pursue careers in science and mathematics. Sadly, in 1986, her life was cut tragically short in the *Challenger* disaster, but her legacy of teaching children is remembered by her quote, "I touch the future. I teach."

Christa McAuliffe's incredible commitment to teaching is being honored by the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center. This interactive center will be the first air and space center in New England. The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center honors her life as well as her dedication to education.

On May 5, 1961, Alan Shepard piloted the *Freedom 7* mission and became the first American to travel into space. Alan Shepard also commanded the *Apollo 14* mission, and was the fifth person to walk on the moon. Following his incredible work with NASA for over 13 years, he has been honored in many different ways including the Congressional Space Medal of Honor, two NASA Distinguished Service Medals, the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal, Naval Astronaut Wings, the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, and the Distinguished Flying Cross. The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center is another wonderful way to honor his service to our country.

I would also like to applaud the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center's dedication to green building and energy efficiency. According to the Department of Energy, buildings are responsible for 39% of U.S. carbon emissions per year and account for 39% of U.S. primary energy use. By incorporating natural lighting and energy efficient HVAC systems, the Center is helping decrease total carbon emission. It also highlights how important it is for all of us to preserve our energy, resources and planet.

The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center is a great opportunity for Concord and New Hampshire to have a facility that can be a national leader in introducing the next generation to space exploration and provide a valuable education resource to both students and teachers in science, math, engineering, and technology. Education is one of the best investments we can make for our children. It provides an increasingly important advantage in the workplace and helps our students to succeed in the 21st Century. Education, and science, math, engineering, and technology education in particular, should be within the reach of all children. The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center helps us towards that goal.

I am honored and humbled by the incredible legacy of these two astronauts from New Hampshire, and congratulate the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center on its grand opening.

A TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST AARON
DRAKE SANDLIN

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to Specialist Aaron Drake Sandlin, a constituent of the Sixth District of Georgia and one of the many Americans who serve in our Nation's Armed Forces with honor and valor.

MY SOLDIER—ONLY YESTERDAY

(By T. Maxwell Sandlin)

Only yesterday—the pregnancy test was positive
And your mom's face glowed
Then you were born healthy
And my pride showed—only yesterday.
Only yesterday—late feedings kept us up nights
And you oed and coed at Christmas lights,
As in your car seat you saw the sights—only yesterday.
Only yesterday—I snapped your picture
As you slept like a log;
With a little stuffed toy
Called Brownie Dog—only yesterday.
Only yesterday—selling popcorn for the Scouts
Day after day you went all out.
We shed a tear—the both of us,
As you got on that yellow bus—only yesterday.
Only yesterday—crayon artwork on refrigerator
Drawn by the masterpiece that I would later
Share with the nation in a cause greater;
But, we didn't know it then—only yesterday.
Only yesterday—along a river at a family camp
As you got to know cousins, uncles and aunts,
And those veteran uncles in the firelight glow,
Their WWII stories told—only yesterday.
Only yesterday—we faced the coming teenage years
With their pitfalls, trials and fears.
You grew so fast you stripped your gears—only yesterday!
Only yesterday—driving in your first used car,
The leash got longer
And you drove far
I saw you son as a rising star:
Becoming a man—only yesterday
Only yesterday—you were bringing us papers from Sunday School
And memorizing the Golden Rule.
Hiking these mountains and swimming in pools.
You can't be grown. . . it was only yesterday!!

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Only yesterday—they called your name and you came down
 You and your brother in your caps and gowns,
 All those years we couldn't wait.
 Your mom and I saw you graduate—only yesterday.
 Only yesterday—as I rehearse
 Your mother, well, she knew it first
 That after thinking about it hard
 You told her you joined the Army National Guard!!
 She knew I'd be proud and so I was—only yesterday.
 Only yesterday—you went to boot camp at the fort,
 And you did not sell yourself short
 You joined the army at a time of war,
 Like your family that went on before—only yesterday.
 All those yesterdays we enjoyed
 Only yesterday—we learned you were being deployed,
 To fight those who attempt to destroy. . . .
 Those yesterdays . . .
 Only yesterday—I'll say it over and over:
 Only yesterday—it was me and my Cub Scout
 And today it was me and my soldier!!!

**HONORING LEONARD AND ADELE
 BLUMBERG OF BRIDGEWATER,
 NEW JERSEY**

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Leonard and Adele Blumberg of Bridgewater, New Jersey. For over seven decades, Leonard and Adele Blumberg have worked hard day and night to make a difference in their community and help others.

In fact, there are dozens of New Jersey civic, social welfare, educational, artistic and religious organizations that have benefited from their hard work, dedication and selfless sacrifices to help those in need.

On Sunday, March 15, 2009 Temple Shalom in Bridgewater, New Jersey will honor Leonard and Adele during a special tribute ceremony for their remarkable and enduring lifelong contribution to communities throughout Central New Jersey.

Over the years, the Bloombergs have helped the Bridgewater Township Welfare Board, Somerset County United Way, People-Care Center, Somerset County Homemaker Service, American Red Cross, Somerset Valley Visiting Nurse Association, Somerset County Heart Association, Somerville Rotary Club, Education Foundation of Bridgewater, Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties, The Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center and Temple Shalom.

Because of their exceptional community outreach efforts, Temple Shalom established the Leonard and Adele Blumberg Community Outreach Fund. The fund will be used to augment the Temple's existing and future community outreach programs to aid the needy in Somerset County.

It gives me great pleasure to share the remarkable efforts of Leonard and Adele Blumberg with my colleagues in the United States Congress and with the American peo-

ple. I am also honored to join Temple Shalom at this special event recognizing their outstanding service to our community.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
 OF MRS. SUE WILK**

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Sue Wilk upon receiving the Women of Westland's 2009 ATHENA Award. The ATHENA Award recognizes individuals who have attained and personified the highest level of professional excellence in their business or profession, have devoted time and energy to the community in a meaningful way, and have opened the door of leadership opportunity for women.

Throughout her distinguished career, Sue has been committed to her community. Mrs. Wilk serves as the Department Chair for School Social Workers for the Wayne-Westland Community School District, where she affords her students the means and opportunities to be successful by offering personal and academic guidance. As the first female social worker assigned to the William D. Ford Career-Technical Center, she focuses on providing encouragement to young women interested in pursuing careers in non-traditional and male dominated fields.

Sue's community service activities focus on assisting student groups, families, and the underprivileged, as evidenced by her position as Vice-President of the Monroe High School Band Boosters, involvement in the Family Resource Center in Wayne-Westland, and participation as a Bell Ringer for the Salvation Army. Mrs. Wilk has accrued numerous accolades for her service including a special recognition from Wayne County acknowledging her efforts on behalf of children. She was also named Ancillary Professional of the Year by Wayne County RESA, and listed as "Who's Who Among American Teachers."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending sincere congratulations to this year's ATHENA Award winner, Sue Wilk, for her dedication to professional excellence and passionate leadership in her community and country.

**HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR
 HOMES ACT OF 2009**

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1106) to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1106, Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009.

Across our country, millions of responsible homeowners are facing foreclosure. Some reports indicate there could be up to 6 million

families currently in danger of losing their homes. Although the foreclosure crisis has not been as pronounced in my state as in some others, North Carolina has seen one of the fastest rises in unemployment in the country, with a rate of 8.2% earlier this year. These job losses will risk damaging neighborhoods and towns across the state by placing more families at risk of defaulting on mortgages. H.R. 1106 will ensure that lending institutions work with borrowers to help keep Americans in their homes to strengthen the housing market, which is critical for our nation's economic recovery.

H.R. 1106 takes steps to address this crisis and help families across the country. This bill will help millions of struggling homeowners re-finance or restructure their mortgages. H.R. 1106 reforms the Hope for Homeowners initiative by lowering fees and providing \$1,000 to servicers that participate. This will make the initiative more attractive to lenders and more effective in reaching the many families seeking help. H.R. 1106 provides "safe harbor" for mortgage lenders so that they can modify mortgages without the threat of lawsuits from the secondary mortgage market. In addition, this bill would protect consumers' savings by permanently increasing the amount of federal deposit insurance savings in banks or credit unions from \$100,000 to \$250,000.

H.R. 1106 also contains a provision that would allow for the modification of some mortgages under the terms of Chapter 13 bankruptcy. Current law allows for a bankruptcy judge to adjust the principal on all secured loans except for those on primary residences. Provisions in H.R. 1106 ensure that people can afford their mortgage. The bill also stipulates that judicial modification should only be employed as a last resort for saving a family's home. Only existing mortgage loans are eligible, and a judge is required to consider whether all other options are exhausted before changing the principal of a home loan. Finally, this bill ensures that if a borrower gets relief through this mortgage relief initiative and then sells their home for a profit, the lender is able to recoup a sizable portion of that profit. This is a key provision to incentivize lenders to work with at-risk borrowers who are seeking help through mortgage modification initiatives.

In order to get our struggling economy back on track, we must address the foreclosure crisis, one of the main factors that precipitated this recession. Not only are foreclosures devastating to individual families, but their effect ripples throughout the economy, hurting manufacturers and construction firms, dropping consumer spending and confidence, and cutting the value of neighboring homes. H.R. 1106 is an important step to deal with this crisis.

I support H.R. 1106, Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for its passage.

**EXTEND CERTAIN IMMIGRATION
 PROGRAMS**

SPEECH OF

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1127. I oppose

this legislation, not due to a lack of merit, but because many members of this body have sought relief for an equally vital visa issue—the H-2B Visa program.

The H-2B Visa program was designed to provide access to nonimmigrant, temporary workers for seasonal needs when no American workers can be found. These foreign workers offer short-term assistance and return to their home country at the end of their season. H-2B visas are capped at 66,000 per year. This still does not meet the needs for small businesses. In fact, the 2009 cap was met within the first week of January.

I have previously called upon the leadership of the Congress to address this urgent need in districts like mine across the country. To the detriment of so many of the small businesses that are the engine of our economy, this issue is ensnared in the broader immigration debate and no action has been taken to date.

In the absence of such a consensus, I respectfully oppose this bill and ask my colleagues to join me in supporting and calling for a vote on H.R. 1136, the "Save Our Small and Seasonal Businesses Act," introduced by my friend from Michigan, Mr. STUPAK.

During these difficult economic times, we cannot leave our small businesses with few options and even fewer workers.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS. JESSIE WADE, ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Mrs. Jessie Wade, a long time Michigan resident and teacher, upon her 100th birthday.

Jessie Wade was born in Detroit, Michigan on March 6, 1909 to a large family of two brothers and three sisters. In 1926, she graduated from Southwestern High School and subsequently worked her way through college. Jessie attended Wayne University for two years and in 1931 graduated from Michigan State Normal College, currently known as Eastern Michigan University. In the midst of the Great Depression, Jessie struggled to find fulltime employment. Coming from a family of educators, Jessie devoted her life to Detroit-area students as a teacher with the Detroit Public Schools through World War II and until her retirement. Jessie married Starr Wade on April 7, 1931 at the Dearborn Inn and spent 49 wonderful years with him until his passing. Jessie and Starr were blessed with one daughter, Linda, who tragically passed away on November 3, 1945 leaving her three children in their care.

Jessie Wade is a life-long educator and a fulltime grandmother and great-grandmother to her three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Jessie has lived for the past twenty year in the Silver Village retirement community in Livonia, Michigan. She has been an active and founding member of Grosse Pointe Congregational Church. Although she had to give up driving at the age of 96, Jessie has remained a very independent and active member of her community.

Madam Speaker, admired by all who know her, Jessie Wade has enriched and inspired

everyone she has touched throughout her life. As Jessie celebrates her 100th birthday today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on reaching this spectacular milestone and honoring Jessie for her loyal service to her community and the country.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
BETTY McCRARY MCCORQUODALE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Jackson and, indeed, the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor Betty McCrary McCorquodale and pay tribute to her memory.

A lifelong resident of Jackson, "Miss Betty" graduated from Jackson High School and attended Florida State University before marrying Joseph Charles McCorquodale Jr. In World War II, her husband served in the U.S. Army Air Corps, and during the time they were stationed in Big Spring, Texas Air Force Base, "Miss Betty" was selected as the Beauty Queen of the Cadet Corps. She also served as president of the Cadet Wives Club.

In 1959, Mr. McCorquodale was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives. "Miss Betty" was actively involved during his 23 years in the Alabama Legislature. She helped organize the Legislative Wives Club and served one year as its president. She was also instrumental in having replicas of the original gas lights installed in the lobby of the entrance to the Alabama Capitol building as well as in the House chamber.

"Miss Betty" was a founding member of the Jackson Woman's Club and served as its first president. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Jackson where she taught Sunday school classes.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Betty McCrary McCorquodale will be dearly missed by her family—her husband of 67 years, Joseph Charles McCorquodale Jr.; their two sons, Joseph Charles "Mac" McCorquodale III and Gaines Cowan McCorquodale; their four grandchildren, Elizabeth M. Percy, Joseph Charles McCorquodale IV, Martha Virginia "Ginny" Stewart, and Mary Helen Marks; seven great-grandchildren; her sister, Jean McCrary Payne; nieces, nephews; and other relatives—as well as the countless friends she leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

THE INCREASED STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH IN-
CREASED STUDENT SUPPORT
ACT

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Increased Student Achievement Through Increased Student Support Act.

With the No Child Left Behind Act dramatically increasing the pressure on teachers and administrators to improve test scores, too often we forget that students' academic success is also dependent on a number of other factors. For example, as students transition into adulthood, they experience social, emotional and behavioral needs that if unmet, impede academic success.

These diverse needs often cannot be met by already over-burdened teachers. Students need school counselors, school social workers and school psychologists. Yet, in low income neighborhoods, students lack these essential resources. Nationwide, the average student to counselor ratio is 475 to 1, nearly double the suggested 250 to 1 ratio. In California, the ratio is a dismal 920 to 1, the worst in the nation.

To help improve student performance and increase graduation rates, this bill would authorize funding to form partnerships between under-served school districts and higher education institutions that train school counselors, school social workers, and school psychologists. By increasing school support staff, we can address children's out-of-the-classroom needs so that when they're in the classroom, they can be safe, engaged, and achieving their full potential. The students of low-income neighborhoods deserve the same opportunities as others for a productive learning environment.

Today's children are the economic engine of our future. We must make certain all children have the opportunity to develop academically and socially, and all schools have the resources to achieve this goal. Academic success does not come when children are hungry, bullied, traumatized, or depressed. We need more personnel to help address and alleviate these issues so that all children, no matter what their economic situation is, can focus on math, reading, and science. This is why I urge my colleagues to invest in our children and our future by supporting the Increased Student Achievement Through Increased Student Support Act.

COMMENDING THE WORK OF THE
STATE DEPARTMENT'S HUMAN
RIGHTS OFFICERS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to share with our colleagues a letter I sent to the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL) following the successful rollout of the 2009 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

These sweeping reports reflect the hard work of hundreds of human rights officers in Washington and abroad. I would like to thank, by name, the DRL staff people without whom this report would not have been possible. Specifically the editorial staff of the Country Reports Team consisting of: Editor in Chief Stephen Eisenbraun; Office Directors: Bruce Connuck, Kay Mayfield, and Michael Orona; Senior Editors: Jonathan Bemis, Douglas B. Dearborn, Daniel Dolan, Jerome L. Hoganson, Patricia Meeks Schnell, Julie Turner, and Rachel Waldstein; Editors: Naim Ahmed, Sabrina

Bahir, Joseph S. Barghout, Katherine Berglund, Sarah Beringer, Alisha Bhagat, Sarah Buckley, Laura Carey, Elise Carlson-Rainer, Ebenezer Concepcion, Sharon C. Cooke, Susan Corke, Stuart Crampton, Frank B. Crump, Mollie Davis, Cortney Dell, Morton Dworken, Jennifer Evans, Verinda Fike, Joan Garner, Karen Gilbride, Jeffrey Glassman, Edward Grulich, Cheryl Harris, Patrick Harvey, Matthew Hickey, Alexandra Hoey, Victor Huser, Stan Ifshin, Sami Jiries, Simone Joseph, Jennifer King, Jane Kim, Sidney Kewir, Lawrence Lesser, Jessica Lieberman, Katie McLain, John McKane, Michael McKenna, Gregory Maggio, Jessica Megill, Nicole Morales, David Mikosz, Leonel Miranda, Stephen E. Moody, Jennie Munoz, Sandra Murphy, Daniel L. Nadel, Catherine Newling, Susan O'Sullivan, Meredith Pierce, Drue Preissman, Peter Sawchyn, Amy Schmisser, Wendy Silverman, Erin Spitzer, Rachel Spring, Brian Stout, James Todd, Rachel Waldstein, Nicole Willett, Mikel Wood, and Isabelle Zsoldos; Contributing Editor: Lynne Davidson; Editorial Assistants: Adrienne Bory, Karen Chen, Carol Finerty, Elizabeth Mokaba, and Kimberly Jorgensen; and Technical Assistant Eunice Johnson.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 2, 2009.

Ms. KAREN STEWART,
Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, Washington DC.

DEAR MS. STEWART: I write following the successful rollout of the 2009 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. I know that this exhaustive report which catalogues human rights abuses globally is the result of countless hours of hard work on the part of human rights officers in DRL and in American embassies abroad. I also know that the final product often comes after hard fought battles within the building.

I ask that you share with your staff and with human rights officers the world over my profound appreciation for their efforts. At times I know it can seem a thankless task. But the efforts of your bureau to speak truth to power and to be a voice for the voiceless brings hope and makes a difference to millions.

You have my profound thanks. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, today, I will be absent from votes in the House, as I will be travelling to Ohio with the President to discuss the economic challenges facing my home state of Ohio.

The most recent unemployment numbers only underscore the clear and glaring need for economic revitalization in my district. I look forward to sharing the perspective of Appalachian Ohio with the President and discussing how we can move forward with plans that offer new opportunity for the people I represent.

This cooperation will be critical to steering our nation's economy back on track.

I will return to the House for any scheduled votes this afternoon.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF FORMER ALABAMA GOVERNOR GUY HUNT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the memory of former Alabama Governor Guy Hunt. Our nation lost a wonderful friend and an individual who made numerous contributions toward the betterment of our state.

A native of Holly Pond, Alabama, Governor Hunt enlisted in the United States Army upon graduation from Holly Pond High School and served in the Korean War. Following his discharge in 1956, he returned to Alabama where he operated an egg farm. In 1958, he was ordained a Primitive Baptist minister.

Governor Hunt's political career began in 1962 when he ran for a seat in the Alabama Senate. He lost the election; however, in 1964, he was elected probate judge of Cullman County becoming the youngest probate judge in Alabama. Honoring a campaign promise, he stepped down after two terms.

He was also active in the Republican Party, serving as state chairman of Ronald Reagan's presidential campaigns in 1976 and 1980. He also chaired Alabama's Republican delegations at the 1976 and 1980 Republican National Conventions.

After President Reagan won election in 1980, he appointed Governor Hunt state director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee. He served on the committee until 1985 when he stepped down to run for governor.

Winning the 1986 election with the most votes ever for a gubernatorial candidate at that time, he became Alabama's first Republican chief executive since Reconstruction. His election to the governor's office is credited with creating a two-party system in the state. Governor Hunt was re-elected in 1990.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering this dedicated public servant. Guy Hunt will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Anne Smith Hunt; two sons, Keith Hunt and his wife Heather, and Cary Smith and his wife Jayne; five daughters, Pamela Hunt, Sherrie Williams, Lynn Harris and her husband Doug, Judy Gurley and her husband Mike, and Lois Swindal and her husband Bruce; 16 grandchildren, Nigel Hunt, Nolan Hunt, Ashley Hunt, Kayla Hunt, Samuel Hunt, Heath Williams, Eric Williams, Kelly Williams, Raygen Catoe, Dusty Kanute, Dawn Brantley, Rachel Gurley, Caryanne Swindal, Bradley Swindal, Joshua Swindal, and Anna Grace Swindal; and eight great-grandchildren, Bonnie Catoe, Katelyn Kanute, Cale Kanute, William Brantley, Parker Brantley, Levi Hunt, Skye Hunter, and Helen Anne Williams—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR HOMES ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1106) to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability:

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 1106, the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009.

Mr. Chair, my congressional district, like districts all across the nation, has been hit hard by the foreclosure crisis. In 2007 Los Angeles County had a foreclosure rate of 12%. In 2008 this number had jumped to 35%. Worse yet, while many parts of the country have already received the full brunt of the foreclosure crisis, experts agree that the full force of the crisis has yet to reach Los Angeles.

I have been concerned that previous congressional efforts to stabilize the economy and help my Los Angeles constituents have failed to address the root of the problem—defaulting mortgages.

I am pleased that the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act will make substantive reforms to end the rising tide of foreclosures and keep families in their homes.

Specifically, the measure will allow a judge to modify primary mortgages in the case of bankruptcy so that families can stay in their homes. Currently, when a family files for bankruptcy they can modify loans on second homes, and other property but not on their primary residence. It is widely recognized that judicial modification of mortgages on primary residences is one of the most significant things that we can do to keep families in their homes.

By encouraging homeowners to work out their loans before filing for bankruptcy, the measure ensures that bankruptcy still remains a measure of last resort. The bill will also adapt federal loan modification programs to make it easier for mortgage servicers to participate.

In addition, the bill begins to address a growing concern—the growing number of organizations that aim to profit off of families who are in crisis and at risk of losing their home. This problem is highly visible in my congressional district, and is a cause of great concern. The measure increases oversight over the FHA home mortgage insurance program to better ensure that predatory lenders are barred from participating.

Mr. Chair, this legislation is necessary to help our nation's path of recovery by addressing the cause of the economic crisis.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this critical measure that will keep our constituents in their homes.

HONORING VICE PRESIDENT WALTER MONDALE ON HIS DECORATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize former Vice President Walter Mondale as he receives the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Paulownia Flowers from the Government of Japan. This prestigious decoration is the highest honor given to foreign civilians by the Japanese government and is being bestowed to Vice President Mondale for his contribution to enhancing friendship and mutual understanding between Japan and the United States as U.S. Ambassador to Japan from 1993 to 1996.

No public servant is more deserving of this honor than my friend and fellow Minnesotan Walter Mondale. For five decades, Minnesotans have supported the man they warmly call "Fritz" as he served as Vice President of the United States under President Carter, Minnesota's U.S. Senator from 1964 to 1976, and State Attorney General. His contributions in areas including education, social justice and international human rights have forever changed Minnesota, our nation and the world.

Walter Mondale's career in public service is distinguished, however, not by the greatness of his titles, but by the goodness of his heart. He used his positions of authority to tirelessly promote cross-cultural understanding, economic justice and civil rights. While his accomplishments are many, his greatest legacy may be the model of principled and diligent public service that continues to inspire America and fill Minnesotans with quiet pride.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me and all Minnesotans in congratulating Vice President Mondale on this distinct and much-deserved honor.

CONGRATULATING TRAY SMITH FOR BEING NAMED ATMORE'S "CITIZEN OF THE YEAR"

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise today to congratulate my friend Tray Smith of Atmore, Alabama, for being named Atmore's 2008 "Citizen of the Year." As evidenced by an outstanding list of accomplishments, he is one of the most exceptional young men I have ever known.

Tray has a love of people and an understanding of politics that is certainly beyond his years. As a freshman in high school, he was given an opportunity to write a weekly political column for The Atmore Advance. He has also been an active member of the Student Government Association, a member of the National Honor Society and helped start a recycling program at Escambia County High School. In addition, Tray is an Eagle Scout and last year helped more than 100 citizens register to vote, most of them being minorities.

Although I have known Tray for years, I have been especially proud of some of his

more recent accomplishments. As you may know, Governor Bob Riley chose Tray to be the first high school intern working in his office in Montgomery. Additionally, as part of the Junior Statesmen of American Summer program at Georgetown University, Tray also attended the 2008 Republican National Convention in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota. During both opportunities, Tray excelled in every way possible.

Last year, however, I was especially proud to nominate Tray to serve as a page in the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, DC. This is an honor that falls on only a select few high school juniors from throughout the nation; needless to say, he made me proud every day that I saw him on the floor of the U.S. Congress, and he has made south Alabama proud countless times as well.

Tray's list of accomplishments reads more like someone who is three or four times his age. Suffice it to say, he truly represents the very best of our young people today. Perhaps the highest compliment I can pay Tray is that as a father of a teenage daughter and an 11-year-old son, I can only hope that my children will one day have the maturity, the value system and the sense of priorities as they continue to grow-up that Tray has. There couldn't be a better role-model for them—or for our other young people—than Tray Smith.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the proud citizens of the First Congressional District and the entire state of Alabama, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Tray Smith on this tremendous achievement. I know I speak for all my colleagues in the House of Representatives when I say we can't wait to see what he accomplishes in the next 18 years of his life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am respectfully writing to you so that it is acknowledged, had I been present to vote on H. Res. 153 "Commending the University of Southern California Trojan football team for its victory in the 2009 Rose Bowl" my vote would have been cast in support of this resolution.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Republican Conference standards, I am submitting the following information for publication concerning a project included at my request in the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus.

Requesting Member: JIM JORDAN (Fourth Ohio District)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: United States Army Corps of Engineers, Section 205 (Flood Damage Reduction)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: United States Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District

Address of Requesting Entity: 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, New York 14207

Description of Request: The City of Findlay, Ohio, saw three of its worst floods in history in just a 13-month period in 2007–8. These floods devastated the city, causing significant damage to the downtown business district and displacing hundreds of residents. The Army Corps of Engineers has worked diligently since the January 2007 flood toward developing flood damage reduction plans; the feasibility study is on schedule for completion in 2010.

I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

HONORING THE GOOD DEEDS OF BEVERLY YOUNG

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the valor of someone who is no stranger to good deeds and heroic actions. For those of us who have the pleasure of knowing her, Beverly Young is an activist at heart, and a go-getter by reputation.

Beverly, wife of our good friend and colleague BILL YOUNG, has never backed down from an obstacle or challenge standing in her way. She is universally recognized for getting things done.

On a US Airways flight from Tampa, FL to Washington, DC this week, an elderly woman collapsed in the airplane lavatory and lost consciousness. When no one with medical training stepped forward to help, Beverly, a former firefighter and medic, rushed to her side. Using her skills in CPR, Beverly revived the woman and remained with her to make sure she kept awake and alert.

Others on the flight that day probably thought that this was just the one-time act of a Good Samaritan. But for those of us who know her, her quick action to help someone in need was far from ordinary.

Madam Speaker, since the beginning of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Beverly Young has been a fixture in the halls of our nation's military medical centers. She's not there to receive fanfare or to seek recognition; she's there to support the thousands of our nation's best and brightest who have been injured serving our great country.

Beverly is not an occasional visitor; she is there constantly for these young men and women and their families, becoming as familiar to them as anyone else they encounter during their recovery. She listens to each and every one of them, and she makes sure that they get what they need, whether it's food or supplies or fighting the Washington bureaucracy on their behalf.

Madam Speaker, our country is a better place because of people like Beverly Young. Her selfless service has earned her the respect and gratitude of all those she has helped, and all those who have witnessed her good deeds in action.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, "Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009."

Requesting Member: Congresswoman JEAN SCHMIDT

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Project Name: Ohio Riverfront, Cincinnati, Ohio

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Construction General

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: "The City of Cincinnati"

Address of Requesting Entity: 950 Eden Park Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$2,871,000 to begin construction of Phase I of the project, including a flood-tolerant, stabilized river bank that will become a riverfront park linking central riverfront attractions to Downtown Cincinnati. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Army Corps of Engineers, Construction account [PL 110-114, Section 5116 (WRDA 2007)]. The City of Cincinnati will match this funding 50-50 and has thus far provided \$11.97 million toward this project. The State of Ohio has also appropriated \$1.75 million for the project.

Requesting Member: Congresswoman JEAN SCHMIDT

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Project Name: Metropolitan Region of Cincinnati, Duck Creek, Ohio

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Construction General

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: "The City of Cincinnati" and "Village of Fairfax"

Address of Requesting Entity: 950 Eden Park Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio and 5903 Hawthorne Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$3,828,000 to continue construction of 100-year level of flood protection to existing commercial, industrial, and residential areas along Duck Creek. This request is consistent with the authority provided by WRDA 2000 (PL 106-541) and the intended and authorized purpose of the Army Corps of Engineers, Construction account.

Requesting Member: Congresswoman JEAN SCHMIDT

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Project Name: Ohio Environmental Infrastructure, OH: Village of St. Martin, Ohio

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Construction, Section 594, Ohio Environmental Infrastructure

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: "Village of St. Martin"

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 213, Fayetteville, Ohio 45118

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$200,000 to replace the wastewater treatment plant serving the Brown County Ursuline School for Girls, Chatfield College and 27 neighboring residences. The treatment plant is mandated by the EPA to be replaced by June 1, 2010. This request is consistent with the

authorized purpose of the Ohio Environmental Infrastructure account (Section 594). The Village is prepared to provide 50 percent of the total project cost. Funds will be used for engineering (\$48,000); preliminary engineering (\$5,000); design (\$22,500); and construction (\$326,000).

Requesting Member: Congresswoman JEAN SCHMIDT

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Project Name: Rankin House State Memorial

Account: National Park Service, Save America's Treasures

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: "Ohio Historical Society"

Address of Requesting Entity: 1982 Velma Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43211

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$150,000 to preserve and restore the Rankin House. Funds will be used for exterior trim and brick repair (\$28,000); restoration of dining room and bedroom woodwork (\$43,000); conserve parlor mural (\$50,000); interior painting (\$30,000); new HVAC system (\$25,000); upgrade electrical system (\$12,000); plumbing repair (\$3,000); security system upgrades (\$9,000); relocate utilities to house underground (\$30,000); reproduction floor coverings, wallpapers, drapes, bed coverings (\$75,000); and conservation of furniture and painting (\$60,000). This request is consistent with the authorized purpose of the Save America's Treasures account.

Requesting Member: Congresswoman JEAN SCHMIDT

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Project Name: Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati, Eastern/Delta Sewer Separation Project

Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: "Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati"

Address of Requesting Entity: 1600 Gest Street, Cincinnati, OH 45204

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$500,000 to separate sanitary sewage from storm water flows in order to reduce the amount of combined sewer overflow (CSO) volume discharged to the Ohio River. \$1 million authorization in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007. This is part of MSD's Wet Weather Improvement Plan (WWIP) to comply with the federally-mandated consent decree for combined sewer overflows (CSO) and sanitary sewer overflows (SSO). The agreement between MSD and various regulatory authorities, including the United States Environmental Protection Agency, was codified into two Consent Decrees entered in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio on June 9, 2004. The total cost of the WWIP is estimated to be nearly \$2.0B (in 2006 dollars) and has been funded thus far by the MSD rate payers. Implementation of this project would reduce the volume of untreated combined sewage entering the Ohio River by 13 million gallons per year. This request is consistent with the authorized purpose of the STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure account.

Requesting Member: Congresswoman JEAN SCHMIDT

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Project Name: Shawnee State University for an Immersive Technology and Arts Center

Account: Small Business Administration

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: "Shawnee State University"

Address of Requesting Entity: 940 Second Street, Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$300,000 for an Immersive Technology and Arts Center at Shawnee State University (ITAC). ITAC will house a motion capture lab and advanced video and sound editing studios to create a fully-realized virtual environment. ITAC will play a prominent role in attracting national and international professionals and businesses to the area, fostering the development of locally owned companies and supplementing a strong high-tech education at the University. ITAC emphasizes local partnerships and will be part of a regional collaboration of businesses and institutions of higher education working to cultivate the intellectual and financial capital to create a high-tech economic base in the Southern Ohio region. Funding will be used for 30 computer workstations, proprietary software, and furniture (\$270,000) and staffing for one year (\$100,000). This request is consistent with the authorized purpose of the Small Business Administration account.

Requesting Member: Congresswoman JEAN SCHMIDT

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Project Name: Clermont County Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force

Account: OJP—Byrne Discretionary Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: "Clermont County Sheriff's Office"

Address of Requesting Entity: 4470 State Route 222, Batavia, Ohio 45103-9777

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$230,000 for the Clermont County Drug Unit, a multi-jurisdictional narcotics task force formed in 1988. Funds will supplement local resources to provide for personnel and operations. The mission of the unit is to identify, investigate and arrest mid and upper echelon narcotics violators who otherwise would operate across jurisdictional boundaries with impunity. Funds will support personnel (\$289,646) and operations (\$77,008). This request is consistent with the authorized purpose of the OJP, Byrne Discretionary Grants account.

Requesting Member: Congresswoman JEAN SCHMIDT

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Project Name: Cincinnati Communications Equipment

Account: COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: "City of Cincinnati"

Address of Requesting Entity: Regional Computer Center/Communications Technology Services, 805 Central Avenue, Suite 310, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$1,270,000 to implement 800MHz radios for non-public safety agencies in the City of Cincinnati so they can communicate with public safety agencies, and to eliminate the need to replace aging (20+ years old) UHF/VHF equipment because of federal (FCC) mandates related to narrowbanding. Total project cost is \$2.5 million, including \$100,000 personnel, engineering, and design and \$2.4 million for equipment. This request is consistent with the authorized purpose of the COPS Law Enforcement Technology account.

Requesting Member: Congresswoman JEAN SCHMIDT

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Project Name: Eastgate Area Improvements, Clermont County, Ohio

Account: Transportation, Community, and System Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: "Clermont County Transportation Improvement District"

Address of Requesting Entity: 175 E. Main Street—Suite 150, Batavia, OH 45103

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$570,000 for Eastgate Area Improvements (Local Network Improvements-Segments IV and IVa) including Preliminary Engineering/Environmental Impact Studies (PE/EIS) and related activities to develop and construct projects consistent with appropriate federal project development and ODOT requirements. Total project cost is \$2.5 million. Seeking \$2 million in federal support with non-federal/local match of \$500,000. This request is consistent with the authorized purpose of the Transportation, Community, and System Preservation account.

Requesting Member: Congresswoman JEAN SCHMIDT

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Project Name: Village of Morrow, Morrow, Ohio

Account: Economic Development Initiatives

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: "Village of Morrow"

Address of Requesting Entity: 150 E Pike Street, Morrow, Ohio 45152

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$237,500 for streetscape improvements to help revitalize Morrow's central business district and support economic development. Elements of the project include funding for street lighting (\$27,500), signage-façade (\$2,500), removal of existing walk (\$3,850), curb and gutter removal (\$4,950), removal and re-installation of traffic signs (\$2,625), storm pipe removal (\$8,800), engineering and design (\$34,000), relocate street utilities (\$25,000), pipe culverts (\$44,000), misc pipe culvert for drain basin (\$8,000), underdrains (\$7,040), ODOT Type 2 curb and gutter (\$22,000), concrete sidewalk (\$45,000), construction observation-inspection (\$10,000), seeding and mulching (\$2,775), and misc approaches—ADA ramps (\$12,500). The Village is prepared to provide \$25,000 or a 5 percent match of total project costs. This request is consistent with the authorized purpose of the Economic Development Initiatives account.

Requesting Member: Congresswoman JEAN SCHMIDT

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Project Name: Central Riverfront Street Grid

Account: Transportation, Community, and System Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: "City of Cincinnati"

Address of Requesting Entity: Department of Transportation and Engineering, 801 Plum Street, City Hall, Room 450, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$475,000 to design and construct pedestrian facilities, utility infrastructure, and other street improvements on Race Street in downtown Cincinnati. The CRF Street Grid Project provides the streets, sidewalks and utility infrastructure necessary to support the new Central Riverfront redevelopment, including the Paul Brown Stadium, the Great American Ballpark, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Central Riverfront Park, and The

Banks mixed-use development. The project augments Fort Washington Way by increasing mobility and providing roadway connections to accommodate localized access to and from Cincinnati's Central Business District and Central Riverfront areas, as well as the Northern Kentucky Riverfront. This request is consistent with the authorized purpose of the Transportation, Community, and System Preservation account.

TRIBUTE TO MR. DAN SHERMAN

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a compassionate labor leader and tireless worker, Dan Sherman, who has given 36 years of service to Wisconsin's energy industry.

Dan Sherman has worked as Forester, Line-man and Trouble Shooter for Wisconsin Electric Power Company. Mr. Sherman has given unprecedented service to Local 2150 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and during his tenure has served as Business Representative, Assistant Business Manager, and Business Manager for Local 2150.

Since 1987, Mr. Sherman has been a member of the State AFL-CIO Executive Board where his leadership has led to greater cooperation within organized labor, and forged stronger relationships with local, state, and federal officials on the importance of issues affecting working families. Mr. Sherman served on the Missouri Valley Board of Trustees that contributed to strong labor-management regarding industry performance, training and safety issues.

Mr. Sherman is a veteran having proudly served as a United States Marine. He is also a devoted family man, who together with his wife, Chris, has raised four children and has been blessed with seven grandchildren.

On March 13, 2009, Dan Sherman will be recognized and thanked for his many contributions to the citizens of Wisconsin and all of Wisconsin by family, friends and colleagues. In fact, Mr. Sherman continues to set a strong example to us all by displaying humor, grace and goodwill to all, in spite of extreme challenges to his own health.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to Mr. Dan Sherman for his contributions to the Fourth Congressional District and the State of Wisconsin. He has helped transform the lives of many people in our community.

CELEBRATING THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPRINTER

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the North County Transit District and the successful completion of the first year of service by the Sprinter. The Sprinter is a light commuter rail line operating between Oceanside and Escondido, California, United States.

The Sprinter is operated by the North County Transit District of Oceanside, the area's public transit agency and is the first passenger train service of any kind along the Escondido Branch since the Santa Fe Railroad discontinued passenger service in 1946. The Sprinter service has helped the San Diego region battle traffic congestion and pollution while providing a critical 22-mile route from Oceanside to Escondido, with 15 stops along the way.

The light rail on average services 7,300 weekday riders and ridership is increasing steadily. The Sprinter had over 2.3 million passengers in its very first year and has maintained a 99 percent on time performance. I am especially proud of the Sprinter's success during these difficult economic times. My congratulations go out to the entire Sprinter family and the North County Transit District team!

RECOGNIZING BEVERLY ECKERT'S SERVICE

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 201, recognizing the service of 9/11 widow Beverly Eckert who was killed aboard Continental Flight 3407 last month.

This resolution is a fitting memorial to the life and service of Beverly Eckert. After her husband, Sean Rooney, was killed in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, Beverly dedicated her life to keeping alive the memories of Sean and the nearly 3,000 others killed that day. It was my privilege in the dark days following 9/11 to meet Beverly and work with her to obtain justice for the families of those who were murdered.

I was deeply saddened to learn about the death of Beverly and so many others on that flight to Buffalo last month. She was truly an advocate for the 9/11 families, and her strength and resolve will be missed.

IN HONOR OF REV. DR. ANDREW DURGAN

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest sympathy in the passing of my dear friend Rev. Dr. Andrew Durgan. Over 60 years ago, Rev. Durgan began his radio ministry over the airways of my family's radio station, WWNR, becoming the first African American to host a weekly program. I am proud that my father created an opportunity which Rev. Durgan used as a launching pad for his ministry. Joining together with my dear friend, the late Helen Dobson, made them both a powerhouse in the community.

I was honored to be with Rev. Durgan as guest speaker for his 60th Anniversary of Broadcast Ministry and remember fondly the testimonies he shared concerning the goodness of the Lord. Rev. Durgan recounted the

seven battles he had witnessed during his time in the service and although he never knew if he would make it out alive, he held fast to the words of the old hymn, "The Lord will make a way Somehow." And though he may have had many storms in his life, he would say to his soul, Precious Lord, take my hand and lead me on, let me stand.

Now, Rev. Durgan has another testimony, his living was not in vain, because he helped somebody as he traveled along this way, all because of God's Amazing Grace. Rev. Durgan's legacy will live on for years to come to inspire others to Hold On to God's Unchanging Hand.

May God's blessing of peace be with you and may the memories of Rev. Durgan bring joy to your hearts.

CHINA'S ABUSES KNOW NO LIMITS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I bring to the attention of the House an interview conducted by the non-governmental organization (NGO) Human Rights in China. Upon her release from prison, Shaung Shuying, the 77-year old mother of house church pastor Hua Huiqi, recounted that she endured beatings and electric shock at the hands of her captors. She was the oldest inmate at Beijing Women's Prison where she served a two-year sentence.

This severe treatment of an elderly woman is evidence that the Chinese government is indiscriminate in its human rights abuses. Chinese officials truly know no limits.

[Feb. 13, 2009]

CASE UPDATE: ELDERLY ACTIVIST SHUANG SHUYING RELEASED; REPORTS ABUSES IN PRISON

Shuang Shuying, 77, evictions activist and mother of house church pastor Hua Huiqi, was released from the Beijing Women's Prison on Sunday morning, February 8, 2009. In an interview with HRIC on the day of her release, Shuang recounted the abuses she suffered in prison.

Shuang served a full two-year term on conviction of "intentional damage of public and private property" for striking an on-coming police car with a cane during a 2007 visit to a local government office to protest her son's detention.

On the afternoon of her release, Shuang went to visit her ailing husband, Hua Zaichen, 89, hospitalized at the Beijing Electricity Hospital since February 5. Hua passed away at 7:50 am the following morning, February 9, 2009.

Shuang and her family are longtime rights activists. She and her husband have spoken out against Reeducation-Through-Labor (RTL) and religious persecution. Their son, Hua Huiqi, has suffered numerous detentions, beatings, and threats for his activities as a house church pastor. In 2002, Shuang saw her Beijing home demolished to make way for Olympics redevelopment. Subsequently, the family had to relocate eight times.

At Beijing Women's Prison, Shuang was the oldest inmate, and endured beatings and electric shock. She suffered from diabetes, high blood pressure, cataracts, heart disease, and arthritis, but prison authorities denied her request for medical parole. According to her husband in 2008, Shuang was almost completely blind in both eyes due to the abuses inflicted upon her.

The following is Shuang's account of the abuses she suffered in prison.

[From HRIC interview with Shuang Shuying, Feb. 8, 2009]

SHUANG SHUYING: PRISON EXPERIENCE (Translation by HRIC)

When I first arrived at Block 11 of Beijing Women's Prison, officers from the Beijing Public Security Bureau came to ask me whether I thought the sentence was just. I said no.

During interrogations, I had to sit upright. If I sat a little askew, "pa!"—I would get slapped. The person who hit me was a 30-something female prison guard. There was also another prison guard, a 50-something woman named Yang. I had a sore on my buttocks, and it hurt a lot when I was sitting on a chair. If moved even slightly, they would pinch me and twist [my arms]. I still have marks on my arm.

Later, they stripped me completely naked and put me in a large room. Prison guard Yang said to me, "We just want to show your old, skanky skin."

During interrogations, if a mosquito bit my face, and I tried to swat it away with my hand, that 30-something prison guard would tell me not to move. They wouldn't allow me to explain. They would just say, "Where is it? How come we don't see anything?" And they would take the opportunity to slap my face.

After I was beaten by them, they wouldn't allow me to tell my son about the beating. They said, "When your son visits you, you'd better not talk nonsense. If you do, we'll stop your family visits. If you disobey us, we'll put you into the 'squatting cell' [solitary confinement], where it's hot in the summer and cold in the winter." Soon afterwards, they took me on a tour of a "squatting cell." The cell was extremely small; you cannot stand up or sit in there. And you eat, drink and shit in there. After that, I simply didn't dare tell my son about the beatings, as I was afraid that they would send me to the "squatting cell."

There were seven other prisoners in my cell. Sometimes, prison guard Yang would wake me up in middle of the night and say I was snoring, and that I shouldn't sleep. I'd say I wasn't snoring, but she wouldn't allow any talk back. One day, a cellmate beat me, and I asked: "Why did you beat me?" Prison guard Yang answered, next to us, "Hey, you're getting away easy this time. You don't have to ask her. She beat you because we ordered her to."

One day, Yang said, "Didn't you say you thought your sentence was not just? There are seven people in your cell. They are taking turns to torment you. We are not going to stop until you're tormented to death." Afterwards, when they let us go out for air, and I saw there were a lot of people upstairs and downstairs, I said to the people who were also let out for air: "Hey, fellow prisoners, listen up, there are seven people in our cell. If they torture me to death, don't forget to tell my family when you get out."

Prison guard Yang was incensed. She took her electric baton and shocked me.

After that, I was transferred to Block 9 of the Beijing Women's Prison, and my situation improved, little by little.

[On the day she was released from prison, Shuang Shuying went to the Beijing Electricity Hospital to visit her seriously ill husband, Hua Zaichen.]

My husband didn't recognize me at all. He worried about me and our family all these years, and his health worsened day by day.

[Interviewer's notes: Shuang Shuying's voice was strong and clear, and her tone was calm. I wished her and her family good health, safety, and happiness. She said, with a laugh, "All of us relied completely upon the blessing and protection of our Lord Jesus Christ. I also want to thank Human Rights in China for your concern, and for the Lunar New Year card that you sent us."]

COMMENDING DANNY COTTRELL FOR LAUNCHING HIS OWN ECO- NOMIC STIMULUS IN ESCAMBIA COUNTY, ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise today to commend Danny Cottrell for his generosity in creating his very own economic stimulus package for Escambia County, Alabama.

As a way to thank his employees and give back to his community, Danny gave each of his full-time employees at his pharmacies in Brewton and Atmore an envelope of \$2 bills worth \$700, and his part-time employees each received \$300. They were asked to donate 15 percent to charity and spend the rest of the money locally at shops and restaurants. The \$2 bills were used so the community could see how the money circulates.

The \$16,000 that Danny distributed to his employees—the "country boy's stimulus package" as he calls it—has served as a wonderful example of generosity in these difficult economic times. Local business owners have noticed the \$2 bills being spent, and one business owner is even saving the \$2 bills to spend at Danny's pharmacy.

As the Brewton Standard recently noted on its editorial page, Danny's stipulation that 15 percent of the money be given to charity "is an example of the kind of generosity most needed right now, when many people don't have a lot of extra money to give to those in need."

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of Escambia County and, indeed, all of Alabama's First Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Danny Cottrell for his tremendous example of generosity. I know his family, his many friends, his employees, and his loyal customers join me in praising his accomplishments and good deeds.