

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 210 seeks to express the sense of the House of Representatives that providing breakfast in schools through the National School Breakfast Program has a positive impact on classroom performance. I salute my colleague, Rep. MOORE from Wisconsin, in her efforts to promote the National School Breakfast Program, and to recognize the positive impact that it has on our students. I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

It has often been said that the children are our future. As Members of Congress and adults, we must do all that we can to provide their well-being, safety, and excellence in school.

A former U.S. Surgeon General once articulated, "This is expensive stupidity . . . trying to educate children with half starved bodies." While educators, parents and policymakers generally agree that children need breakfast in order to learn, function and grow, the nation still has a ways to go to insure that all needy and at-risk children receive a daily school breakfast. While nearly 100,000 individual schools across the country offer a school lunch, more than 15,000 of them still do not make breakfast available to children who are in need. In some states, only 50–60% of the schools serving students lunch also provide them with a breakfast to start the day.

We must endorse programs aimed to enhance the educational welfare of our children. As President Obama recently stated in his first address to a joint session of Congress, "These education policies will open the doors of opportunity for our children. But it is up to us to ensure they walk through them."

Beginning over twenty years ago, and continuing today, scholarly research has established that the School Breakfast Program significantly improves the cognitive abilities and learning capacities of children. Matched controlled studies, for example, indicate that low-income children who receive school breakfasts do significantly better on a variety of indicators than low-income peers who go without breakfasts. Notably, the better outcomes associated with school breakfast include both educational preparedness (attendance, energy, alertness, memory) and educational outcome measures (math scores, grades, reading ability).

When a child misses even one meal, let alone experiences chronic food shortages, impairments occur whether they are lethargy and inattention, tiredness and distraction, or actual physical symptoms such as stomachaches and headaches. The research from the United States Department of Agriculture shows that feeding children breakfast in school helps to

prevent these adverse outcomes. Children getting breakfast at school also are sick less often, have fewer problems associated with hunger, such as dizziness, stomachaches and ear aches, and do significantly better than their peers who do not get a school breakfast in terms of cooperation, discipline and interpersonal behaviors.

Mr. Speaker, our failure to fully utilize the School Breakfast Program has substantial costs, costs that greatly reduce the return on educational investment in communities and states across the nation. Moreover, longer-term costs also are borne by young children who arrive at school unable to fully participate in the educational process due to lack of adequate nutrition.

We, as Members of Congress, cannot allow for a matter such as child hunger, which we as Congress can help eradicate, to act as an impediment to the education of our children. President Obama articulated very fittingly, that "in a global economy where the most valuable skill you can sell is your knowledge, a good education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity—it is a pre-requisite."

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 210, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that providing breakfast in schools through the National School Breakfast Program has a positive impact on classroom performance, because the School Breakfast Program represents a key way to protect these children and to get a better return on educational investments as well.

FEDERAL LAND ASSISTANCE, MANAGEMENT, AND ENHANCEMENT (FLAME) ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act, or the FLAME Act.

Last year, our country experienced the devastating effects of catastrophic, emergency wildland fires in California. For the past several years, we have witnessed tragic fire seasons that have put American lives and our treasured public lands in harm's way. Fire seasons are getting longer and more intense due to climate change, drought, and other factors.

As a result, federal fire suppression spending has increased substantially over the past 10 years and projections appear to indicate that this trend will continue into the foreseeable future.

The dramatic rise in these costs is eroding other non-fire programs and impacting the core mission of the Federal land management agencies. In the case of the Forest Service, for example, wildland fire suppression activities now account for approximately 48 percent

of its budget. This creates a sad trend: our Forest Service is turning into the Fire Service.

Furthermore, both the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior have had to "Rob Peter to Pay Paul" by borrowing funds from other agency accounts to cover the escalating costs of wildland fire suppression. In 2007, for example, the Forest Service spent \$741 million more than was budgeted for wildland fire suppression, and the Department of the Interior spent \$249 million more than was budgeted for wildland fire suppression. And in the case of the Forest Service, the costs of catastrophic, emergency wildland fire suppression activities account for the vast majority of suppression expenditures, as two percent of fires account for 80 percent of costs.

Madam Speaker, it is clear that something needs to be done to resolve this problem. That is why today I am reintroducing the FLAME Act.

The FLAME Act establishes a federal FLAME fund for catastrophic, emergency wildland fire suppression activities. The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior may declare catastrophic, emergency wildland fire suppression activities eligible for the FLAME fund by issuing a Suppression Emergency Declaration. The declaration will evaluate the size, severity, and threat of the individual wildland fire incident.

The FLAME Act continues our stewardship of all lands by making funds available for catastrophic, emergency wildland fire suppression activities on State and private land consistent with existing agreements. Funds will also be available for catastrophic, emergency wildland fire suppression on Indian lands.

The FLAME Act also requires that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior submit a long-overdue report to Congress containing a cohesive wildland fire management strategy. This report will improve efforts to prevent fires on our public lands, by addressing critical fire prevention issues such as indentifying a system for assessing the level of fire risk to communities, and indentifying a system to ensure that the highest priority fuels reduction projects are being funded first.

Last Congress, we worked to ensure House-passage of the FLAME Act. The bill drew support from the five former living Chiefs of the Forest Service, over 40 different organizations, 56 Members of Congress, and the Speaker of the House. However, the Senate did not act upon the measure. This Congress, I am pleased that Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman JEFF BINGAMAN and Ranking Member LISA MURKOWSKI will be introducing the Senate companion measure to the FLAME Act. I look forward to working with our colleagues in the other body to ensure enactment of this important legislation in the 111th Congress.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased that President Obama has indicated that he is supportive of working together on this issue. I thank him for his leadership on this issue by addressing it in his Fiscal Year 2010 budget.

• 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.

I also will be working with the esteemed Chairman of the Committee on the Budget, Chairman JOHN SPRATT, to include language in the Budget Resolution to support the FLAME Act.

Madam Speaker, catastrophic, emergency wildland fires can cause tragic loss of life and property. I am proud to be joined in introducing the FLAME Act today by my colleagues Rep. NORM DICKS, Rep. RAÚL GRIJALVA, Rep. MIKE SIMPSON, Rep. GREG WALDEN, and Senators JEFF BINGAMAN and LISA MURKOWSKI. In the other body, I look forward to working together towards enactment this Congress to ensure that our country has the necessary tools to combat catastrophic, emergency wildland fires.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding funding that my district received as part of the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009 (H.R. 1105).

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service, SRG

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Address of Requesting Entity: 700 Experiment Station Red, Lake Alford, Florida 33850

Description of Project: This project will continue vital citrus canker and greening research.

Amount: \$1,217,000

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: United States Army Corps of Engineers, Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Lee County, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 398, Fort Myers, FL 33902

Legal Name of Entity Receiving Funds: United States Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Entity Receiving Funds: 441 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20314

Description of Request: The requested funding will be utilized for reimbursement for beach renourishment for the Gasparilla Segment in Lee County, Florida.

Amount: \$191,000

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: United States Army Corps of Engineers, O&M

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: West Coast Inland Navigation District

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 East Miami Avenue, Venice, FL 34285

Legal Name of Entity Receiving Funds: United States Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Entity Receiving Funds: 441 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20314

Description of Request: This funding will be utilized for maintenance dredging along the

Gulf Intracoastal Waterway in Lee County, Sarasota County, and Manatee County, Florida.

Amount: \$2,076,000

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: United States Army Corps of Engineers, O&M

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Collier County, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 3301 East Tamiami Trail, Naples, FL 34112

Legal Name of Entity Receiving Funds: United States Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Entity Receiving Funds: 441 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20314

Description of Request: This funding will be utilized for dredging the Gordon River Pass in Collier County, Florida. The dredging is necessary because shoaling has diminished the water depth in the channel.

Amount: \$597,000

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Justice, OJP-Byrne Discretionary Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Florida Gulf Coast University

Address of Requesting Entity: 10501 FGCU Blvd., S., Fort Myers, Florida 33965

Description of Request: This funding will be utilized for the development of tools for training and processing crime scenes for use by law enforcement and public safety officials. This work will be done at the Florida Gulf Coast University in its Law Enforcement and Public Safety department.

Amount: \$150,000

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Justice, COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Collier County, Florida

Address of Requesting Entity: 3301 East Tamiami Trail, Naples, Florida 34112

Description of Request: The funding will be utilized for the acquisition of public safety technology equipment for the Collier County Emergency Services Center. The funding is important because it will help to better equip Collier County's emergency service providers to respond to events that could endanger the safety of the citizens of Collier County, Florida.

Amount: \$350,000

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Environmental Protection Agency, STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Lee County, Florida

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 398, Ft. Myers, Florida 33902

Description of Request: The requested funding will be utilized for water and sewer system improvements in Lee County, Florida. The project will help to ensure that Lee County's water and sewer system is environmentally sound and provides the highest level of safety and service to the people of Lee County.

Amount: \$275,000

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Education, Higher Education

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Florida Gulf Coast University

Address of Requesting Entity: 10501 FGCU Blvd, S., Fort Myers, Florida 33965

Description of Request: The requested funding will be utilized by the Florida Gulf Coast University in order to conduct a study of how coastal watersheds respond to changing freshwater flow.

Amount: \$333,000

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Transportation, Buses and Bus Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Lee County Transit (LeeTran)

Address of Requesting Entity: 6035 Landing View Road, Fort Myers, Florida 33907

Description of Request: The requested funding will be utilized to purchase new buses and replace existing buses in LeeTran's fleet. Buses stand as an important mode of transportation for a large number of citizens in Lee County. As a result, this funding will help LeeTran to better accommodate the crucial need for reliable and environmentally clean mass transit in Lee County, Florida.

Amount: \$475,000

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Transportation, Transportation, Community, and System Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Collier County, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 3301 East Tamiami Trail, Naples, FL 34112

Legal Name of Entity Receiving Funds: Florida Department of Transportation

Address of Entity Receiving Funds: 605 Suwannee Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Description of Request: The requested funding will be utilized to improve Interstate 75/ Collier Boulevard/SR 84 in Collier County, Florida. The improvements are necessary to help this important stretch of road meet the requirements necessary to fulfill the regions commercial and transport needs.

Amount: \$570,000

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Transportation, Transportation, Community, and System Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Charlotte County, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 18500 Murdock Circle, Suite 536, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Legal Name of Entity Receiving Funds: Florida Department of Transportation

Address of Entity Receiving Funds: 605 Suwannee Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Description of Request: The requested funding will be utilized for design and expansion of the Burnt Store Road to a four-lane divided arterial with shoulders to enhance the overall safety of the road. Burnt Store Road is a very important transportation artery that doubles as an evacuation route.

Amount: \$380,000

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Economic Development Initiatives
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The Trust for Thomas Edison & Henry Ford Winter Estates, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2350 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers, Florida 33901

Description of Request: The requested funding will be utilized for the restoration of the Edison and Ford Estates research laboratory.
Amount: \$142,500

IN RECOGNITION OF SOCCER TEAM
AT URSULINE ACADEMY OF DAL-
LAS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to proudly recognize the soccer team at Ursuline Academy of Dallas on winning the prestigious TAPPS 5A State Championship title for the 19th consecutive year.

At the Mata Stadium in San Antonio, Ursuline and Nolan Catholic High School of Fort Worth battled for the State Championship title for the eighth consecutive year. In this final game, Ursuline successfully defended its title with a score of 2 to 1. Both goals were scored in the first half by Sophie Campise. Led by Head Coach Jamie Cantrell, these young ladies committed themselves to a tradition of winning and dedicated countless hours practicing to hone their ability to perform as a team. This prestigious title of State Champion speaks loudly of their discipline and hard work.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our heartfelt congratulations to the members of the soccer team for their well deserved victory. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit how I would have voted on March 9, 2009, when I was tending to a family commitment, for which the timing was not flexible.

Had I voted, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 110; "yes" on rollcall No. 111; "yes" on rollcall No. 111.

IN CELEBRATION OF EBBY
HALLIDAY'S 98TH BIRTHDAY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true Dallas icon and a legendary woman that has changed the real estate industry, Ebby Halliday Acers. She cele-

brates her ninety-eighth birthday on March 9th.

Ebby first arrived in Dallas in 1938 and soon after owned and ran her own boutique called Ebby's Hats. After being approached by a developer in 1945, Ebby went from selling hats to selling houses. Together with her beloved husband, Maurice Acers, Ebby Halliday Realtors was founded. The company's inventory began with fifty-two houses on the old Walnut Hill Golf Course in North Dallas, but has steadily grown year after year into one of the most successful and widely recognized real estate firms in the country. Aside from her entrepreneurial spirit, her success can be attributed to the great care and attention she gives to her employees and agents as well as her buyers. This personal touch includes nurturing talent as well as meeting with new employees, making them feel welcomed. Over the course of her career she has received numerous awards such as the Horatio Alger Award in 2005 and the Visionary Award from Foundation Fighting Blindness and the Linz Award in 2008.

Aside from her professional achievements, Ebby is also known for her philanthropic spirit. She has generously given of her time and effort in addition to monetary contributions. Many nonprofit organizations and causes such as St. Paul Medical Center, United Way of Metropolitan Dallas and the Communities Foundation of Texas have benefitted greatly from her love for and dedication to her community. There is no doubt that the great City of Dallas is a better place because of her.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our heartfelt congratulations to Ebby as she celebrates her ninety-eighth birthday. I wish Ebby many more years of health, happiness, and prosperity. May we all strive to have the same generosity and dedication that she exemplifies.

RECOGNIZING THE STATE NEWS
FOR 100 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
IN JOURNALISM

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the State News at Michigan State University as they celebrate their 100th anniversary.

The State News was founded in 1909 as the Holcad in order to defend the Michigan Agricultural College against a series of articles and critical remarks published in the Lansing Journal. In 1925, as the Michigan Agricultural College changed its name to Michigan State College, the Holcad became the Michigan State News. In 1971, the State News became a 501(c)3 organization, run independently of the university.

Each year, the State News employs hundreds of students, training them in the areas of reporting, photography, design, and advertising that are critical to a career in journalism. Throughout its 100 years, the State News has served as a way for students to connect to each other on campus, voice opinions, and act as a watchdog for the East Lansing community.

Madam Speaker, a commitment to journalism is the foundation for creating a more in-

formed citizen body. I wish to extend my gratitude to The State News for its achievements, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing its 100 years in serving the East Lansing community as a successful student-run newspaper.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately on Friday March 6, 2009, I was unable to cast my votes on Approving the Journal, the Motion to Recommit on H.J. Res. 38, and H.J. Res. 38 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 107, on Approving the Journal, I would have voted "aye".

Had I been present for rollcall No. 108, on the Motion to Recommit on H.J. Res. 38, the Continuing Resolution, extending it through the end of Fiscal Year 2009, I would have voted "aye".

Had I been present for rollcall No. 109, on passing H.J. Res. 38, the Continuing Resolution through March 11, 2009, I would have voted "nay". It is high time we buckled down and got our work done in a timely fashion and in an open and transparent process. This Omnibus Appropriations bill is long overdue, but at the same time we should not be throwing a bill on the House floor that has been cobbled together by a select few Democrats behind closed doors. The result is what we witnessed in the Senate where it could not pass by the time the current CR expired and the need arose to pass another short term CR through March 11, 2009. This process needs reform and it is my hope that the FY2010 Appropriations process will move under regular order and by the start of the new fiscal year on October 1, 2009.

IN RECOGNITION OF J.L. LONG
MIDDLE SCHOOL CELEBRATING
ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor J.L. Long Middle School in Dallas, Texas which will be celebrating its 75th anniversary on April 2, 2009.

Initially established as the second junior high school in Dallas, J.L. Long first opened its doors to 550 students in 1933. Over the course of its history, this school has educated thousands of bright young minds, providing them with a firm foundation for success. In 2006, its student body expanded to include sixth graders. The J.L. Long science team was named state champion in the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 school years while the math team consistently placed in the top six in the state for the past several years. Aside from its many academic accomplishments, J.L. Long Middle School boasts an impressive history and record of parental involvement. The Works

Progress Administration (WPA) Depression Mural by Olin Travis is proudly displayed in their library and in 2004 the school was designated as a Dallas Historical Landmark. The PTA Board has been recognized for generously contributing over 8,500 volunteer service hours. J.L. Long Middle School's commitment to education and character building will help these individuals grow up to become mature, responsible citizens and our next generation of great leaders.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating J.L. Long Middle on seventy five years of academic achievement. I wish them many more years of success.

HONORING THE ADRIAN COLLEGE
ON THEIR SESQUICENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION

HON. MARK H. SCHAUER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. SCHAUER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor today Adrian College on the occasion of their Sesquicentennial Celebration. Adrian College evolved from a theological institute founded by the Wesleyan Methodist denomination in 1845.

On March 28, 1859, Adrian College was chartered by the Michigan legislature as a degree-granting institution with Dr. Asa Mahan as its first President. For almost 100 years, the campus consisted of several brick buildings stretching along Madison Street. In the mid-1950s, the College, encouraged by the generosity of Ray W. Herrick, embarked in a building program that established the basis for the current campus. Today, when students walk in the area bounded on the east by Madison Street and edged by Downs Hall, North Hall, Cornelius House and Herrick Tower, they tread on the same ground that students hurried across in 1859.

In an era of many constant challenges that face our daily lives, the tireless efforts of educational institutions like this one, help to make our community, state and country an outstanding place to learn, live and work. It is with deep appreciation of the significance of this milestone that I commend Adrian College on the occasion of their Sesquicentennial Celebration.

HONORING THE DIVINE PER-
FORMING ARTS GROUP FOR
THEIR EFFORTS TO BRING A
MESSAGE OF HOPE AND COUR-
AGE TO AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

HON. PAUL C. BROUN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, As a medical doctor, I can tell you without any doubt that music and the arts have routinely proven to have a positive psychological affect on those with low spirits. All through history we have seen the use of music and dance lift hearts and minds. During the American Revolution and Civil War, music was a way of forgetting the horrors of war. During enslave-

ment, African Americans sang spirituals to give each other hope. And during the Great Depression, there were always music and dance shows to lift the spirits of the "Forgotten Man."

Now, in the great city of Augusta, Georgia, the Divine Performing Arts will be displaying their "amazing", "magnificent", and "spectacular" abilities on stage. This group of world-class performers will be presenting the beauty of traditional Chinese art as their way of fighting "against the negative impacts of the current economic situation and its consequences in the Augusta area."

As many cities across the world have already witnessed, these performers bring a message of kindness, compassion, and courage, while rousing viewers to help the downtrodden in their community. Certainly, these themes are inspirational and benefit all of the communities that they have visited.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in both welcoming and applauding the Divine Performing Arts group to "The Garden City". They have shown past success in breaking down cultural barriers, and I hope my constituents in Augusta take the time to appreciate this special performance.

HONORING THE ADRIAN DOMINI-
CAN SISTERS ON THEIR 125TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK H. SCHAUER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. SCHAUER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor today the Adrian Dominican Sisters on the occasion of their 125th Anniversary. The Adrian Dominican Sisters are a Roman Catholic Congregation of more than 850 vowed religious women who trace their heritage to St. Dominic in the 13th century. Also serving with them are around 195 associates, non-vowed men and women who are committed to sharing in their mission and vision.

They minister in 31 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and in the nations of Canada, the Dominican Republic, Italy and Swaziland.

The Adrian Dominican Sisters serve in a variety of ministries depending on the needs of the people to whom they are sent. They also sponsor numerous schools, hospitals, retreat centers and a variety of many other businesses and institutions.

The weekend of May 15th through the 17th of 2009 will mark the 125th Anniversary of the Adrian Dominican Sisters' establishment of their permanent presence in the city of Adrian, Michigan. It is with deep appreciation of the significance of this milestone that I commend the Adrian Dominican Sisters on the occasion of their 125th Anniversary.

NORTHWEST INDIANA BUSINESS
AND INDUSTRY HALL OF FAME
CLASS OF 2009

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with deep respect and admiration that I rise to commend five exceptional business leaders from Northwest Indiana who will be honored as the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame's class of 2009. Created by The Times and BusInEss magazine, induction into the Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame is determined by a panel of local civic and business leaders. While there were many deserving nominees, the individuals selected as the 2009 Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame inductees are: Calvin Bellamy, Don Burrell, Bruce Leetz, Cynthia Powers, and Burton Ruby. For their many contributions to the enhancement of Northwest Indiana, these honorees will be recognized at a ceremony taking place at the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza in Merrillville, Indiana, on Thursday, March 12, 2009.

Cal Bellamy is the former president and chief executive officer of the former Bank Calumet, where he worked for an astonishing thirty-one years. Having served as Bank Calumet's CEO for twenty-four of those years, Cal made a lasting impression on the Northwest Indiana community through his immense dedication to many worthwhile causes. Now an attorney with Krieg DeVault LLC, where he specializes in financial planning, Cal has continued to champion the needs of his community. From working to improve schools to working to develop small businesses and affordable housing, Cal has led the charge toward bettering the quality of life in Northwest Indiana.

Don Burrell is the founder and President of Burrell Color Imaging in Crown Point, Indiana. Don, having gotten his start in the business world with a few hundred dollars he obtained from the sale of his car, truly understands what hard work and perseverance can attain. This is why a key aspect of his business strategy is to respect his employees and allow them to advance to their full potential. While his business has been very successful, it is Don's commitment to those most in need that is most commendable. Throughout the years, Don's staunch support for the Burrell Cancer Institute at Saint Anthony's Medical Center and the Saint Jude House women's and children's shelter has been truly remarkable.

Bruce Leetz joined North Coast Distributing in 1963 as a driver. By 1970, he was named president of the family owned business that has grown to become a multi-million-case distributor based out of Valparaiso, Indiana. Bruce's explanation for the success is the company culture, which is based on values that he has always lived by: passion, respect, integrity, commitment, and excelling, which he refers to as the PRICE of success. While other companies throughout Northwest Indiana have surely replicated this structure, it is the exemplary commitment to their community that set Bruce Leetz and North Coast Distributing apart. In 2008 alone, North Coast raised nearly \$80,000 for Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital to help find a cure for childhood cancer.

Cynthia Powers is the owner of Century 21 Powers Realty, Inc. Well-respected and well-known for her success as a businesswoman in Northwest Indiana, she may be even more recognizable for her immeasurable contributions to her church and her community. As a cancer survivor, Cynthia truly understands the importance of faith, and her commitment to her church, First African Methodist Episcopal Church in Gary, can be seen in the more than twenty years she has led the youth choir. In the Northwest Indiana community, a more giving person could not be found. To name a few of her contributions, Cynthia has served as chairman and on the board of directors for the Lake Area United Way, and she has served on the board of directors for The Discovery Alliance, Tradewinds, and the Friends of Hospice of the Calumet Area.

Burton "Bud" Ruby, chairman of Jamar-Ruby, has spent over seventy years with the company founded by his father over ninety-three years ago. After learning the trade from the shop floor, Bud advanced in the ranks, eventually becoming president and chief executive officer in 1957. Today, at age 89, Bud remains chairman of the company, which now conducts business under the name Trans-Apparel Group. In addition to his success as a businessman, Bud knows a thing or two about serving his community; he is a World War II veteran. Locally, Bud has served the community through his service with several councils and foundations, including: the Duneland Health Council, where he serves as its chairman, and the Purdue University North Central Chancellor's Advisory Board and the Unity Foundation of LaPorte County, where he serves on each of their boards of directors. Additionally, he has been a member of Rotary International since 1939.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding leaders on their induction into the Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame. These individuals are most deserving of being named the class of 2009, and for their leadership and commitment to the Northwest Indiana community, each of the recipients is worthy of our respect and admiration.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following earmark request:

1.) Requesting Member: Rep. CHRIS SMITH
 Bill Number: H.R. 1105
 Account: Army Corps of Engineers—Operations and Maintenance
 Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Army Corps of Engineers

Description of Request: The New Jersey Intracoastal Waterway navigation project provides a safe, reliable, and efficient navigation channel for the East Coast's largest and the 5th most valuable commercial fishing fleet in the U.S. and nine U.S. Coast Guard Stations, including the only U.S. Coast Guard enlistee training base in the U.S. Funding in the amount of \$888,000 will be used to repair a critically damaged bulkhead in Point Pleasant,

NJ by performing channel exams, maintenance dredging of the ferry area, Cape May Canal bank stabilization & maintenance, rehabilitation of the steel bulkhead, repairing Point Pleasant Canal Old Bridge Abutments, and maintenance dredging segment 2.

2.) Requesting Member: Rep. CHRIS SMITH
 Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers—Operations and Maintenance

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Army Corps of Engineers

Description of Request: This Manasquan River, NJ project provides safe, reliable, and efficient navigation channel for the busiest inlet in NJ. Funding in the amount of \$337,000 will be used to monitor the jetty, perform maintenance dredging of the entrance channel and repair retaining wall curb.

3.) Requesting Member: Rep. CHRIS SMITH
 Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers—Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Army Corps of Engineers

Description of Request: Funding in the amount of \$957,000 will be used for the Sandy Hook to Barnegat Inlet, NJ project to continue the construction of the sand nourishment phase of Section II of this critical shore protection project, an area that extends from Belmar to Manasquan, NJ and incorporates the beaches of several coastal towns in Monmouth County, NJ. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is the non-Federal sponsor of this project and will pay a third of the costs.

4.) Requesting Member: Rep. CHRIS SMITH
 Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers—Investigations—Feasibility Study

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Army Corps of Engineers

Description of Request: Funding for the NJ Shoreline Alternative Long-Term Nourishment in the amount of \$96,000 will be used to continue the Feasibility phase of this study. Work will continue to evaluate all of New Jersey's coastal projects, including the different reaches of beach replenishment projects, as a system to ensure maximum benefits are achieved from the Federal investment and reduce long-term periodic nourishment costs. This includes developing a regional sediment budget and an improved understanding of regional coastal processes, implementation of an efficient regional monitoring program, and development of a comprehensive beach, inlet, and borrow area management strategy. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is the non-Federal sponsor and will provide a 50/50 cost share.

5.) Requesting Member: Rep. CHRIS SMITH
 Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers—Investigations—Feasibility Study

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Army Corps of Engineers

Description of Request: Funding in the amount of \$277,000 will be used to continue the plan formulation effort for the Feasibility study to evaluate the alternative solutions to the region's problems regarding flooding along the Delaware River and tributaries will begin. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is the non-Federal sponsor and will provide a 50/50 cost share.

6.) Requesting Member: Rep. CHRIS SMITH

Bill Number: H.R. 1105 Account: Army Corps of Engineers—Construction—Continuing Authorities Program Section 1135

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Army Corps of Engineers

Description of Request: Funding for the Assumpink Creek Basin, NJ will be used to implement the Project Partnership Agreement and initiate and complete the design. Funding can also be used to award the construction contract.

7.) Requesting Member: Rep. CHRIS SMITH
 Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers—Continuing Authorities Program—Section 205

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Army Corps of Engineers

Description of Request: The Assumpink Creek study area is located between the flood control dam at Mercer County Park in West Windsor and the City of Trenton. Benefits from flood damage reduction projects include saving structures and contents from flood damage, the savings from alleviation of cleanup costs, and reduction of the costs of flood fighting and evacuation. The ACE will use the funding for flood plain reconnection, stream restoration, wetland creation, impervious cover removal, flood proofing and flood plain management to be the most likely alternative given the highly urbanized setting of the area.

8.) Requesting Member: Rep. CHRIS SMITH
 Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Energy EERE—Solar Energy

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Isles, Inc.
 Address of Requesting Agency: 10 Wood Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08618

Description of Request: The "Solar and Green Retrofit" project will house an environmental center and be a showcase for green buildings, with renovations incorporating cutting-edge, high performance environmental technology, including solar photovoltaic panels on the roof, expansive interior day lighting, and energy efficient heating and cooling systems.

Financial Plan:
 Green Roof Installation \$100,000
 Solar Array Installation \$100,000
 Associated Design Fees \$37,875
 TOTAL \$237,875

9.) Requesting Member: Rep. CHRIS SMITH
 Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Energy EERE—Other

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Trenton

Address of Requesting Agency: 319 East State Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08608

Description of Request: The city of Trenton's Green Renewable Energy Feasibility Study will use the funding in the amount of \$475,000 to examine the utility of windpower and solar panel demonstration projects in Trenton, which have the potential to save the City significant fiscal resources while simultaneously realizing a positive outcome for the environment.

Financial Plan:
 City Personnel \$100,000
 Energy Consultant \$328,250
 Indirect Costs \$47,500
 TOTAL \$475,750

HONORING RICHARD M. SCHECK,
MAYOR OF NORTH RIVERSIDE,
ILLINOIS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Richard M. Scheck of North Riverside, Illinois. Richard Scheck will be retiring in April after having given 20 years of dedicated public service as the mayor of North Riverside.

Richard Scheck was first elected to his post as mayor in 1989. He has garnered statewide recognition for his excellent record of financial management and achievement, effective communication with residents and businesses, and earnest work for the health and well-being of the North Riverside community. I have been honored to work with Mayor Scheck on numerous issues to help our constituents. Richard Scheck has been a true public servant, selflessly giving his time and energy to his community while also running a successful engineering company. Through his 20 years as mayor, he has made North Riverside an even better place to live.

Richard Scheck has also been very successful in his philanthropic work to raise money to fight breast cancer. Through the "Betty Scheck Walk for Cancer," the "Betty Scheck Shuffle," and other fundraisers, he has helped raise over \$1.2 million for the American Cancer Society. And in 2007, Seguin Services—which helps children and adults with disabilities—awarded Richard Scheck the President's Award for "his support as a community leader, a donor, an employer, a connector and as an inspiration to others."

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the many achievements of Mayor Richard M. Scheck. It is my honor to acknowledge him for his outstanding leadership and commitment to public service in the Village of North Riverside and the Third Congressional District of Illinois.

HELP BORDER HEALTHCARE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 1386, the Pay for All Your Undocumented Procedures (PAY UP!) Act of 2009. This bill will provide payments for emergency services provided to undocumented aliens.

The costs of uncompensated emergency care for undocumented immigrants are sky high and border area hospitals, physicians, and ambulance providers are choking on the costs that they have to eat. My bill, the Pay for All Your Undocumented Procedures (PAY UP!) Act of 2009, is the first step to solving this problem which is well known in border communities.

Undocumented aliens receive emergency services in a hospital and yet that hospital is not reimbursed for these services. My bill will ensure that the healthcare providers are reimbursed for the emergency services they provide.

My bill makes permanent a provision of the Medicare Modernization Act that provided payments to eligible providers for procedures for undocumented aliens. The bill authorizes \$250 million a year to reimburse eligible providers for this care. Two-thirds of the funds are divided among the 50 states and the District of Columbia based on their relative percentages of undocumented aliens, the last third is divided among the 6 states with the largest number of undocumented aliens.

**A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE
10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AP-
PALACHIAN LEADERSHIP ACADE-
MY**

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the Appalachian Leadership Academy was formed in 1998 out of a partnership between the Institute for Local Government Administration and Rural Development at Ohio University's Voinovich Center for Leadership and Public Affairs and the Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development; and

Whereas, the Academy is designed to help prepare middle management employees for leadership roles within their agencies and communities; and

Whereas, the Academy has graduated 170 leaders into Ohio Appalachian communities; and

Whereas, the goal of the Academy is to enhance the knowledge of the participants not only in leadership but about the Appalachian Region as a whole in order to better prepare them to use their skills in the Appalachian communities of Ohio; therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the friends, alumni of the Academy, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the Appalachian Leadership Academy for their steadfast efforts to offer educational leadership opportunities, and congratulate them on their 10th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall numbers 110 through 112. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each.

**IN HONOR OF TONY AND FERMIN
CAMPOS; 2009 NISEI FARMERS
LEAGUE AGRICULTURALISTS OF
THE YEAR AWARD**

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to two brothers whose lives

and pursuits have exemplified the spirit of raw determination, fortitude, entrepreneurship and virtues of citizenship demonstrated by so many of those immigrating to this great country of ours. On Thursday, March 12th 2009, Campos Brothers Farms will receive the Nisei Farmers League's 2009 Agriculturalist of the Year Award, an award given to an outstanding member of the Nisei Farmers League who has shown exceptional leadership skills, devotion, and who truly makes a valuable contribution to agriculture. Many things contribute to California's bountiful crops and the economic well-being of the state, but one significant underlying factor in California's agricultural success has been the presence of men such as Fermin and Tony Campos.

Fermin and Antonio Campos were born in Olondriz, Spain in the Province of Navarra, where they were two of nine children. Tony came to the United States in 1952 at the age of 17 as a sheepherder with Fermin arriving three years later. After five years of hard work they were proud to become U.S. Citizens beginning their American Dream. In 1957, the brothers formed their partnership known as Campos Brothers Farms. Over the years they have been active in many capacities and industries. Early they worked with sheep, later raising crops such as alfalfa, cotton, black-eye beans, raisins and grapes before beginning their endeavors with almonds. The brothers were also proud to be associated with the start of the Caruthers Raisin Packing Company where Tony served as President for five years. Both brothers were actively involved in the raisin industry serving on the Raisin Administrative Committee as well as the Raisin Bargaining Association.

In 1980, the Campos Brothers built their first almond huller. Along with their wives and children they watched the company blossom under their mutual hard labor becoming one of the most respected producers, processors, and sellers of quality almonds in the world today. Tony and Fermin have been active on the California Almond Board and its various committees. Both Tony and Fermin have been active supporters of their local FFA organization, Fresno State Agricultural Program and the California Agricultural Leadership Program. They are proud members of the Nisei Farmers League continually advocating for California Agricultural interests.

We recently lost Fermin. His passing has left a large hole in not only the family and the family business, but in agriculture in general. Agriculture indeed misses Fermin's contributions and passion. Tony continues to carry on the family tradition of pride, passion, excellence and advocacy. So I believe it very fitting today to rise before you my colleagues, to honor Fermin and Tony Campos, Nisei Farmers League's 2009 "Agriculturalists of the Year."

HONORING RICHARD M. SCHECK,
MAYOR OF NORTH RIVERSIDE,
ILLINOIS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Richard M. Scheck of North

Riverside, Illinois. Richard Scheck will be retiring in April after having given 20 years of dedicated public service as the mayor of North Riverside.

Richard Scheck was first elected to his post as mayor in 1989. He has garnered statewide recognition for his excellent record of financial management and achievement, effective communication with residents and businesses, and earnest work for the health and wellbeing of the North Riverside community. I have been honored to work with Mayor Scheck on numerous issues to help our constituents. Richard Scheck has been a true public servant, selflessly giving his time and energy to his community while also running a successful engineering company. Through his 20 years as mayor, he has made North Riverside an even better place to live.

Richard Scheck has also been very successful in his philanthropic work to raise money to fight breast cancer. Through the "Betty Scheck Walk for Cancer," the "Betty Scheck Shuffle," and other fundraisers, he has helped raise over \$1.2 million for the American Cancer Society. And in 2007, Seguin Services—which helps children and adults with disabilities—awarded Richard Scheck the President's Award for "his support as a community leader, a donor, an employer, a connector and as an inspiration to others."

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the many achievements of Mayor Richard M. Scheck. It is my honor to acknowledge him for his outstanding leadership and commitment to public service in the Village of North Riverside and the Third Congressional District of Illinois.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. LoBIONDO. Madam Speaker, as per the requirements of the Republican Conference Rules on earmarks, I secured the following earmark in H.R. 1105.

Requesting Member: Congressman FRANK LoBIONDO (NJ-02)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Interior and Environment; Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Programs and Management

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: National Rural Water Association

Address of Requesting Entity: 2915 South 13th St., Duncan, OK 73533

Description of Request: A joint request to provide an earmark of \$11.5 million to support rural water grassroots environmental and compliance initiatives, specifically rural water technical assistance, source water protection and ground water protection in New Jersey and across the nation.

A PROCLAMATION CONGRATULATING THE CHILLICOTHE HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADING SQUAD ON THEIR EIGHTH STATE TITLE

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the Chillicothe High School Cheerleading Squad has won the Ohio State Title in the Division II Mount Category; and

Whereas, having won in 2007 they have now reclaimed their state title; and

Whereas, the CHS Cheerleading squad has worked long, tireless hours to perfect their routines; therefore, be it

Resolved that with the parents, friends, students of CHS and alumni of the CHS Cheerleading Squad, along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate the squad on their eighth Ohio State Title, and commend them on their hard work, and winning spirit.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, Consolidated Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2009.

Project Name: Chesapeake Bay Oyster Recovery

Account/Amount: Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE): Construction, \$2,000,000

Requested By: ACOE Norfolk District Capability/Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Project Description: Project will contribute to multi-agency and private efforts to restore oyster populations in the Chesapeake Bay. The project elements include; development of decision documents, construction and rehabilitation of oyster reefs to create sanctuaries and spat on shell production areas, development of capability to produce disease tolerant broodstock and spat oysters for seeding, planting of the disease tolerant spat and brood-stock oysters in locations which best foster oyster reproduction and health, and oversight of project monitoring by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). Construction of the first phase of reefs in the Lynnhaven river was completed in 2007. Reefs have added approximately 200 million oysters to the Great Wicomico system.

Financial Plan: FY09 funds would be used to initiate and complete construction and monitoring of approximately 30 cares of oyster reefs in the Lynnhaven and Great Wicomico rivers, and partnering with the Baltimore District, ACOE, for development of the bay-wide Oyster Restoration Master Plan Decision Document. The ACOE estimated on 2/5/09 that the estimated federal cost is \$50,000,000 and the estimated non-federal cost is \$66,700,000. The project received \$19,213,000 through FY07 and \$1,968,000 in FY08.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. MCHUGH. 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 FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act:

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN MCHUGH

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Environmental Programs and Management

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: National Rural Water Association

Address of Requesting Entity: 2915 South 13th Street, Duncan OK 73533.

Description: Provide an earmark of \$11,500,000 to help ensure that small communities operate safe, clean water supplies and comply with federal environmental mandates. I certify that I have no financial interest in this project

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act:

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (MI)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: United States Department of Agriculture/Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Services (USDA/CSREES) Special Grants Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Michigan State University

Address of Requesting Entity: 484 Administration Building, East Lansing, MI, 48824

Description of Request: Provide funding of \$346,000 for fire blight research at Michigan State University. Approximately, \$148,000 is for the salaries of laboratory and field research personnel; and \$36,000 is for materials and supplies. Michigan State University has obtained funding from the Michigan Apple Committee and industry sources and will continue to fund the fire blight research at MSU at a level of \$52,500 in FY09.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (MI)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: United States Department of Agriculture/Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Services (USDA/CSREES) Special Grants Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Michigan State University

Address of Requesting Entity: 484 Administration Building, East Lansing, MI, 48824

Description of Request: Provide funding of \$104,000 for research of Armillaria Root Rot. Approximately, \$84,000 is for the salaries of

laboratory researchers; \$9,000 is for operating costs; \$1000 is for travel to field sites; and \$10,000 is for equipment necessary.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (MI)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: United States Department of Agriculture/Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Services (USDA/CSREES) Special Grants Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Michigan State University

Address of Requesting Entity: 484 Administration Building, East Lansing, MI, 48824

Description of Request: Provide funding of \$246,000 for research of Bovine Tuberculosis. Approximately, \$174,252 is for Salaries and support for 2 graduate students; \$72,978 is for Laboratory supplies; and \$8,770 for research related travel. Michigan State University will provide \$127,500 in-kind funding.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (MI)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: United States Department of Agriculture/Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Services (USDA/CSREES) Special Grants Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Michigan State University

Address of Requesting Entity: 484 Administration Building, East Lansing, MI, 48824

Description of Request: Provide funding of \$147,000 to improve fruit practices for sugar beets and dry beans. Approximately, \$101,440 is for salaries and expenses and \$40,560 is for lab maintenance and equipment. In addition to the federal funds provided by this grant, this research is supported by personnel, equipment, and facilities funded by the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station and Michigan State University Extension.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (MI)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: United States Department of Agriculture/Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Services (USDA/CSREES) Special Grants Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Michigan State University

Address of Requesting Entity: 484 Administration Building, East Lansing, MI, 48824

Description of Request: Provide funding of \$266,000 to enhance the environmental sustainability of food and agricultural systems under research at Michigan State University. Approximately, \$325,000 is for salaries of 11 researchers; \$5,000 is for travel expenses; \$10,000 is for farmer stipends; \$15,000 is for materials and supplies; and \$45,000 is for communication and outreach. Michigan State University expects to leverage at least \$150,000 in state, local, and private funds to expand the impacts of the special grant.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (MI)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: United States Department of Agriculture/Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Services (USDA/CSREES) Special Grants Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Michigan State University

Address of Requesting Entity: 484 Administration Building, East Lansing, MI, 48824

Description of Request: Provide funding of \$4,545,000 for wood utilization. The requested

funds will be used for salaries of key personnel and graduate students. Grant funds will also be used to purchase equipment, materials and supplies needed. Michigan State University provides in excess of \$500,000 in support of this project annually through use of lab space, equipment, and personnel assigned to the project.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (MI)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: United States Department of Agriculture/Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Services (USDA/CSREES) Special Grants Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Natural Resources Conservation

Address of Requesting Entity: 2805 S. Industrial Hwy, Suite 100, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Description of Request: Provide funding of \$404,000 for reducing soil erosion and controlling sediment. Grant funds will be used for salaries, materials and supplies and for equipment purchases and travel costs.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (MI)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: United States Department of Agriculture/Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Services (USDA/CSREES) Special Grants Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Michigan State University

Address of Requesting Entity: 109 Agriculture Hall, East Lansing, Michigan 48824

Description of Request: Provide \$346,000 in funding for Phytophthora research at Michigan State University. Approximately 85 percent of the funding will go to researchers, technicians and students. Approximately 15 percent will be used for materials, supplies and administration. Michigan State University has received outside sources of funding for Phytophthora research as well. This funding is consistent with the authorized purpose of the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (MI)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: United States Department of Agriculture/Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Services (USDA/CSREES) Special Grants Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Michigan State University

Address of Requesting Entity: 302 Administration Building, East Lansing, MI, 48824-9190

Description of Request: Provide \$384,000 for detailed investigation of the most promising technologies to determine the value proposition that is needed to interest commercial partners in the further development of bio based production of fuels, chemicals, and materials. Funds will cover salaries; materials and supplies; and equipment purchases and travel costs.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (MI)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Lansing

Address of Requesting Entity: 124 W. Michigan Avenue, 9th Floor, Lansing, MI 48933

Description of Request: Provide \$500,000 to enable the procurement of crime-fighting technology critical to the safety of the community.

Approximately 35% for a Fiber Optic Communications Network; 25% for an In-Car Video Camera System; 20% for a Public Video Surveillance System; 10% for a Patrol Vehicle Laptop Workstation Replacement; and 10% for a Detention Camera Replacement. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the COPS Law Enforcement Technology account. At least \$500,000 in local City of Lansing funds will be provided as matching funds. Lansing public safety capabilities lag current standards in law enforcement, and require upgrading in order to best secure the jurisdiction. Through support requested of the federal government, the City of Lansing would be able to realize significant integrated upgrades.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (MI)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: United States Department of Energy's Solar and Renewable Energy Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The Consortium for Plant Biotechnology Research

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 20634, St. Simons Island, GA 31522

Description of Request: Provide \$475,750 for detailed investigation of the most promising technologies to determine the value proposition that is needed to interest commercial partners in the further development of bio based production of fuels, chemicals, and materials. Funds will cover salaries; materials and supplies; and equipment purchases and travel costs.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (MI)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: United States Department of Energy

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Michigan State University

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 20634, St. Simons Island, GA 31522

Description of Request: Provide \$3,806,000 for research and commercialization for clean energy, national energy security, and a cleaner environment. Approximately, 7.4% for peer reviewed competitions and 92.6% is for research projects. The Consortium for Plant Biotechnology Research has stated that they are able to match Federal funds, on average, 130% with non-federal funds. Industry also provides at least 50% cash matching, additional in-kind matching, and substantial investments in technology development.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (MI)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: United States Army Corps of Engineers

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The City of Lansing

Address of Requesting Entity: 124 W. Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI 48933

Description of Request: Provide \$48,000 for Grand River Waterfront Restoration—next phase planning activities based on 2004 Corps Pre-Planning Reconnaissance Study for Grand River shoreline and habitat restoration, including potential modifications to Moores and North Lansing Dams.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (MI)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Legal Name of Requesting Entity Cleary University

Address of Requesting Entity: 3750 Cleary Drive, Howell, Michigan 48843

Description of Request: \$475,750 for the design and implementation of a Geothermal Energy System at the Livingston Campus Community Center, part of a broader renovation of the Livingston Campus Community Center. Approximately 15% of funding will be used on Design and Engineering of the Geo-thermal field, 40% will be used for Well Drilling and Piping and 45% will be used for circulation pumps, equipment and installation.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (MI)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Financial Services

Legal Name of Requesting Entity Cleary University

Address of Requesting Entity: 3750 Cleary Drive, Howell, Michigan 48843

Description of Request: To provide \$100,000 for the development of a Micro Business Incubator at Cleary University in Howell, Michigan. Approximately \$80,000 of the funding will go toward the acquisition of a suitable adjacent building, \$11,000 of the funding will go toward renovations and \$9,000 will go toward office equipment.

MAUREEN McCARRICK 2009 PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD MARYLAND RECIPIENT

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. BARTLETT. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Maureen McCarrick of Myersville has been named one of the top honorees in Maryland by the 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Ms. McCarrick is being recognized for co-founding a children's theatre troupe that stages performances every summer to benefit disabled and disadvantaged people in her community. What started as a show for neighbors and friends in the backyard, the production of the Kids Theatre grew over time with performances now taking place at a town pavilion and on a high school stage. In addition to canned food, the troupe has raised thousands of dollars through ticket sales to buy benefits for struggling families and individuals.

I believe it is vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution that Maureen has made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods.

I heartily applaud Ms. McCarrick for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. Her actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

Young volunteers like Maureen are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act:

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (MI)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Mason, Michigan

Address of Requesting Entity: 201 West Ash St. Mason, MI 48854

Description of Request: City of Mason Water Treatment Plant \$500,000.00 The purpose of this project is to construct a water treatment plant for use by the City of Mason. The Water Treatment facility is necessary to comply with federal water safety regulations.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (MI)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Science and Technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The Consortium for Plant Biotechnology

Address of Requesting Entity: PO Box 20634 St. Simons Island, GA 31522

Description of Request: \$750,000 for research and commercialization of clean energy technologies. Approximately, 7.4% for peer reviewed competitions and 92.6% is for research projects. The Consortium for Plant Biotechnology Research has stated that they are able to match Federal funds, on average, 130% with non-federal funds. Industry also provides at least 50% cash matching, additional in-kind matching, and substantial investments in technology development.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (MI)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Fund to Improve Post-Secondary Education

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Lansing Community College

Address of Requesting Entity: 210 W Shiawassee St, Lansing, MI 48933

Description of Request: To provide \$190,000 to create a Military Medic Transition Program to allow military medics to transition first to civilian paramedic certification and then through a fast-track nursing program. Approximately \$85,000 for curriculum development; \$85,000 for personnel; and \$20,000 for recruiting and marketing. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Fund to Improve Post-Secondary Education account. In a short period of time, this innovative program has the ability to provide fast-track training to job seekers and assistance to hospitals and first responders in filling their vacancies. The potential impact of this program has been recognized by the State of Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, Primia Civitas Foundation, Sparrow Health Care Systems, Capitol Health Care Employment Council, and Delhi Township Fire Department; all whom have indicated their support for this initiative.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (MI)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Employment and Training Administration

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Oakland Community College

Address of Requesting Entity: 2480 Opdyke Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-2266

Description of Request: To provide \$285,000 for an educational consortium to support the economic transformation in Michigan from manufacturing to knowledge-based. Approximately \$134,000 is for Salaries, Wages and Benefits; \$34,000 for consulting services; \$67,000 for Consortium Sub-contracts; \$23,000 for supplies and materials; \$20,000 for technology and equipment; and \$7,000 for communication and printing. The focus of the project in 2009 will be expanding the consortium from supporting Oakland County's "Emerging Sectors" initiative to supporting workforce and economic development initiatives throughout southeast Michigan. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Employment and Training Administration account. The project is a continuation and expansion of an FY2008 appropriation. The project is supported by the Education and Workforce Committee of the Oakland County Business Roundtable, Oakland County government, local and state economic development entities and the Workforce Development system. The Oakland County Michigan Works! Agency is underwriting the cost of a skills assessment inventory—a critical foundational piece for the Educational Consortium—at cost of \$280,000.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (MI)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Fund for the Improvement of Post-secondary Education

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Cleary University

Address of Requesting Entity: 3750 Cleary Drive, Howell, Michigan 48843

Description of Request: To provide an earmark of \$238,000 for an Early College Dual Enrollment Program. Approximately 36% for computers, printers and servers; 18% for lab equipment; 18% for interior enhancements; 13% for classroom furniture and supplies; and 13% for virtual classroom enhancements. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education account. Cleary University maintains and is working to expand an Early College partnership with local public schools to provide collegiate level instruction for high school students. These funds would directly benefit Kensington Wood High School, Livingston Education Service Agency, Brighton Area Schools, Hartland Area Schools, Howell Public Schools, and Pinckney Community Schools.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (MI)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: IM

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The Road Commission of Oakland County

Address of Requesting Entity: 31001 Lahser Road, Beverly Hills, Michigan 48025

Description of Request: Provide funding of \$237,500 for the purchase of right of ways necessary to complete the widening of Baldwin Road from two lanes to a four lane boulevard between Brown Road and Waldon Road,

a distance of 2.0 miles as access to the I-75 interchange. This project P.E. is funded with previous congressional budget appropriations and High Priority Program funds from SAFETEA-LU.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (MI)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: IM

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The Michigan Department of Transportation

Address of Requesting Entity: Michigan Department of Transportation, 425 W. Ottawa St. Lansing, MI 48909

Description of Request: Provide funding of \$570,000 for the purchase of right of ways necessary to complete the construction of an interchange and overpass at the interchange of Interstate 96 and Latson Road.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (MI)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: 5309 Legal

Name of Requesting Entity: The Capital Area Transportation Authority

Address of Requesting Entity: 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI 48910

Description of Request: Provide funding of \$1,900,000 for the purchase of approximately 3 40 foot hybrid buses, 2 60 foot hybrid buses, 2 small buses, 2 rural service buses and 7 Mini-Hybrid fan systems.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (MI)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: 5309

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The Capital Area Transportation Authority

Address of Requesting Entity: 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI 48910

Description of Request: Provide funding of \$712,500 for the renovation and expansion of the existing bus storage facility. The funding will be distributed such that 50% will pay for renovations and 50% for expansion construction that will extend the useful life of the facility.

HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR HOMES ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 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. LUCAS. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to this legislation.

Many of my colleagues today have made excellent points about the real effect of this legislation. This legislation will most certainly not help those who it is designed to help. It will drive up the cost of loans, limit the number of loans that can be made, raise interest rates, and increase opportunities for abuse in the bankruptcy system.

I want to focus the House today on another important problem that has not been discussed: how the bankruptcy laws and the accounting rules and treatments combine to do potentially substantial and lasting damage to the financial system.

Under existing accounting rules, any bankruptcy loss may be considered an indication of impairment. The term that is used by accountants is "other than temporarily impaired", or "OTTI". I want to make sure that the House understands the consequences of this problem in the real world. Even if a company took a small bankruptcy loss on one of the residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBS) that it owns, the amount of loss that would be recognized in that company's income statement is a full writedown to deeply depressed market values, not just the amount deemed to be a bankruptcy. Any loss of principal, current or future, requires this treatment no matter what term is used to describe the loss. If a judge can adjust principal, then a significant detrimental impact to the company will automatically follow.

The House must clearly understand that the losses which would be recognized by financial institutions in this situation are far greater than the amount of the bankruptcy losses. Any RMBS holder will have to record these losses in the same manner, and so the threat of bankruptcy "cramdowns" casts a huge shadow across the entire financial services industry. For example, if a company owns five million dollars (\$5,000,000) in RMBS with a current market value of \$2,500,000, and there is a bankruptcy loss per the judge of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000 economic loss) to the preferred RMBS tranche, the required financial statement loss under existing accounting rules would be two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000). In this example, accounting rules require booking the financial statement loss at fifty times the actual economic loss.

This is a stark, but true, statement of the horrific impact that existing accounting rules are likely to have on the financial services industry in the event this legislation becomes law. It would only take a few of these kinds of losses to destroy the current year operating positions of any company and greatly impact its overall capital position.

This means that the cramdown legislation the House considers today carries with it a virus that threatens to consume significant parts of the financial services industry, particularly any company that is a significant holder of RMBS. The Majority either does not understand, or has chosen not to deal with, this significant and looming problem. Likewise, there is a lack of understanding about the major role that accounting rules and treatments play in it. I earnestly hope that our colleagues in the other body will address this issue squarely, and understand that cramdown without accounting reform and strict limitations on the discretion of bankruptcy judges has the potential to create significant and unanticipated collateral damage to our financial system, as well as loss of credibility with financial services industry customers and widespread negative ratings from all rating agencies.

A TRIBUTE IN REMEMBRANCE OF ALBERT BRANDEL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to in recognition of Albert Brandel. Albert F.

Brandel of Melville, New York, was elected president of The International Association of Lions Clubs at the association's 91st International Convention, held in Bangkok, Thailand, June 23–27, 2008.

Mr. Brandel is a retired police detective. For many years he investigated child abuse and neglect, juvenile delinquency, domestic violence involving children and missing children.

Mr. Brandel was a member of the West Hempstead Lions Club since 1975 and an associate member of the Melville Lions Club. International President Brandel has held many offices in the association, including club president, district governor and international director. He has also served as a presenter and panelist at USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forums. He worked with the Long Island Lions Eye Bank as a transporter and has been the Lions Representative to UNICEF in New York for 10 years. Mr. Brandel also helped coordinate Lions relief effects at the World Trade Center following September 11, 2001.

In recognition of Albert Brandel's contributions, he has received numerous awards, including the 100% Club President Award, the 100% District Governor Award, 15 International President's Awards and the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest award the association grants to its members. He is also a Progression Melvin Jones Fellow.

In addition to his Lions activities, Mr. Brandel has served as a Little League volunteer and a Eucharistic minister. He is a former member of the board of directors of the United Nations Association of the USA.

COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF SOMERSET COUNTY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month, and I would like to congratulate a number of outstanding women who will be recognized at the Somerset County's Commission on the Status of Women awards in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

The Commission presents awards annually in celebration of National Women's History Month in March. This year there are 17 women being honored, including entrepreneurs, educators and hometown heroes whose community service is considered extraordinary.

This year's Volunteerism Award winner is Tina Rear of Hillsborough. She is the founder of Care to Share Support Network.

Tina founded the organization after her son was diagnosed with autism. It now serves special-needs children and their families.

She also established a grant program to offset the financial hardships related to the therapy and medical care needed by children with disabilities.

Tina has worked with police to create an Emergency Data Sheet to help such children in case of an emergency.

I am pleased to congratulate Tina Rear for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

INTRODUCING THE LEGAL
SERVICES BENEFIT ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my friend Mr. RYAN in reintroducing the Legal Services Benefit Act.

This bill reinstates the tax preference for companies to provide access to affordable preventive legal services for employees and retirees. This preference existed for many years, until it was allowed to sunset in 1991.

Group legal service plans provide employees with low cost, basic legal services, including assistance with the purchase of a home, the preparation of a will, probate services and the resolution of domestic conflicts, such as child support collection. With rising evictions and mortgage foreclosures, families need more help in these areas than ever. When hard times hit and families face difficult challenges, legal plans can help keep employees in their homes and focused on their jobs.

The Legal Services Benefit Act will restore the historic pre-tax treatment of group legal services. This change to the tax code will again make legal service plans affordable for both employers and employees, and will provide access to legal services for millions of middle-income Americans who might otherwise let legal troubles get out of hand.

Last year, this bill became part of the Taxpayer Assistance and Simplification Act of 2008, and passed the House 238—179.

I ask my colleagues to again join me again in supporting this important bill that will help workers and businesses.

COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING
WOMEN OF SOMERSET COUNTY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month, and I would like to congratulate a number of outstanding women who will be recognized at the Somerset County's Commission on the Status of Women awards in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

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This year's Volunteerism Award winner is Nicolette Ash of Bridgewater. She is a 17-year-old founder of MADE or Making A Difference Everywhere.

The organization provides volunteer opportunities to teens in the Bridgewater area and allows them to gain community-service hours required for school, scholarships and religious groups.

Projects have included cleaning trash along the Raritan River, raking leaves for senior citizens, preparing food bundles for needy families and many more.

I am pleased to congratulate Nicolette Ash for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

ADAM WALSH CHILD PROTECTION
AND SAFETY REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2009

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Reauthorization Act of 2009. This bill reauthorizes a number of programs set to expire at the end of 2009 that help to track and apprehend sex offenders.

In 2006, Congress passed the Adam Walsh Act to protect the public, particularly children, from sexual predators. Under the Act, sex offenders must register with state or local jurisdictions after incarceration or while on probation. The Act expanded the National Sex Offender Registry by integrating the information in state sex offender registry systems and ensuring that law enforcement agencies across the United States have access to this information. The Act further requires states to make registry information available to the public via government Internet websites. A number of new grant programs were also authorized to assist states in improving sex offender registration and related requirements of the Act. It is several of these grant programs and some related provisions that are expiring at the end of this year, though the registration requirements and related authorities are not.

Unfortunately, many of the programs authorized by the Adam Walsh Act, including the expiring programs reauthorized by this bill, have received insufficient or no direct funding from Congress.

There are currently more than 100,000 missing sex offenders who have failed to register as required under current law. These predators are working, attending school, and living in close proximity to our children unbeknownst to parents and law enforcement officials.

By reauthorizing these important Adam Walsh Act programs, Congress will demonstrate its commitment to empower federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to protect children and identify, locate and apprehend sex offenders.

These programs were specifically drafted to provide the Department of Justice and state and local law enforcement agencies the tools necessary to track and apprehend absconders from the Sex Offender Registry. These expiring programs reauthorized by this bill include:

1. The Sex Offender Management Assistance Program (SOMA)—this provision awards grants to states to assist with the implementation of the sex offender registry under the AWA.

2. Pilot Program for Monitoring Sexual Offenders—this provision empowers the Attorney General to make grants to state, local and tribal governments in order to outfit sex offenders with electronic monitoring devices. It authorizes appropriations of \$5 million for fiscal years 2010–2014 and thereafter requests the Attorney General to report on the effectiveness of the program.

3. Grants to Combat Sexual Abuse of Children—this provision establishes a grant program for law enforcement agencies to combat sexual abuse of children with authorized appropriations of the necessary sums for fiscal years 2010–2014.

4. Jessica Lunsford Address Verification Grant Program—this provision creates the Jessica Lunsford Address Verification Grant Program to enable state, local and tribal grantees to verify the addresses of registered sex offenders with authorization of the necessary appropriations for fiscal years 2010–2014 and the requirement of an Attorney General's report on the effectiveness of the program.

5. Fugitive Safe Surrender—this provision instructs the Marshals Service to establish and coordinate a Fugitive Safe Surrender program in designated cities for the capture of fugitives from federal, state and local justice. It authorizes appropriations of \$8 million for that purpose in fiscal years 2010–2014.

6. Sex Offender Apprehension Grants; Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment Grants—this provision creates a grant program available to both public and private entities that assist in treatment of juvenile sex offenders or that assist the states in their enforcement of sex offender registration requirements. Appropriations are authorized for fiscal years 2010–2014 in such amounts as are necessary in the case of the enforcement grants and in the amount of \$10 million per year in the case of the juvenile sex offender grants.

Madam Speaker, Congress should move quickly to reauthorize these programs. Congress should also appropriate necessary funds for the full implementation of these programs. I urge my colleagues to support the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Reauthorization Act of 2009.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed due to personal reasons.

On Monday March 9, 2009 I missed rollcall votes 110, 111, and 112. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on those rollcall votes.

COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING
WOMEN OF SOMERSET COUNTY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month, and I would like to congratulate a number of outstanding women who will be recognized at the Somerset County's Commission on the Status of Women awards in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

The Commission presents awards annually in celebration of National Women's History Month in March. This year there are 17

women being honored, including entrepreneurs, educators and hometown heroes whose community service is considered extraordinary.

This year's Shirley Noble Volunteerism Award will be given to Doris Zampella, owner and executive vice president of E.A. Boniakowski Agency Inc. in Green Brook.

Doris also is a founding partner of two insurance agencies, Jaz Maz Enterprises LLC, and owns and operates three Rita's franchises in Central Jersey. She is a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician with the Martinsville Rescue Squad.

I am pleased to congratulate Doris Zampella for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. BUCHANAN. 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, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009:

Requesting Member: Congressman VERN BUCHANAN

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: NOAA—Operations, Research, and Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Mote Marine Laboratory

Address of Requesting Entity: 1600 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota, Fl. 34236

Description of Request: I secured \$500,000 for Science Consortium for Ocean Replenishment (SCORE) at Mote Marine Laboratory.

SCORE is a multi-state initiative for the recovery of the nation's ocean fisheries. Its approach is to replenish diminishing marine fisheries stocks based on scientific protocols developed through a highly coordinated national effort focused on demonstration of successful stock enhancement. This fast-track strategy has the potential to be more cost-effective and timely than policy measures traditionally used to conserve and sustain ocean resources. The consortium includes institutions from Florida, New Hampshire, Washington and University of Southern Mississippi.

Requesting Member: Congressman VERN BUCHANAN

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service—SRG
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Mote Marine Laboratory

Address of Requesting Entity: 1600 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota, Fl. 34236

Description of Request: I secured \$416,000 sustainable aquaculture food technology innovations.

Mote Marine Laboratory and the University of Texas Marine Science Institute are seeking funds for a five-year research program to develop innovative and sustainable technologies to farm marine fishes on land and to expand the supply of safe seafood for U.S. consumers. A critical need exists for inland recirculating aquaculture technologies to reduce

the large and growing global demand for seafood, to reduce fishing pressure on declining wild fish populations, and to improve our nation's food security and health. The growing demand for marine fishery resources is currently being met through imported seafood produced in coastal ponds or sea cages in other countries around the world.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding an earmark I received as part of H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Member requesting: Congressman Gus M. BILIRAKIS

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: OJP—Byrne Discretionary Grants

Name of requesting entity: Phoenix House

Address of requesting entity: 6604 Harney Road, Tampa, Florida 33610

Description: The \$200,000 will be used to help develop an enhanced residential substance abuse treatment program for women in Hillsborough County, Florida. This funding is justified because Byrne discretionary grants are used to help states and local communities prevent drug abuse and crime, which is the purpose of this program.

COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF SOMERSET COUNTY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month, and I would like to congratulate a number of outstanding women who will be recognized at the Somerset County's Commission on the Status of Women awards in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

The Commission presents awards annually in celebration of National Women's History Month in March. This year there are 17 women being honored, including entrepreneurs, educators and hometown heroes whose community service is considered extraordinary.

This year's Hometown Hero Award winner is Edith Lit of Manville.

For the past seven years, Edith has organized a "Wish List" campaign to make the holidays brighter for clients of Alternatives Inc. by encouraging her fellow Somerset County Library System employees to adopt a person or family.

For the past three years, she has included the Somerset Regional Animal Shelter in the libraries' "Wish List" drive.

Edith also participates in the "point in time" survey conducted by the county Department of Human Services to identify homeless individuals and families, and actively organizes co-workers and friends to help too.

I am pleased to congratulate Edith Lit for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, March 9, 2009, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 210, H. Res. 222, and H.R. 131.

Had I been present for Roll Call #110, on suspending the Rules and passing H. Res. 210, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that providing breakfast in schools through the National School Breakfast Program has a positive impact on classroom performance, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for Roll Call #111, on suspending the Rules and passing H. Res. 222, Congratulating the National Assessment Governing Board on its 20th Anniversary in measuring student academic achievement, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for Roll Call #112, on suspending the Rules and passing H.R. 131, the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission Act, I would have voted "Aye."

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information in regards to H.R. 1105, the Consolidated Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2009.

Requesting Member: Rep. JO ANN EMERSON
Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: COPS-Meth

Requesting Entity: Southeast Missouri Drug Task Force

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 1763, Sikeston, Missouri 63801

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$165,000 to supplement and support operations of the Southeast Missouri Drug Task Force (SEMO DTF). SEMO DTF is a multi-jurisdictional drug task force unit that serves a 10 county area of Southeast Missouri. The unit conducts both cover and overt investigations into the possession, manufacture, and distribution of controlled substances. The funds will be spent as follows: \$28,000 for personnel, \$68,000 for overtime compensation, \$60,000 for equipment, \$2,500 for telecommunication services, \$5,000 for supplies, and \$1,500 for personnel expenses.

COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF SOMERSET COUNTY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month, and I

would like to congratulate a number of outstanding women who will be recognized at the Somerset County's Commission on the Status of Women awards in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

The Commission presents awards annually in celebration of National Women's History Month in March. This year there are 17 women being honored, including entrepreneurs, educators and hometown heroes whose community service is considered extraordinary.

This year's Education Award winner is Karyn Malinowski of Manville. Karyn is the director of the Rutgers Equine Science Center at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station in New Brunswick.

Karyn has been a faculty member at Rutgers University since 1978. She is believed to be the first female equine-extension specialist in the nation.

I am pleased to congratulate Karyn Malinowski for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INCLUSIVE HOME DESIGN ACT

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Inclusive Home Design Act. This critical legislation will make more new homes accessible, or inclusive, for people with disabilities. I want to thank my colleagues SAM FARR, MADELEINE BORDALLO, and JIM MCGOVERN for joining me today as original cosponsors of this legislation. I would also like to thank Eleanor Smith of Concrete Change and Beto Barrera and the staff of Access Living for their tireless efforts to move this legislation forward. This legislation is supported by the Paralyzed Veterans of America and many other national and local disabilities rights organizations.

Currently, only five percent of new single-family homes and townhouses built with federal assistance require any design features that make it possible for people with mobility impairments to live in or even visit the homes. The remaining 95 percent are built with unnecessary architectural barriers.

The Inclusive Home Design Act is based on the concept of integrating basic accessibility features into newly-built homes and builds on the movement of establishing "visitability" standards. Visitability is an affordable, sustainable, and inclusive design approach that will improve the availability of accessible housing for individuals with mobility impairments, including disabled veterans and seniors.

Specifically, the legislation would require all newly-built single-family homes and townhouses receiving federal funds to meet four accessibility standards:

First, there must be at least one accessible, or "zero step," entrance into the home.

Second, the doorways on the main level of the home must be wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair.

Three, at least one bathroom on the main floor must be wheelchair accessible.

And finally, light switches and thermostats must be at a reachable height from a wheelchair.

Adopting these standards for a single family home is not prohibitively expensive. The average added cost for homes built with accessibility features is between \$100 and \$600. Retrofitting a home, on the other hand, can cost several thousand dollars.

Architects and builders would also have latitude in how they comply with the act. For example, the zero step entrance can be placed at the front, side, or back of the home. The accessible route can even go through an attached garage. In addition, the zero step entrance requirements can be waived if the terrain makes compliance impractical.

When homes are accessible, it benefits not only today's disability community but also all of us who have friends and family members with disabilities. Accessible homes also benefit many people who are not currently disabled but may experience a temporary injury or permanent disability during their lifetimes. In fact, 3 out of 10 people will face a disability before age 67.

In addition, by making more new homes accessible, we also make it possible for more seniors to age at home—an issue that is increasingly important as the population grows older. In 2000, there were 30.5 million people between 65–84 years old; that number will grow to 47 million by 2020. 58 percent of people over the age of 80 suffer from some kind of physical impairment. Often, the prohibitive cost of making existing homes accessible deprives seniors of their independence and pushes them into nursing homes. Allowing more people to age at home will both save taxpayers money and help improve the quality of life for our seniors.

Many towns and states have already incorporated visitability standards. This list includes Chicago, Naperville, Bolingbrook, and Urbana, Illinois; Atlanta, Georgia; Iowa City, Iowa; St. Petersburg, Florida; Pima County, Arizona; Vermont; Texas; Kansas; Minnesota; and others. The United Kingdom also passed a law in March 1998 mandating that every new home become accessible. A federal law in the United States will build on the momentum that has already been created.

Passage of the Inclusive Home Design Act would mean that all homes built with federal dollars would be accessible, and the number of homes available for people with disabilities would be greatly increased. I am looking forward to working with my colleagues to pass this legislation, the Inclusive Home Design Act, into law.

COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF SOMERSET COUNTY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month, and I would like to congratulate a number of outstanding women who will be recognized at the Somerset County's Commission on the Status of Women awards in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

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Month in March. This year there are 17 women being honored, including entrepreneurs, educators and hometown heroes whose community service is considered extraordinary.

This year's Education Award winner is Helen "Chickie" Haines of Hillsborough. Chickie has helped educate thousands of students in her 38 years with the Bound Brook School District.

She started as an elementary school teacher, and in 2004 became principal of the Lafayette and LaMonte elementary schools, earning the "Who's Who Among America's Teachers" award in 2002. Chickie has served on Hillsborough's Township Committee, Zoning Board, environmental commission and open space committee.

I am pleased to congratulate Helen Haines on her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

STOCK MARKET RECOVERY ACT, H.R. 1406

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, the stock market's loss over the last six weeks suggests that the policies of this Congress are magnifying the depths of this recession, not aiding its recovery. Let's look at recent events:

1. Stocks are now traded in a bear market that declined 20 percent since the President's inauguration. This decline is faster than any other President since the First World War. The decline is steeper than Presidents Hoover or Roosevelt experienced. In fact, by this point in the Roosevelt administration, the market showed gains.

2. The market decline accelerated as the Congress and President promulgated their policies:

a. From the year's-end to the inauguration, the market fell 5 percent.

b. From inauguration to Secretary Geithner's speech, the market rose 2.5 percent in anticipation of good economic policies.

c. From Secretary Geithner's speech to the budget release, the market fell 12 percent.

d. From the budget release to March 6, the market fell another 11.2 percent.

As details of congressional legislation and the Administration's plans were published, the market accelerated its fall. A number of "recession-proof" industries lost value after the President released his budget. Oil prices rose nearly 4 percent, but the value of American energy companies fell by the following amounts up to 20 percent.

In other words, Americans are paying higher gas prices while the American companies that hire our people for this sector expect to see lower returns on capital. This is not a good trend and sends a strong market signal to serve the U.S. market (where prices are higher) from offshore facilities (where costs are lower).

Congress should consider more than just spending and borrowing from abroad. Key policies that would make stocks more attractive include:

Suspending the Mark-to-Market rule that makes banks look less valuable than they actually are.

Reinstating the Uptick rule so that short sellers do not have an advantage in driving down the value of stocks.

Today, I am introducing the "Stock Market Recovery Act of 2009," mandating the SEC to implement these reforms. I am confident this will be a first step continuing the 4 percent rise we have seen today.

THRIFT SAVINGS FUND
IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Thrift Savings Fund Improvement Act. This legislation expands the investment options available to congressional and other federal employees by creating a precious metals investment fund in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). Adding a precious metals fund to the TSP will enhance the plan's ability to offer congressional employees a wide range of investment options that can provide financial security even during difficult economic conditions.

The Thrift Savings Plan is one of the most important benefits offered to congressional employees. A strong TSP can obviously play a key role in attracting and retaining talented individuals to serve in the legislative branch. Adding a precious metals option will strengthen the TSP. In the last year, the price of gold rose by 5.5 percent while the Dow Jones experienced one of its worst years ever, falling by 33.8 percent, while the NASDAQ declined by 40.5 percent!

Recent gains aside, precious metals have a number of features that make them a sound part of a prudent investment strategy. In particular, inflation does not erode the value of precious metals is not eroded over time. Thus, precious metals can serve as a valuable "inflation hedge." Precious metals also maintain, or even increase, their value during times of stock market instability, such as what the country is currently experiencing. Thus, investments in precious metals can help ensure that an investment portfolio maintains its value during times of economic instability.

Federal employees could greatly benefit from the protection against inflation and economic downturns provided by prudent investments in precious metals. I, therefore, once again urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Thrift Savings Fund Improvement Act.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of International Women's Day. Globally, women have made great advances in recent years. Currently, there is the largest number of women serving in Congress in the history of the United States, including 9 new female members of the House of Representatives and 3 new female Senators. Between 1945 and 1995, the number of woman

parliamentarians internationally quadrupled. Women like Benazir Bhutto, the first woman prime minister of a Muslim country, are demonstrative of the truly universal role women are playing in leadership and the progress we have made.

While these numbers are encouraging, there is still a long journey to true global equality for women. Seventy percent of the 1.2 billion individuals living in poverty are women. Similarly, eighty percent of world's refugees are women. While women control \$14 trillion in assets, they only own 1 percent of the world's land. Women are responsible for two-thirds of the world's work, but are paid only 10 percent of the world's income. In third-world countries, women continue to be oppressed, mutilated, and trafficked and they do not have the representation to stand up to these injustices.

As a woman, I wanted to take the opportunity to speak to the progress we have made and the progress we have yet to achieve. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress to ensure the continued progress for women internationally and at home.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. 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:

Requesting Member: Congressman SAM GRAVES

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Project expected to be included in the FY09 Omnibus Appropriations Act:

Description of Request: I am requesting funding for the Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph, MO project in fiscal year 2009. The entity to receive funding for this project is Missouri Western State University located at 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO, 64507. The funding would be used for the acquisition of technology and equipment for Institute for Industrial and Applied Life Sciences. This funding is located in the Higher Education FIPSE account.

COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING
WOMEN OF SOMERSET COUNTY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month, and I would like to congratulate a number of outstanding women who will be recognized at the Somerset County's Commission on the Status of Women awards in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

The Commission presents awards annually in celebration of National Women's History Month in March. This year there are 17 women being honored, including entrepreneurs, educators and hometown heroes whose community service is considered extraordinary.

This year's Education Award winner is Carole Payne of Boonton. Carole serves as the school nurse at Crim School. Carole helps develop health policies and procedures in the Bridgewater-Raritan School District. The New Jersey Department of Health asked her to come up with a manual on emergency care in the school setting for school nurses.

Carole is a certified EMT and active on the Boonton First Aid Squad. She also teaches at Beth Israel Medical Center in Newark and won the distinguished Johnson & Johnson School Nurse Fellowship.

I am pleased to congratulate Carole Payne for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING MILITARY FAMILIES OF OUR NATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I join with my colleagues today the opportunity to recognize the outstanding military families of our nation. In Eastern Washington, I could not be more proud of the military families as well as our community that stands behind them. There is probably no other group more schooled in the art of patience than our military families. They have to learn to be flexible and to endure because they are apart of a system that for all its structure is still quite unpredictable.

Last August, the 81st Brigade from Washington State deployed to Iraq. Although it is challenging for the men and women who serve, it is sometimes harder for those at home. More often than not, as soon as the service member deploys, the spouse is faced with an unforeseen obstacle like their brand new car needing to go back to the shop or the refrigerator deciding not to work. Children often times go back to school and find it hard to understand why mom or dad has to miss their baseball game or piano recital. The families of the 81st Brigade have much catching up to do when they return home this summer. They will have a Thanksgiving to celebrate, Christmas presents to open, birthday candles to blow out, Easter eggs to hunt and many, many kisses and hugs to share.

A military spouse once wrote that "the cycle of deployments, missed holidays, lonely anniversaries, and long separations, isn't governed by any war or what's being debated on CNN. It is as much a part of our daily living as weekend business trips and conference calls are to the average business person. It is part of the job description." To all the military families in our nation, your character and bravery make you role models to us all and your service does not go unnoticed. Know that our nation is tremendously grateful for your commitment in standing beside your Soldier, Sailor, Airmen, or Marine so that he or she can fight to continue to protect our freedoms. Please accept my utmost and sincerest "thank you" for your honorable service.

SECRETARY CLINTON VISIT

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, as Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Turkish Relations and Turkish Americans, I was greatly encouraged by the recent visit of U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to our ally, Turkey. This historic visit sends a clear signal that the United States greatly values its strategic partnership with Turkey—which has benefited both of nations for over half a century.

During the visit, Secretary Clinton announced an upcoming trip to Turkey by President Barack Obama, and together with Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Babacan released a Joint Statement.

Over the coming months, I am convinced that U.S.-Turkish relations will continue to deepen and flourish under the stewardship of President Obama, Secretary Clinton and the new Administration. It is clear that a strong and mutually respectful friendship is in the national interests of the United States and Turkey, and also serves to promote regional peace, security and prosperity. To that end, I encourage all of my colleagues to review the text of Secretary Clinton and Foreign Minister Babacan's joint statement, which I am including in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

JOINT STATEMENT BY TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT OF U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON UPON THE INVITATION OF MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF TURKEY ALI BABACAN, MARCH 7, 2009

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Foreign Minister Ali Babacan today reaffirmed the strong bonds of alliance, solidarity and strategic partnership between the Republic of Turkey and the United States, as well as the commitment of both countries to the principles of peace, democracy, freedom, and prosperity enshrined in the Shared Vision and Structured Dialogue document agreed to in July 2006.

Turkey and the United States reiterated their determination to continue close cooperation and consultation on all issues of common concern. They pledge to contribute to peace and stability in the Middle East and in this context, to support a permanent settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, including alleviating the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of a two-state solution; to enhance energy security and to expand the Southern corridor of natural gas and oil infrastructure to enable Caspian basin and Iraqi energy producers to reach European and world markets; to promote peace, stability, and prosperity in the south Caucasus, including through U.S. support for the efforts of Turkey and Armenia to normalize relations and joint support for the efforts of the Minsk Group to resolve the Nagorno Karabakh conflict; to continue to cooperate in the Balkans; to support strongly a comprehensive and mutually-acceptable settlement of the Cyprus question under the auspices of the UN and in this context ending the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots; and to enhance their cooperation in the fight against terrorism, particularly against their common enemies, the PKK and al-Qaeda. The United States will continue its intelligence support for Turkish operations against the PKK and is reviewing ways to be more supportive. As members of the G-20,

Turkey and the United States pledge continued cooperation to deal with the global economic crisis and efforts to increase and diversify bilateral economic relations with particular emphasis on trade, investment, scientific and technological cooperation.

Secretary Clinton and Foreign Minister Babacan discussed Turkey's accession to the European Union as a member, a goal the United States continues to strongly support, as well as the Government of Turkey's continued emphasis on reform process. With their commitment to Transatlantic relations and as Allies in a strong NATO, they pledge continued cooperation in Afghanistan, including through continued Turkish contributions to Afghanistan. They reiterated their commitment to the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Iraq as well as reiterated their support for a democratic, pluralistic, unified and federal Iraq. They also welcome Turkey's deepening relations with the Government of Iraq as evidenced by high level visits as well as trilateral meetings to discuss cooperation against the PKK. Turkey and the United States will strongly back the United Nations Security Council in its work to maintain global peace and security for the prevention and removal of threats to the international community and in this context will cooperate in dealing with issues including terrorism, drug trafficking, organized crime and the threat of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery in the region and beyond.

Finally, they reaffirmed their determination to diversify the broad based bilateral relations particularly between the Turkish and American people. In that context, the Secretary and Minister announced the establishment of "Young Turkey/Young America: A New Relationship for a New Age." This initiative will enable emerging young leaders in Turkey and the United States to develop initiatives that will positively impact people's lives and invest in future ties between the leadership of our two countries.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Friday, March 6, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "Nay" on Rollcall vote #107 (on approval of the journal), "Aye" on Rollcall vote #108 (Motion to Recommit with instructions to H.J. Res. 38), "Nay" on Rollcall vote #109 (on passage of H.J. Res. 38).

COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF SOMERSET COUNTY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month, and I would like to congratulate a number of outstanding women who will be recognized at the Somerset County's Commission on the Status of Women awards in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

The Commission presents awards annually in celebration of National Women's History Month in March. This year there are 17 women being honored, including entrepreneurs, educators and hometown heroes whose community service is considered extraordinary.

This year's Education Award winner is Elizabeth Stitley of Somerville. She currently serves as a supervisor of Allied Health Programs at Somerset County Technology Institute since 2003.

In this capacity, Elizabeth has spearheaded the growth of the program, which now offers two full-time, day practical nursing programs and an evening program. She was instrumental in adding a new skills laboratory with a task-training center that will soon be equipped with cameras.

Elizabeth has served as president of the Practical Nurse Educators Council and of the New Jersey League for Nursing, and received the league's 2004 President's Award. She also is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, the international nursing honor society.

I am pleased to congratulate Elizabeth Stitley for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Bill.

Requesting Member: SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

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

Account: CJS: COPS Law Enforcement technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Charles Town Police Department

Address of Requesting Entity: 114 West Liberty Street, Charles Town, West Virginia 25414

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$124,000: The Charles Town Police Department is seeking funds to upgrade their technological capabilities to meet the needs of a growing community. This funding will be used to provide computers that can be used in the office and in police vehicles that will allow them to integrate into various databases that are available via the intranet and internet; provide a server with enough space to allow them to utilize various databases for information storage and retrieval; provide a case management system that will allow the police department to generate forms, conduct searches as well as integrate case and document management; and provide the police department the opportunity to store documents electronically versus a paper format.

Requesting Member: SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

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

Account: CJS: COPS Law Enforcement technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Weston Police Department

Address of Requesting Entity: 102 West Second St., Weston, WV 26452

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$100,000: Weston, a small rural community in West Virginia, is seeking funds to upgrade their communications capabilities to help them meet the needs of their community and the surrounding county. These funds will help establish a computer network in all police vehicles that is networked with the 911 center and the Weston Police Department and surrounding counties.

Requesting Member: SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

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

Account: CJS: COPS Law Enforcement technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Morgan County Commission

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 28, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$576,000: The Morgan County Commission is requesting funding for two emergency and communication towers to be built in the western part of the county. Not only will this tower provide better Cellular and Internet service for our citizens in this rural area, but more importantly, it will increase emergency operations in these areas. The second tower will be located in Paw Paw, West Virginia and will provide great service for not only the residents of Morgan County, but also those that travel through the area.

Requesting Member: SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

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

Account: CJS: COPS Law Enforcement technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Hampshire County Multi-Agency RMS Communications

Address of Requesting Entity: 66 North High Street, Room 2, Romney, WV 26757

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$93,000: Hampshire County's Sheriff's office is seeking funds to implement a new, modern, Windows based, multi-jurisdictional Record Management System (RMS), which will link the sheriff's department, two city police departments, 911 Center, and the prosecuting attorney's office. This shared line of communication is critical to the county's ability to respond to emergencies and threats to the Greater Washington metropolitan area as the county is on the front line for eastern evacuation routes for the city.

Requesting Member: SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

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

Account: Energy & Water: Corps of Engineers: Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Rep. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

Address of Requesting Entity: 2443 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$1,435,000: This money is to fund certified water and wastewater projects and is of great value to small communities with aging or inadequate water systems.

Requesting Member: SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

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

Account: Energy & Water: Corps of Engineers: Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Wirt Co. Commission

Address of Requesting Entity: Court & Washington Street, Elizabeth, WV 26143

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$287,000: The Wirt County Commission is hoping to effect permanent, long lasting repairs to the Wells Lock/Dam. The Department of Natural Resources has attempted temporary repairs by filling old lock chamber with large stones, but this is considered a temporary repair. If the water pool established by the dam is lost, it will cause considerable erosion of river banks alongside the Town of Elizabeth, including Sportsman Park, schools, and various roadways. Funds will be used for a more long term repair to this vital piece of infrastructure.

Requesting Member: SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

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

Account: Interior: STAG

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Central Hampshire PSD

Address of Requesting Entity: Rural Route 1, Box 84, Augusta, WV 26704

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$500,000: The Central Hampshire PSD's existing wastewater treatment plant is at capacity and the PSD has imposed a moratorium on new sewer connections. While Hampshire County has land suitable for residential, commercial and industrial development adjacent to the City of Romney the moratorium on new connections precludes this development. The City of Romney is developing a new wastewater treatment plant that will meet federal and state standards. The City is developing the facility with sufficient capacity to serve immediately adjacent areas of the Central Hampshire PDS that currently rely on the existing overburdened Central Hampshire Treatment Plant. The PSD must construct an inter-connector line to access this treatment capacity. Accessing the Romney wastewater treatment plant will allow the PSD to lift the moratorium and serve new development.

Requesting Member: SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

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

Account: Interior: STAG

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Kanawha County Commission

Address of Requesting Entity: 407 Virginia Street East, Charleston, WV 25301

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$184,000: The requested funding will allow the Kanawha County Commission to fully fund this project and continue providing water to residents of Kanawha County. Currently, Kanawha County is approximately 98% served by a viable water system. The construction of this water project will bring water to an additional 45 families that are in dire need of water. These residents have relied on wells that are no longer functioning, shallow wells, cisterns, springs and are hauling water to their residents. Many of these systems producing water does not meet the drinking water quality requirements of the WV Department of Health

and Human Resources, due to mineral and biological contamination. One of the goals of Kanawha County's comprehensive plan is to provide potable water to its residents which will enhance their quality of life. If this project is not constructed the problem will continue to perpetuate the nearly intolerable conditions that currently exist.

Requesting Member: SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

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

Account: Labor HHS: HRSA

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Family Care Health Center

Address of Requesting Entity: 301-6 Great Teays Boulevard, Scott Depot, WV 25560

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$347,000: Northern Putnam County is underserved for primary and preventive care, with only one doctor located in the area and a population close to 10,000 people. Family Care, a Section 330 Community Health Center (FQHC) has its main office in the Teays District of Putnam County and is interested in working with a community coalition from Northern Putnam County to establish a full-time health center in this growing community so that families can access healthcare closer to their homes and schools. Funding will be used to purchase an existing building in the town of Eleanor, renovate it to accommodate a 5,000 sq. ft. health clinic, and support the first two years of operation until the new site is financially stable.

Requesting Member: SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

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

Account: Labor HHS: HRSA

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: St. Francis Hospital

Address of Requesting Entity: 333 Laidley St. P.O. Box 471, Charleston, WV 25322

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$190,000: The Prime of Life health screening program at St. Francis offers monthly screenings at free or reduced rates. St. Francis currently offers a free blood sugar and blood pressure screening as well as a cholesterol check, prostate exam, thyroid stimulating hormone test, hemoglobin A1C test for patients with diabetes and a complete blood count for \$10 per test. Federal funding would allow St. Francis to expand the screening capacity and to educate patients and the regional population on health prevention, encourage them to take personal responsibility for their health, and act as a preventative health resource.

Requesting Member: SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

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

Account: Labor HHS: HRSA

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: E.A. Hawse Health Center Address of Requesting Entity: PO Box 97 17978 State Rt. 55 Baker, WV 26801

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$190,000: E.A. Hawse Health Center (HHC) is seeking federal funding to provide oral health care for the underserved in the three county region of Berkeley, Morgan and Jefferson counties in West Virginia. The funding will allow HHC to lease, renovate, and equip a 3,000+ sq. ft. building located in Martinsburg for the practice site. Initial staffing will be 2

FTE Dentists, 1 FTE Dental Hygienist, 2.5 FTE Dental Assistants, 2 FTE clerical staff and 1 FTE Office Manager. It is estimated that the practice will provide 5,700 encounters for 2,500 users by the second year of the service expansion project period.

Requesting Member: SHELLEY MOORE
CAPITO

Bill Number: H.R. 1105 FY 2009 Omnibus
Appropriations Act

Account: Labor HHS: HRSA

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Marshall University Mid-Ohio Valley Center
Address of Requesting Entity: One John Marshall Way Point Pleasant, WV 25550

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$190,000: This funding will go towards building a medical simulation lab, a state of the art training facility that will provide the most current clinical situations. This lab will provide challenging medical situations that require critical thinking skills for all levels of medical professionals, in addition to the hands on interventions of medical care. This funding will allow the center to continually train all medical professionals for the rural setting. It is imperative to provide this training for these unique medical cases. Not only will the training assist in saving lives, but the care given at the first contact will aid in a faster diagnosis and treatment which could assist in the recovery process

Requesting Member: SHELLEY MOORE
CAPITO

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

Account: Labor HHS: HRSA

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Thomas Memorial Hospital

Address of Requesting Entity: 4605 MacCorkle Avenue SW., South Charleston, WV 25309

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$95,000: Thomas Memorial Hospital is seeking funding to assist in the completion of a clinical pavilion that will provide critically needed patient beds and surgical suites. The hospital serves an 8 county radius and needs the additional patient beds and surgical suites to address the demands of an aging patient population and an increased number of births at the facility.

Requesting Member: SHELLEY MOORE
CAPITO

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

Account: Labor HHS: HRSA

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: St. Joseph Hospital

Address of Requesting Entity: 1 Amalia Drive, Buckhannon, WV 26201

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$95,000: St. Joseph's is seeking funds to establish twenty skilled nursing beds on hospital campus. The twenty skilled nursing beds are an integral component of the proposed senior retirement community in Upshur County that will provide independent living, assisted living, and skilled nursing living facilities.

Requesting Member: SHELLEY MOORE
CAPITO

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

Account: FHWA: IM

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of South Charleston

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 8597, So. Charleston, WV 25303

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$237,500: The city is asking for funding to help with the cost involved in the repairs that need to be done. The entire decking on this bridge is failing and must be replaced as well as the sidewalks on the bridge. The federal funding if granted will be used entirely on the planning and replacement costs. A bridge report is available should it be required. This bridge is one of the main arteries in to the city. It also is the only available way for the students who attend South Charleston Middle School to cross over in order to get to the school. As it is now it is not as safe as it needs to be for all the traffic that passes over whether it is by foot or automobile. The funding for this project will help us accomplish our goal to replace the decking and sidewalks on the Central Avenue Overpass. We hope to meet a goal of new decking, sidewalks and to replace all the fencing and rails for all traffic. The benefit of this project is to ensure that we have a safe entry into our city in order to keep our economic growth at a steady rate. It also will allow a safe and direct way for our School students to get to and from school if their only way to school is to walk.

Requesting Member: SHELLEY MOORE
CAPITO

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

Account: HUD: EDI

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Kanawha Co. Public Library

Address of Requesting Entity: 123 Capitol Street Charleston, WV 25301

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$237,500: The funds appropriated for the project will go towards building new parking facilities a small business center, career center, and meeting room space.

Requesting Member: SHELLEY MOORE
CAPITO

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

Account: HUD: TCSP

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Berkeley County Development Authority

Address of Requesting Entity: 110 West Burke Street, Martinsburg, WV, 25401

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$332,500: Funding is needed to continue the construction of necessary infrastructure at Tabler Station Businesses Park. These funds would be directed toward projects including: Transportation and Roads, Water and Sewer Lines, Storm Water Management, Electrical Power, and Telecommunications. This project received an EDA grant of \$1.2 million in 2007.

Requesting Member: SHELLEY MOORE
CAPITO

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

Account: HUD: EDI

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Morgan County Commission

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 28, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$190,000: It is proposed to build a senior housing project on a vacant CSX site in downtown Berkeley Springs. The monies would be used for site acquisition and some site improvements. Despite growth in the area, there remains a long-term population of the area who need affordable housing and who are gradually being priced out of the market. This includes many persons aged 55 or over who

have been residents of the Morgan County area for their entire lives, but now find a shifting of their housing needs as they age. Currently there are no senior housing facilities in Berkeley Springs. The construction of this project will be the first in the area and will meet a demonstrated need.

Requesting Member: SHELLEY MOORE
CAPITO

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

Account: T-HUD: HUD: EDI

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Randolph County Development Authority/City of Elkins

Address of Requesting Entity: 10 11th Street, Elkins, WV 26241

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$142,500: This project will help ensure both downtown revitalization and preservation of the City of Elkins' historic commercial core. Funding is needed because the City of Elkins and the RCDA have exhausted both of their resources investing in the skeleton of the Revitalization effort. The City has upgraded water, sewer, and storm sewer lines, while the RCDA has installed road beds, underground utilities, restored the historic depot, and attracted private developers into the downtown.

Requesting Member: SHELLEY MOORE
CAPITO

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

Account: HUD: EDI

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Central Appalachia Empowerment Zone of WV

Address of Requesting Entity: 135 Main Street P.O. Box 176, Clay, WV 25043

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$190,000: This funding will be used for mining reclamation. With the planning and design of the site the coal company will work with the engineer firm, WV Housing Development Fund and the Clay County Board of Education to make sure the reclaimed sites are left in the proper condition for construction, water and sewer, housing. By using reclaimed mine sites, Clay County will be able to have developable land for much needed housing and industrial sites. The benefits to the district will be affordable housing for the residents of the district and land to develop industry.

Requesting Member: SHELLEY MOORE
CAPITO

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

Account: HUD: TCSP

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: HOPE Community Development Corporation, Charleston, WV

Address of Requesting Entity: 407 Virginia Street East, 600 Kanawha Boulevard, West, Charleston, WV 25302

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$712,500: The funding will allow HOPE CDC to establish a Home Ownership Zone on the West Side of Charleston to provide homeownership opportunities to low to moderate income families on The West Side to increase the number of homeowners on the West Side of Charleston. The establishment of an Entrepreneurial Economic and Workforce Development Center will Result in the creation of jobs and economic business opportunities for residents on the West Side of Charleston.

COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING
WOMEN OF SOMERSET COUNTY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month, and I would like to congratulate a number of outstanding women who will be recognized at the Somerset County's Commission on the Status of Women awards in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

The Commission presents awards annually in celebration of National Women's History Month in March. This year there are 17 women being honored, including entrepreneurs, educators and hometown heroes whose community service is considered extraordinary.

This year's Distinguished Honoree is Raritan Borough Mayor Jo-Ann Liptak, who is being honored for her decades as a teacher, volunteer work at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville, and her service on the Somerset County Planning Board. She also created the borough's annual John Basilone Memorial parade. Jo-Ann is the third generation in her family to hold office in Raritan Borough, became the municipality's first female mayor in 2007. I am pleased to congratulate Raritan Borough Mayor Jo-Ann Liptak for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I am submitting the following earmark disclosure information for project requests that I made and which were included within H.R. 1105, the "Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009."

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN DUNCAN

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Corps of Engineers—Section 206

Project Amount: \$0—It is a named project.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Army Corps of Engineers—Nashville District, PO Box 1070, Nashville, TN 37202.

Description of Request: Maryville, TN is interested in the restoration of the area's hydrology, streambank stabilization, and construction of a sediment basin. Recommended features include sediment removal, bioengineering restorations, and wetland restoration and development.

INTRODUCTION OF "HEALTHCARE
ENHANCEMENT FOR LOCAL PUBLIC
SERVANTS ACT OF 2009"

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, along with my New York colleague, JOHN MCHUGH, I am

pleased to introduce the "Healthcare Enhancement for Local Public Servants Act of 2009" or HELPS II legislation to provide a pre-tax deduction of up to \$3,000 to retired public servants for health or Long Term Care (LTC) insurance premiums.

This legislation builds off the successful language added to the Pension Protection Act (P.L. 109–280), which included a provision permitting retired public safety officers to take up to \$3,000 in pre-tax income and use it for health care costs or long term care expenses.

Today, we expand this successful measure to all retired public employee.

This concept was born several years ago during the 108th Congress in the Portman-Cardin pension bill (H.R. 1776) which included language to provide the ability of all retirees to use pre-tax dollars to pay for health plan premiums. Unfortunately, this provision and H.R. 1776 did not become law, and so today we introduce this as a free standing bill.

This language will benefit our nation's hard working public sector retirees.

The average monthly pension benefit of a retired public servant is \$1,725 and many do not have Social Security benefits. A significant portion of a retired public servants' monthly pension check is going towards health or Long Term Care insurance premiums. In many cases, the retired public servant is using the entire pension benefit to pay for health insurance premiums.

Additionally, HELPS II would streamline the administrative requirements of the program so that it will run more smoothly for those who already enjoy this tax benefit our nation's retired public safety officers.

Therefore, we are pleased to introduce this legislation and will work for its enactment to ensure that all of our nation's retired public safety officers and all of our nation's retired public servants have a streamlined ability to pay for health and long term care costs in their golden years.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
HEALTHCARE ENHANCEMENT
FOR LOCAL PUBLIC SERVANTS
ACT OF 2009

HON. JOHN M. MCHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of the Healthcare Enhancement for Local Public Servants Act of 2009, or HELPS II, Act. I appreciate the work my friend, Mr. CROWLEY, has done to develop this important legislation, which would make health care and Long Term Care (LTC) premiums more affordable for retired public servants.

Currently, active American workers who participate in a cafeteria plan option known as "premium conversion" may elect to reduce their taxable wages by having their share of health insurance premiums paid on a pretax basis. Such an arrangement reduces both income and employment taxes. Since October 2000, this option has been available to federal employees who participate in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). This option is also available to private sector and state or local government employees with their employers' permission.

Generally, premium conversion is not available to retirees. This is so because of an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) determination that distributions from qualified retirement plans are always subject to taxes, aside from several minor exceptions. Consequently, retirees are precluded from recasting pension payments as pretax income and thus denied this tax benefit.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 (P.L. 109–280) allows certain retired public safety officers to pay up to \$3,000 of qualified health insurance and/or Long Term Care (LTC) insurance premiums from their pensions on a pretax basis. This tax advantage, which makes health care more affordable, has become increasingly important as health insurance premiums have increased in recent years.

While I support making premium conversion available to all Americans, a good first step would be to make it available to retired state and local public employees through the enactment of the Healthcare Enhancement for Local Public Servants Act of 2009. Accordingly, I look forward to working with the Gentleman from New York to enact this measure.

ALLISON HARMON, DISTINGUISHED
FINALIST, 2009 PRUDENTIAL
SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. BARTLETT. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Allison Harmon of Hampstead has been named a distinguished finalist by the 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Ms. Harmon has been an active community volunteer, going back to the sixth grade. She has coordinated drives to collect school supplies, clothing, food and toys for the needy; tutored and mentored young students; volunteered at hospitals; and participated in many other service activities.

I believe it is vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution that Allison has made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods.

I heartily applaud Ms. Harmon for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. Her actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

Young volunteers like Allison are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, every March, we celebrate women's history and we remember their struggle for justice and equality. It's an occasion on which we honor the brave women who fought to improve and redefine America.

My home state of Rhode Island has known its share of extraordinary women. From Anne Hutchinson, a religious and social activist who challenged male hegemony, to Isabelle Ahearn O'Neill, who became Rhode Island's first woman legislator, women have fought with courage and perseverance for the freedom and equality that are rightfully theirs.

In the last two years alone, we have witnessed the first female Speaker of the House of Representatives and the first major female candidate for the Presidency of the United States. In January, the first action taken by Congress and the President, was to make the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act law. This legislation brings us one step closer to making sure that our female students someday enter our workforce at a wage equal to their male counterparts. At a time when we celebrate women's achievements, we must not, however, lose sight of the work that still lies ahead. In the effort to empower women, we must continue their fight for pay equity, eliminating health disparities, and strengthening domestic violence laws.

As we look towards the challenges we face, we must not forget those that got us to where we are today, and continue to encourage and seek progress.

HONORING HOSCHTON, GEORGIA
FOR SETTING THE RECORD FOR
"THE MOST SCARECROWS IN ONE
LOCATION"

HON. PAUL C. BROUN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues a great accomplishment that occurred in my district in the town of Hoschton, Georgia.

Hoschton, Georgia is a classic American town in Jackson County that cherishes a model American history. In 1865, the Hosch brothers founded this town on entrepreneurship and the American dream when they built the town's first store. This small town grew on these American ideals and, among other things, built two banks, a cotton gin, a cotton oil mill, and a train depot. In May 2008, the town decided to strive for yet another milestone—to set the world record for "the Most Scarecrows in One Location."

Mayor Bill Copenhaver and life-long resident Robbie Bettis co-chaired the Hoschton Fall Festival Committee that conceived of this challenge. The goal was clear. They needed four thousand scarecrows within the city limits by September 1, 2008. But these great community leaders pulled Hoschton's citizens together and surpassed their goal by 1,441

scarecrows. In less than four months, more than five thousand scarecrows were placed within the city limits. That's more than forty per day.

The Hoschton Fall Festival was then held last year on September 26 and 27 and drew more than 25,000 people who traveled far and wide to view a new World Record. It must also be noted that the other outstanding members of the Hoschton Fall Festival Committee were: Chuck Cope, Chris Hoffman, Theresa Kenerly, Leah Nelson, Nancy Rhodes, John Schulte, Richard Shepherd, Kristen Smith, Lisa Stovall, Ray Vaughn, Tom Walden, and Mark Williams. Furthermore, this great feat received state, national, and international media attention.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great American town. Its accomplishments show all of America what can be done when a dedicated community works together to meet, and in this case surpass, a stated goal.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding an earmark I received as part of the FY2009 Omnibus.

Division I: Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2009

Account: Department of Transportation, Technical Corrections

Legal Name of Entity: County of Morris
Address of Requesting Entity: 30 Schuyler Place, Morristown, New Jersey 07940

Description of Request: \$800,000 was authorized under section 1702 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (P.L. 109-59), to divert traffic from the steep grade at Schooley's Mountain Road and add roadway, construct a bridge over the Raritan River, and replace existing culverts. The technical correction will modify the current language of "Construct Long Valley Bypass," with "Planning, design, engineering, environmental analysis, acquisition of rights-of-way, and construction for the Long Valley Bypass." This is a technical correction to an existing authorization and has no budgetary impact.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1400

HON. JOHN M. MCHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, on March 9, 2009, I introduced H.R. 1400, a bill designed to further combat and reduce underage smoking. Specifically, this measure would make cigarettes and certain other tobacco products nonmailable through the United States Postal Service.

This bill is necessary because the United States Postal Service is being used to facilitate the delivery of cigarettes that were pur-

chased illegally on the Internet by underage minors. Unfortunately, those existing safeguards designed to prevent minors from purchasing cigarettes online have proven ineffective. For example, although 80 percent of cigarette vendor websites allege that transactions with minors will not be completed, there is little in place to enforce this policy. In fact, one study found that only seven percent of online vendors require driver's license information, while more than 50 percent simply require customers to verify their age by selecting an "I am over 18 years old" option. These and other safeguards clearly did not deter the 50,000 minors estimated, based on U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data, to have purchased cigarettes online in 2003. As Internet commerce expands, the number of persons (including minors) purchasing cigarettes online is expected to increase dramatically.

The problem H.R. 1400 is designed to address is illustrated by the disturbing results from Internet "sting" operations conducted by over 15 states in recent years. In New York State, 24 out of 26 websites sold cigarettes to minors as young as nine years old. Moreover, in 2005, a group of Upstate New York teenagers in my Congressional District conducted a similar experiment in collaboration with law enforcement. Half of their orders were successfully delivered, and, unfortunately, 90 percent were delivered via the United States Postal Service.

In addition to helping curb the usage of tobacco products among minors, H.R. 1400 would end tax evasions that hurt our States and local governments. These revenues are not insignificant. Rather, annual tax revenues estimated at \$1.4 billion are being lost; in 2005, New York State alone lost \$400 million.

Madam Speaker, Congress has the opportunity to combat underage tobacco use and tax evasion by enacting H.R. 1400. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to work with me to enact this important measure.

COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING
WOMEN OF SOMERSET COUNTY**HON. LEONARD LANCE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month, and I would like to congratulate a number of outstanding women who will be recognized at the Somerset County's Commission on the Status of Women awards in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

The Commission presents awards annually in celebration of National Women's History Month in March. This year there are 17 women being honored, including entrepreneurs, educators and hometown heroes whose community service is considered extraordinary.

This year's Entrepreneur Award winner is Lisa Kent of Hillsborough. She is the founder and president of the Luminations Group, a strategy and innovation firm.

The company began as a nonprofit enterprise that helped Hillsborough retailers and businesses develop marketing plans and materials. Today, the company includes eight female principals with more than 100 years of

combined marketing and general-management experience, and serves large brands and entrepreneurial endeavors. Lisa's company takes on pro-bono projects through Luminations' "Charity of Choice" program.

She co-chairs the Hebrew Education Committee at Congregation Kehilat Shalom in Hillsborough and volunteers with the Central Jersey MS Society.

I am pleased to congratulate Lisa Kent for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

IN RECOGNITION OF GENE MARIE
O'CONNELL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, for more than a decade, Gene Marie O'Connell has faithfully served the city we share as CEO of San Francisco General Hospital, the city's primary safety-net hospital. Under her skilled and passionate leadership, San Francisco General achieved designation as a level one trauma center, the only one of its kind serving San Francisco and northern San Mateo County. Additionally, the hospital received the notable distinction of "certified stroke center" and has been deemed "baby friendly" by the World Health Organization—the only health care facility in the Bay Area with that designation.

Gene Marie's own accomplishments are nearly as impressive as those of the hospital she serves so well. In 2007 she was named chair of the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems, an organization that represents more than 100 health systems nationwide. Ever cognizant of the needs of public hospitals and those they serve, Gene Marie made it a priority for the organization to improve the quality of patient care and to secure adequate Medicare and Medicaid funding.

Gene Marie has further devoted her time and talents to the medical field as a board member of the National Public Health & Hospital Institute, the branch that handles the national association's research initiatives. Her achievements attest to her steadfast devotion to providing exceptional medical care and treatment while seeking solutions to the field's most pressing issues.

As we both know, Madam Speaker, healthcare is an ever-changing arena. Despite this, Gene Marie's tireless dedication to the field and her genuine desire to positively impact the lives of those in need has remained constant. Such attributes attest to the magnitude of her influence on patients, co-workers, and members of the medical community who have benefited from her devoted care and faithful service.

Bolstering a personal philosophy that emphasizes the importance of compassion and support, Gene Marie has proved indispensable in all the positions she has held. Prior to her post as CEO of San Francisco General, she served as the hospital's chief operating officer, the senior associate administrator for clinical services, the director of emergency services, and the director of staff development, research, quality assurance, and discharge plan-

ning. The incredible breadth of her experience in the medical field also includes time spent as the director of patient care services at the Department of Public Health's Community Health Network.

Madam Speaker, the astounding accomplishments of Gene Marie O'Connell make us all proud. Through her leadership, San Francisco General has risen to the top of public hospitals and her initiatives guarantee that it will continue to be an innovative and compassionate member of our community. She has left an indelible mark on the hospital and all those it serves and her efforts ensure its persistent growth and prominence. Our community owes her a debt of gratitude and special thanks go to her supportive husband, Joel Hurwitz, and children, Tanya and Thorin, for sharing this very special woman with all of us.

SUPPORTING THE EMPLOYEE
FREE CHOICE ACT OF 2009

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Employee Free Choice Act of 2009, which my good friend GEORGE MILLER has reintroduced today.

Passage of the Employee Free Choice Act is long overdue. Middle-class Americans are the backbone of the economy, and yet they took a back seat to corporate giants over the past eight years. The previous Administration decided to protect big business at the expense of their employees, and corporate profits ballooned while real worker wages stagnated or even declined.

Right now, employers can use coercive tactics in the run-up to an employer-forced election even when a majority of workers want to form a union, they can stall indefinitely during contract negotiations, and they can engage in illegal labor practices and receive only a slap on the wrist. American workers deserve better.

The Employee Free Choice Act levels the playing field between employees and employers by allowing workers to decide whether to hold a NLRB election or instead show that a majority of workers support unionization. The Act prevents employers from stonewalling and makes it easier for employees to reach a collective bargaining agreement. Finally, the Employee Free Choice Act stiffens penalties against employers who violate the law.

The current economic recession makes passage of the Employee Free Choice Act even more important. Workers with higher wages will stimulate the economy, spur investment, and get America back on the road to prosperity. That's why I'm proud to be a co-sponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act of 2009, and why I urge all of my colleagues to support this vital piece of legislation. It's time to recognize and support American workers instead of leaving them behind.

IN SUPPORT OF SMALL,
MINORITY-OWNED BANKS

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, on behalf of Congressman AL GREEN and myself, I wish to submit copies of letters sent by the Greenling Institute of Berkeley, California, and by the National Bankers Association, which highlight the need for small banks, including minority owned banks that work with the inner city communities, to receive some of the federal Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) monies that are being distributed largely to the national financial institutions. While AIG, Citibank, JPMorganChase and others are receiving billions of dollars in aid, the opportunity to save a minority bank, OneUnited, with twelve million dollars is not only right and justified, it is essential. It is these small banks, typified by OneUnited that are vital to the communities we represent.

We commend the actions taken by Representative FRANK in urging the Department of the Treasury to notice and come to the aid of OneUnited. It is not a coincidence that so much attention has been devoted to what is a relatively small amount of money in the context of the hundreds of billions of dollars that have been distributed. OneUnited has been a profitable bank for every quarter for the last ten years, but had its capital wiped out when Fannie and Freddie preferred shares were deemed valueless due to the takeover of Fannie and Freddie by the Federal government. The preferred stock of Fannie and Freddie were always highly recommended investments and, in the case of OneUnited, a Community Development Finance Institution, these investments fit the mission of the bank. Before any TARP money was invested, OneUnited first received an investment of \$17 million dollars of additional private capital. This bank, like others, is trying to cope in this new financial world. We see every reason that minority banks are worthy of federal assistance and should be treated with the same care that the larger, and I might add, more irresponsible and careless banks have been treated by the Federal Government.

Again, Madam Speaker, Congressman GREEN and I applaud the actions taken by our colleague, Chairman FRANK in support of OneUnited a small minority owned bank. We encourage the Treasury Department and the federal financial regulators to treat all stressed financial institutions fairly regarding usage of the TARP funds during this very difficult financial situation.

THE GREENLINING INSTITUTE,

Berkeley, CA, January 26, 2009.

One united and creating equal opportunities for minority-owned banks under TARP.

Congressman BARNEY FRANK,

Rayburn H.O.B.,

Washington, DC.

DEAR BARNEY, Greenling Institute met with the Federal Reserve, OCC and FDIC on November 17th and 18th to, in part, formally complain that none of the fifty-two Latino or African American-owned banks, as of early November, had received any bailout funds. We contended that many were better equipped than Citigroup, for example, to assist Main St. borrowers but lack the clout to advance their interests.

We are pleased and very supportive of your efforts to urge that TARP funds also be considered for our nation's fifty-two small African American and Latino-owned banks such as One United. (Wall St. Journal, 1/22/09.)

In contrast to banks like One United, Merrill Lynch and BoFA spent \$8 million dollars in lobbying regulators and Congress in 2008. (Wall St. Journal, 1/24/09). Small banks (\$1 billion dollars or less) can't afford to do this and need all the indirect advocacy that you and a few others have advanced for small minority-owned banks.

Since African American and U.S. Latino-owned banks have less than \$8 billion dollars in aggregate assets, the maximum they are eligible for under TARP would be just \$240 million dollars. This is approximately a mere one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) of the amount the major banks have already received in TARP bailouts. And this represents only a half of one percent of the \$45 billion dollars Citigroup has so far received from TARP.

Thanks for continuing to advocate for Main St.

Warm Regards,

ORSON AGUILAR,
Executive Director.
BOB GNAIZDA,
Consultant.

NATIONAL BANKERS ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, February 23, 2009.

Hon. BARNEY FRANK,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN FRANK, I write to you on behalf of the National Bankers Association (the NBA), which, as you know, represents the interests of minority- and women-owned financial institutions from across America. The NBA would like to thank you for your continued and unwavering advocacy on behalf of minority banks.

You have always maintained open lines of communication with us by, among other things, meeting with us during our annual Legislative Summit, and you are always in tune with what minority banks and the communities they serve need and deserve. Moreover, you have taken actions that have led to Government Accountability Office studies on, and, as Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, you have held hearings on, the regulation of minority banks. Your actions have led to increased support, financial and otherwise, for programs that allow us to continue to serve the communities that our members target and that are often ignored by majority financial institutions. With your unceasing assistance, the minority banking sector has remained financially sound, and our members have continued to operate in accordance with their commitment to extending credit to ordinary Americans.

We remain confident that you recognize the importance of minority banks in this country, particularly to our inner cities, where they not only provide critical financial services, but, as importantly, serve as a beacon of hope to underserved minority residents. You have consistently acknowledged that minority banks have maximum impact in the communities that need their services and that inner cities depend on minority banks for their financial and psychological survival. Thus, these institutions are an essential element of our banking community. As you stated recently, "To help a minority bank stay in business—that is what democracy means."

We recognize that, despite your championing of such worthy causes, you have been the target of a significant amount of negative press in recent months with regard to a provision designed to aid minority banks that you put in the Troubled Assets

Relief Program bill. You nevertheless have refused to back down from your critics or abandon the plight of minority banks. Rather, you have continued to publicly recognize that many minority institutions are facing a dire economic outlook through no fault of their own, and that these institutions, which are often the lifeblood of their communities, deserve the same opportunities as the largest banks in the country to benefit from our government's attempt to strengthen the U.S. economy.

We are truly grateful for your continued backing and assistance of minority banks—even in the face of undue criticism—which allow us to continue to support you in your broader efforts to revitalize urban America. This letter is only a small token of our appreciation. We cannot thank you enough for the support that you unflinchingly have shown for us and our members.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL A. GRANT, J.D.,
President.

REGARDING H.R. 1381

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, recently, I introduced H.R. 1381, which would make permanent the provisions of Section 646 of the Internal Revenue Code. Currently, these provisions are slated to expire on December 31, 2010.

In 1971 Congress passed, and President Nixon approved, landmark legislation known as the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). This legislation settled the aboriginal land claims of Native Alaskans in exchange for land selection rights and cash. The law was, and is, a bold and organic national experiment in Native land claims settlement. However, it has needed revision and refinement many times since 1971. I am proud to have worked with my Colleagues over the past several years to accomplish these improvements.

In 1988, Congress enacted legislation to authorize Alaska Native corporations to establish "settlement trusts." Their purpose was to provide benefits to Alaska Natives and permit a legal structure that would protect and preserve, for current and future Alaska Native generations, much of the value of the land claims settlement. The original ANCSA required Native groups to form Alaska state law corporations to receive, administer, and distribute the ANCSA settlement, and the 1988 legislation was recognition that the corporate form had not always been well-suited to this task. In part, this was due to the federal tax problems that attend the corporate form, although ironically in the years after 1988, it became apparent that the federal tax rules relative to trusts present their own complexities and problems that discouraged the use of settlement trusts.

Congress enacted Section 646 of the Tax Code to address these problems. Section 646 provides for an elective regime for Alaska Native settlement trusts that (i) provides for a trust level tax at various rates ranging up to 10% in lieu of beneficiary level taxes; (ii) allows contributions to be made to these trusts on a tax favored basis; and (iii) streamlines administrative reporting for these trusts. When

adopted, this elective treatment initially provided significant incentives to the use of settlement trusts to further the ANCSA settlement, and Alaska Native corporations utilized this provision to provide benefits through Alaska Native settlement trusts.

As I mentioned earlier, Section 646 is scheduled to sunset on December 31, 2010, despite the positive effects it has had for the Alaska Native community. The principal aim of settlement trusts is to provide funds to the Alaska Native beneficiaries. These beneficiaries are among the most economically disadvantaged persons in our country. Section 646 has worked well to provide an incentive for the use of settlement trusts, and must be continued.

However, the looming expiration of Section 646 has had a chilling effect in recent years upon the establishment of new Alaska Native settlement trusts. Alaska Native corporations have no desire to exchange the corporate tax problems they already face for the tax problems accompanying the trust form that they will face if Section 646 is allowed to sunset. In October 2008, the Alaska Federation of Natives formally endorsed the permanent extension of Section 646, and in December 2008 the Joint Committee on Taxation scored the permanent extension of Section 646 as costing approximately \$33 million.

I introduced H.R. 1381, because a permanent extension of Section 646 will immediately remove the disincentive for Alaska Native corporations to use settlement trusts to provide benefits to their Alaska Native shareholders otherwise presented by the sunset of Section 646.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on Congressionally-directed project funding, I am submitting the following information regarding project funding I requested for Southeast Louisiana as part of the FY 2009 Omnibus.

Requesting Member: Congressman STEVE SCALISE

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: HHS, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)—Health Facilities and Services

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: West Jefferson Medical Center

Address of Requesting Entity: 1101 Medical Center Boulevard, Marrero, Louisiana 70072

Description of Request: I have secured \$190,000 for West Jefferson Medical Center in Marrero, Louisiana. This funding will be used to relocate and upgrade emergency electrical system switchgear to above the 1st floor of the hospital to prevent loss of power due to possible flooding. It would also add on-site electrical generation capacity to power the entire facility with on-site diesel fuel for up to seven days. The upgrade would add an additional 1,500 KW generator and a 24,000 gallon diesel fuel tank capacity. It relocates and rewires the existing 13 mission critical electrical switchgear locations to an upper level to ensure continued operation in the event of

flooding and municipal power interruption. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman STEVE SCALISE

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (ETA)—Training and Employment Services (TES)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Southeastern Louisiana University

Address of Requesting Entity: SLU Box 10784, Hammond, Louisiana 70402

Description of Request: I have secured \$190,000 for the Southeastern Louisiana University Economic and Workforce Development Initiative. The funding would be used to expand its pilot initiative to provide one stop economic/workforce development and community planning/smart growth assistance to meet the needs of Post-Katrina southeast Louisiana. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman STEVE SCALISE

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: DOT, Transportation, Community and System Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Regional Planning Commission

Address of Requesting Entity: 1340 Poydras Street, Ste. 2100, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Description of Request: I have secured \$285,000 for the Regional Planning Commission. The funding would be used for geometric and signalization improvements to Almedia Road (LA 50) at its intersections with US 61 to the north and LA 48 to the south. Almedia Road is a key north-south connector route on the eastbank of St. Charles Parish linking petrochemical facilities, refineries, and grain elevators along the Mississippi River with the national highway system, specifically, US 61, 1-310 and 1-10. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman STEVE SCALISE

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: DOT, Transportation, Community and System Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Regional Planning Commission

Address of Requesting Entity: 1340 Poydras Street, Ste. 2100, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Description of Request: I have secured \$356,250 for the Regional Planning Commission. The funding would be used to upgrade transportation and drainage on Clearview Parkway (LA Hwy. 3152) at the interchange area with Earhart Expressway (LA 3139) in the Elmwood area of Jefferson Parish. The Department of Transportation and Development (LaDOTD) will be the grant recipient on behalf of Jefferson Parish and the State of Louisiana. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman STEVE SCALISE

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: DOT, Transportation, Community and System Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Regional Planning Commission

Address of Requesting Entity: 1340 Poydras Street, Ste. 2100, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Description of Request: I have secured \$175,000 for the Regional Planning Commission. The funding would be used for construction of a Service Road of I-10 between LA 433 and US 190B in Slidell. This area of the Northshore has seen significant growth and development in the last decade. This trend is anticipated to continue and to expand further as the New Orleans region resettles as a result of Hurricane Katrina. The Department of Transportation and Development (LaDOTD) will be the grant recipient on behalf of St. Tammany Parish and the State of Louisiana. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman STEVE SCALISE

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: DOT, Transportation, Community and System Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: St. Tammany Parish government

Address of Requesting Entity: PO Box 628, Covington, Louisiana 70434

Description of Request: I have secured \$237,500 for St. Tammany Parish government. This funding would be used for an interchange at 1-12 and LA Highway 1088 in order to take traffic congestion off LA Highway 59 and US Highway 190. Traffic congestion is very heavy due to the continued population migration into St. Tammany Parish, the need for more schools and the expansion of retail and commercial businesses and residential subdivisions. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman STEVE SCALISE

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: DOT, Transportation, Community and System Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Regional Planning Commission

Address of Requesting Entity: 1340 Poydras Street, Ste. 2100, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Description of Request: I have secured \$237,500 for the Regional Planning Commission. This funding would be used for the widening of US 190 to a four lane section between US 11 and LA 433 in Slidell. The project is needed to alleviate severe congestion along the roadway that services the City of Slidell and eastern St. Tammany Parish. The project would help alleviate increasing congestion along the I-10/1-12 corridor by providing an alternative to the interstate. The Department of Transportation and Development (LaDOTD) will be the grant recipient on behalf of St. Tammany Parish and the State of Louisiana. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

TRAVIS ROBINSON DISTINGUISHED
FINALIST 2009 PRUDENTIAL
SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. BARTLETT. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young student from my district who has achieved national

recognition for exemplary volunteer service in his community. Travis Robinson of Taneytown has been named a distinguished finalist by the 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Mr. Robinson is being recognized for raising nearly \$10,000 in cash and food donations to support the Carroll County Food Sunday program. Upon learning that donations at the food pantry had been ruined by the high summer heat, Travis conducted a series of food drives in his community.

I believe it is vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution that Travis has made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods.

I heartily applaud Mr. Robinson for his initiative in seeking to make his community a better place to live, and for the positive impact he has had on the lives of others. Travis' actions show that young Americans can and do play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

Young volunteers like Travis are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

THE FREEDOM TO BANK ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation repealing two unconstitutional and paternalistic federal financial regulations. First, this legislation repeals a federal regulation that limits the number of withdrawals someone can make from a savings account in a month's time without being assessed financial penalties. As hard as it is to believe, the federal government actually forces banks to punish people for accessing their own savings too many times in a month. This bill also repeals a regulation that requires bank customers to receive a written monthly financial statement from their banks, regardless of whether the customer wants such a communication.

These regulations exceed Congress's constitutional powers and violate individual property and contract rights. Furthermore, these regulations insult Americans by treating them as children who are unable to manage their own affairs without federal control. I urge my colleagues to show their respect for the Constitution and the American people by cosponsoring the Freedom to Bank Act.

HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR
HOMES ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 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. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1106, "Helping Families Save Their Homes in Bankruptcy Act of 2009." I would like to thank Chairman CONYERS of the House Judiciary Committee and Chairman BARNEY FRANK of the Financial Services Committee for their leadership on this issue. I also would like to thank Arthur D. Sidney of my staff who serves as my able Legislative Director.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this bill because it provides a viable medium for bankruptcy judges to modify the terms of mortgages held by homeowners who have little recourse but to declare bankruptcy.

This bill could not have come at a more timely moment. This bill is on the floor of the House within weeks after the President's address before the Joint Session of Congress where President Obama outlined his economic plan for America and discussed the current economic situation that this country is facing.

To be sure, there are many economic woes that saddle this country. The statistics are staggering.

Home foreclosures are at an all-time high and they will increase as the recession continues. In 2006, there were 1.2 million foreclosures in the United States, representing an increase of 42 percent over the prior year. During 2007 through 2008, mortgage foreclosures were estimated to result in a whopping \$400 billion worth of defaults and \$100 billion in losses to investors in mortgage securities. This means that one per 62 American households is currently approaching levels not seen since the Depression.

The current economic crisis and the foreclosure blight has affected new home sales and depressed home value generally. New home sales have fallen by about 50 percent. One in six homeowners owes more on a mortgage than the home is worth which raises the possibility of default. Home values have fallen nationwide from an average of 19 percent from their peak in 2006, and this price plunge has wiped out trillions of dollars in home equity. The tide of foreclosure might become self-perpetuating. The nation could be facing a housing depression—something far worse than a recession.

Obviously, there are substantial societal and economic costs of home foreclosures that adversely impact American families, their neighborhoods, communities and municipalities. A single foreclosure could impose direct costs on local government agencies totaling more than \$34,000.

I am glad that this legislation is finally on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. I have long championed in the first TARP bill that was introduced and signed late last Congress, that language be included to specifically address the issue of mortgage foreclosures. I had asked that \$100 billion be set aside to address that issue. Now, my idea has been vindicated as the TARP today has included language and we here today are continuing to engage in the dialogue to provide monies to those in mortgage foreclosure. I have also asked for modification of homeowners' existing loans to avoid mortgage foreclosure. I believe that the rules governing these loans should be relaxed. These are indeed tough economic times that require tough measures.

Because of the pervasive home foreclosures, federal legislation is necessary to curb the fall out from the subprime mortgage crisis. For consumers facing a foreclosure sale who want to retain their homes, Chapter 13 of the Bankruptcy Code provides some modicum of protection. The Supreme Court has held that the exception to a Chapter 13's ability to modify the rights of creditors applies even if the mortgage is under-secured. Thus, if a Chapter 13 debtor owes \$300,000 on a mortgage for a home that is worth less than \$200,000, he or she must repay the entire amount in order to keep his or her home, even though the maximum that the mortgage would receive upon foreclosure is the home's value, i.e., \$200,000, less the costs of foreclosure.

Importantly, H.R. 1106 provides for a relaxation of the bankruptcy provisions and waives the mandatory requirement that a debtor must receive credit counseling prior to the filing for bankruptcy relief, under certain circumstances. The waiver applies in a Chapter 13 case where the debtor submits to the court a certification that the debtor has received notice that the holder of a claim secured by the debtor's principal residence may commence a foreclosure proceeding against such residence.

This bill also prohibits claims arising from violations of consumer protection laws. Specifically, this bill amends the Bankruptcy Code to disallow a claim that is subject to any remedy for damages or rescission as a result of the claimant's failure to comply with any applicable requirement under the Truth in Lending Act or other applicable state or federal consumer protection law in effect when the non-compliance took place, notwithstanding the prior entry of a foreclosure judgment.

H.R. 1106 also amends the Bankruptcy Code to permit modification of certain mortgages that are secured by the debtor's principal residence in specified respects. Lastly, the bill provides that the debtor, the debtor's property, and property of the bankruptcy estate are not liable for a fee, cost, or charge incurred while the Chapter 13 case is pending and that arises from a debt secured by the debtor's principal residence, unless the holder of the claim complies with certain requirements.

I have long championed the rights of homeowners, especially those facing mortgage foreclosure. I have worked with the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee to include language that would relax the bankruptcy provisions to allow those facing mortgage foreclosure to restructure their debt to avoid foreclosure.

MANAGER'S AMENDMENT

Because I have long championed the rights of homeowners facing mortgage foreclosure in the recent TARP bill and before the Judiciary Committee, I have worked with Chairman CONYERS and his staff to add language that would make the bill stronger and that would help more Americans. I co-sponsored sections of the Manager's Amendment and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Specifically, I worked with the Chairman CONYERS to ensure that in section 2 of the amendment, section 109(h) of the Bankruptcy Code would be amended to waive the mandatory requirement, under current law, that a debtor receive credit counseling prior to filing for bankruptcy relief. Under the amended language there is now a waiver that will apply where the debtor submits to the court a certifi-

cation that the debtor has received notice that the holder of a claim secured by the debtor's principal residence may commence a foreclosure proceeding against such residence.

This is important because it affords the debtor the maximum relief without having to undergo a slow credit counseling process. This will help prevent the debtor's credit situation from worsening, potentially spiraling out of control, and result in the eventual loss of his or her home.

Section 4 of the Manager's Amendment relaxes certain bankruptcy requirements under Chapter 13 so that the debtor can modify the terms of the mortgage secured by his or her primary residence. This is an idea that I have long championed in the TARP legislation—the ability of debtors to modify their existing primary mortgages. Section 4 allows for a modification of the mortgage for a period of up to 40 years. Such modification cannot occur if the debtor fails to certify that it contacted the creditor before filing for bankruptcy. In this way, the language in the Manager's Amendment allows for the creditor to demonstrate that it undertook its "last clear" chance to work out the restructuring of the debt with its creditor before filing bankruptcy.

Importantly, the Manager's Amendment amends the bankruptcy code to provide that a debtor, the debtor's property, and property of the bankruptcy estate are not liable for fees and costs incurred while the Chapter 13 case is pending and that arises from a claim for debt secured by the debtor's principal residence.

Lastly, I worked to get language in the Manager's Amendment that would allow the debtors and creditors to negotiate before a declaration of bankruptcy is made. I made sure that the bill addresses present situations at the time of enactment where homeowners are in the process of mortgage foreclosure. This is done with a view toward consistency predictability and a hope that things will improve.

RULES COMMITTEE

During this time, debtors and average homeowners found themselves in the midst of a home mortgage foreclosure crisis of unprecedented levels. Many of the mortgage foreclosures were the result of subprime lending practices.

I have worked with my colleagues to strengthen the housing market and the economy, expand affordable mortgage loan opportunities for families at risk of foreclosure, and strengthen consumer protections against risky loans in the future. Unfortunately, problems in the subprime mortgage markets have helped push the housing market into its worst slump in 16 years.

Before the Rules Committee, I offered an amendment that would prevent homeowners and debtors, who were facing mortgage foreclosure as a result of the unscrupulous and unchecked lending of predatory lenders and financial institutions, from having their mortgage foreclosure count against them in the determination of their credit score. It is an equitable result given that the debtors ultimately faced mortgage foreclosure because of the bad practices of the lender.

Simply put, my amendment would prevent homeowners who have declared mortgage foreclosure as a result of subprime mortgage lending and mortgages from having the foreclosure count against the debtor/homeowner in the determination of the debtor/homeowner's credit score.

Specifically, my amendment language was the following:

SEC. 205. FORBEARANCE IN CREATION OF CREDIT SCORE

(a) In General—Section 609 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681g) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

(h) Foreclosure on Subprime Not Taken Into Account for

Credit Scores—

(1) In General—A foreclosure on a subprime mortgage of a consumer may not be taken into account by any person in preparing or calculating the credit score (as defined in subsection (0)(2)) for, or with respect to, the consumer.

(2) Subprime Defined—The term ‘subprime mortgage’ means any consumer credit transaction secured by the principal dwelling of the consumer that bears or otherwise meets the terms and characteristics for such a transaction that the Board has defined as a subprime mortgage.’

(b) Regulations—The Board shall prescribe regulations defining a subprime mortgage for purposes of the amendment made by subsection (a) before the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) Effective Date—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect at the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply with- out regard to the date of the foreclosure.

The homeowners should not be required to pay for the bad acts of the lenders. It would take years for a homeowner to recover from a mortgage foreclosure. My amendment would have strengthened this already much needed and well thought out bill.

I intend to offer a bill later this Congress to address this issue. I am delighted however that the Judiciary Committee has expressed their willingness to incorporate my language in the Conference language for this bill. Without a doubt, this issue is important to me and it is critical to Americans who are facing mortgage foreclosure and bankruptcy.

OTHER AMENDMENTS

There were four amendments that were made in order by the Rules Committee. I will address my support or non-support for each amendment.

CONYERS AMENDMENT

I support the Manager’s Amendment offered by Chairman CONYERS. The amendment makes sense and makes clear that H.R. 1106 is intended to help those that cannot afford to repay their mortgage without intervention. Indeed it is strength to the underlying bill by providing finality to the decisions worked out by the bankruptcy courts. These decisions would provide finality between lenders and borrowers. Moreover, the debtors are afforded certain protections by the Second Degree Amendment. The Second Degree Amendment provides that the lender could receive additional funding from the sale of the foreclosed home.

The Manager’s Amendment would do the following:

(1) require courts to use FHA appraisal guidelines where the fair market value of a home is in dispute;

(2) deny relief to individuals who can afford to repay their mortgages without judicial mortgage modification; and

(3) extend the negotiation period from 15 to 30 days, requiring the debtor to certify that he or she contacted the lender, provided the lender with income, expense and debt statements, and that there was a process for the borrower and lender to seek to reach agreement on a qualified loan modification.

The Conyers Amendment would require a GAO study regarding the effectiveness of mortgage modifications outside of bankruptcy and judicial modifications, whether there should be a sunset, the impact of the amendment on bankruptcy courts, whether relief should be limited to certain types of homeowners. The GAO must analyze how bankruptcy judges restructure mortgages, including the number of judges disciplined as a result of actions taken to restore mortgages.

The Conyers Amendment would clarify that loan modifications, workout plans or other loss mitigation plans are eligible for the servicer safe harbor. Further, it would require HUD to receive public input before implementing certain FHA approval provisions.

With respect to the HOPE for Homeowners Program: recasts the prohibition against having committed fraud over the last 10 years from a freestanding prohibition to a borrower certification. The Conyers Amendment would amend the National Housing Act to broaden eligibility for Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) or “reverse mortgage.”

Provides that the GAO must submit to Congress a review of the effects of the judicial modification program.

Requires the Comptroller of Currency, in coordination with the Director of Thrift Supervision, to submit reports to Congress on the volume of mortgage modifications and issue modification data collection and reporting requirements.

Expresses the Sense of Congress that the Treasury Secretary should use amounts made available under the Act to purchase mortgage revenue bonds for single-family housing.

Expresses the Sense of Congress that financial institutions should not foreclose on any principal homeowner until the loan modification programs included in H.R. 1106 and the President’s foreclosure plan are implemented and deemed operational by the Treasury and HUD Secretaries.

Establishes a Justice Department Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Task Force to coordinate anti-mortgage fraud efforts. Would provide that the Treasury Secretary shall provide that the limit on the maximum original principal obligation of a mortgage that may be modified using EESA funds shall not be less than the dollar limit on the maximum original principal obligation of a mortgage that may be purchased by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation that is in effect at the time the mortgage is modified.

PRICE, TOM AMENDMENT

I oppose the Price amendment. The Price Amendment provides that if a homeowner who has had a mortgage modified in a bankruptcy proceeding sells the home at a profit, the lender can recapture the amount of principal lost in the modification.

I oppose the Price amendment for the following reasons.

First, the Price amendment would make homeowners into renters for life. It will lead to poorly maintained homes and lower property values for all of us. It takes away any incentive for homeowners to maintain their homes or insist on competitive sale prices.

Second, the Manager’s amendment already allows lenders to get back a substantial portion of any amount a home appreciates after bankruptcy. But it leaves in place incentives for homeowners to maintain and improve homes.

Third, the Price amendment is opposed by the Center for Responsible Lending, Consumers Union, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, National Association of Consumer Advocates, National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys, National Community Reinvestment Coalition, National Consumer Law Center, National Legal Aid and Defender Association, National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness, and USPIRG.

For the foregoing reasons, I oppose the Price Amendment and I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this amendment.

PETERS, GARY AMENDMENT

I support this amendment. This amendment is straightforward and is intended to help the borrower by providing a last clear chance to garner much needed information. It is my hope that this information would be used to provide financial assistance and education to the consumer.

In many cases, proper education about the use of credit and mortgages could have made all the difference in the consumers choices. Simply put, if the consumers made wise and informed credit decisions in the first instance, they might not have been in bankruptcy or facing foreclosure. I find this amendment incredibly prudent and helpful to debtors and consumers. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

TITRUS AMENDMENT

The Titrus Amendment would require a servicer that receives an incentive payment under the HOPE for homeowners to notify all mortgagors under mortgages they service who are “at-risk homeowners” (as such term is defined by the Secretary), in a form and manner as shall be prescribed by the Secretary, that they may be eligible for the HOPE for Homeowners Program and how to obtain information regarding the program.

The HOPE for Homeowners (H4H) program was created by Congress to help those at risk of default and foreclosure refinance into more affordable, sustainable loans. H4H is an additional mortgage option designed to keep borrowers in their homes.

The program is effective from October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2011.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

There are four ways that a distressed homeowner could pursue participation in the HOPE for Homeowners program:

1. Homeowners may contact their existing lender and/or a new lender to discuss how to qualify and their eligibility for this program.

2. Servicers working with troubled homeowners may determine that the best solution for avoiding foreclosure is to refinance the homeowner into a HOPE for Homeowners loan.

3. Originating lenders who are looking for ways to refinance potential customers out from under their high-cost loans and/or who are willing to work with servicers to assist distressed homeowners.

4. Counselors who are working with troubled homeowners and their lenders to reach a mutually agreeable solution for avoiding foreclosure.

It is envisioned that the primary way homeowners will initially participate in this program is through the servicing lender on their existing mortgage. Servicers that do not have an underwriting component to their mortgage operations will partner with an FHA-approved lender that does.

Because I am committed to helping Americans obtain homes and remain in their homes, I support the HOPE for Homeowners Program and I support this amendment. I urge my colleagues to support this bill. Indeed, I feel personally vindicated that Congress has set aside \$100 billion to address the issue of mortgage foreclosure, an issue that I have long championed in the 110th Congress.

HOUSING, FORECLOSURES, & TEXAS

Texas ranks 17th in foreclosures. Texas would have fared far worse but for the fact that homeowners enjoy strong constitutional protections under the state's home-equity lending law. These consumer protections include a 3 percent cap on lender's fees, 80 percent loan-to-value ratio (compared to many other states that allow borrowers to obtain 125 percent of their home's value), and mandatory judicial sign-off on any foreclosure proceeding involving a defaulted home-equity loan.

Still, in the last month, in Texas alone there have been 30,720 foreclosures and sadly 15,839 bankruptcies. Much of this has to do with a lack of understanding about finance—especially personal finance.

Last year, American's Personal income decreased \$20.7 billion, or 0.2 percent, and disposable personal income (DPI) decreased \$11.8 billion, or 0.1 percent, in November, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Personal consumption expenditures (PCE) decreased \$56.1 billion, or 0.6 percent. In India, household savings are about 23 percent of their GDP.

Even though the rate of increase has showed some slowing, uncertainties remain. Foreclosures and bankruptcies are high and could still beat last year's numbers.

Home foreclosures are at an all-time high and they will increase as the recession con-

tinues. In 2006, there were 1.2 million foreclosures in the United States, representing an increase of 42 percent over the prior year. During 2007 through 2008, mortgage foreclosures were estimated to result in a whopping \$400 billion worth of defaults and \$100 billion in losses to investors in mortgage securities. This means that one per 62 American households is currently approaching levels not seen since the Depression.

The current economic crisis and the foreclosure blight has affected new home sales and depressed home value generally. New home sales have fallen by about 50 percent.

One in six homeowners owes more on a mortgage than the home is worth raising the possibility of default. Home values have fallen nationwide from an average of 19% from their peak in 2006 and this price plunge has wiped out trillions of dollars in home equity. The tide of foreclosure might become self-perpetuating. The nation could be facing a housing depression—something far worse than a recession.

Obviously, there are substantial societal and economic costs of home foreclosures that adversely impact American families, their neighborhoods, communities and municipalities. A single foreclosure could impose direct costs on local government agencies totaling more than \$34,000.

Recently, the Congress set aside \$100 billion to address the issue of mortgage foreclosure prevention. I have long championed that money be a set aside to address this very important issue. I believe in homeownership and will do all within my power to ensure that Americans remain in their houses.

BANKRUPTCY

We have come full circle in our discussion today. The bill before us today is on bankruptcy and mortgage foreclosures.

I have long championed in the first TARP bill that was introduced and signed late last Congress, that language be included to specifically address the issue of mortgage foreclosures. I had asked that \$100 billion be set aside to address that issue. Now, my idea has been vindicated as the TARP that was voted

upon this week has included language that would give \$100 billion to address the issue of mortgage foreclosure. I am continuing to engage in the dialogue with Leadership to provide monies to those in mortgage foreclosure. I have also asked for modification of homeowners' existing loans to avoid mortgage foreclosure. I believe that the rules governing these loans should be relaxed. These are indeed tough economic times that require tough measures. Again, I feel a sense of vindication on this point, because this bill, H.R. 1106 addresses this point

CREDIT CRUNCH

A record amount of commercial real estate loans coming due in Texas and nationwide the next three years are at risk of not being renewed or refinanced, which could have dire consequences, industry leaders warn. Texas has approximately \$27 billion in commercial loans coming up for refinancing through 2011, ranking among the top five states, based on data provided by research firms Foresight Analytics LLC and Trepp LLC. Nationally, Foresight Analytics estimates that \$530 billion of commercial debt will mature through 2011. Dallas-Fort Worth has nearly \$9 billion in commercial debt maturing in that time frame.

Most of Texas' \$27 billion in loans maturing through 2011—\$18 billion—is held by financial institutions. Texas also has \$9 billion in commercial mortgage-backed securities, the third-largest amount after California and New York, according to Trepp.

Mr. Chair, my amendment would have helped alleviate these problems. Although my amendment language was not included in the bill, I am confident that it will be included in the Conference language.

All in all, I believe that this bill is important and will do yeoman's work helping America get back on the right track with respect to the economy and the mortgage foreclosure crisis. I wholeheartedly urge my colleagues to support this bill.