

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2009 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today, joined by my colleagues Rep. FRANK WOLF and Rep. JAMES MORAN, to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Awards recognize remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety agencies and their commitment to the community. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line everyday to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. More than 80 awards were presented at this year's ceremony in a variety of categories: The Lifesaving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Medal of Valor.

Seventy members of the Fairfax County Police Department earned this high honor. It is with great pride that we submit their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Recipients of the Lifesaving Award are: Officer Michael W. Greene, Officer Shay V. Nelson, Officer Jonathon W. Ward, Public Safety Communicator II Erin R. Tracy, Police Officer First Class Quang D. Bui, Police Officer First Class Anthony L. Capizzi, Police Officer First Class Christopher L. Coleman, Police Officer First Class Olan J. Faulk IV, Police Officer First Class Stephen P. Foley, Police Officer First Class Matthew E. Griffin, Police Officer First Class Christopher B. Hutchison, Police Officer First Class Jonathon D. Lowery, Police Officer First Class Brett L. Manthe, Police Officer First Class Eric T. Nelson, Master Police Officer Joseph M. Flynn, and Sergeant Todd S. Erlandson.

Recipients of the Certificate of Valor are: Officer Scott P. Bzdak, Officer Amanda K. Leugers, Officer Thomas J. Murphy, Officer Kathleen E. O'Leary, Officer Matthew W. Stanfield, Officer Ruben Velez Jr., Police Officer First Class Bradley W. Capan, Police Officer First Class Richard J. Curro, Police Officer First Class George W. Davenport Jr., Police Officer First Class Theodore M. Dragan, Police Officer First Class David J. Giaccio, Police Officer First Class Matthew A. Guzzetta, Police Officer First Class Jeremy T. Hoffman, Police Officer First Class Jonathan R. Luety, Police Officer First Class Dana L. Robinson, Police Officer First Class Bart S. Rogers, Police Officer First Class Joseph N. Wallace, Police Officer First Class Leanna D. Wilson, Detective Donald R. Bateman, Detective Sean J. Cheetham, Master Police Officer John D. Brocco, Master Police Officer Timothy E. Catir, Sergeant Robert A. Blakley Jr., Sergeant An-

thony C. Lampe, 2nd Lieutenant James S. Bradshaw, 2nd Lieutenant John H. Brennan, 2nd Lieutenant Edgar A. Ipina, and 2nd Lieutenant Boyd F. Thompson Jr.

Recipients of the Bronze Medal of Valor are: Officer Todd B. Sweeney, Officer Joseph W. Woloszyn II, Police Officer First Class Matthew J. Bell, Police Officer First Class Brian C. Bowers, Police Officer First Class Timothy W. Brown, Police Officer First Class William L. Coulter IV, Police Officer First Class Thomas J. Gadell Jr., Police Officer First Class Reanna M. Jacobson, Police Officer First Class Jey P. Phillips, Police Officer First Class David M. Popik, Police Officer First Class Charles A. Reinhard, Police Officer First Class Kathryn M. Schroth, Detective John A. DiGiulian, Detective Chad E. Mahoney, Detective Jeffrey C. Reiff, Detective Michael D. Riccio, and 2nd Lieutenant Kevin D. Barrington

Recipients of the Silver Medal of Valor are: Officer Donald W. Amos Jr., Police Officer First Class Eugene D. Bork, Police Officer First Class Brian J. Byerson, Police Officer First Class Kevin S. Mason, Police Officer First Class Jose R. Morillo, Police Officer First Class Shayna V. Nickolas, Police Officer First Class Katherine S. Wright, Sergeant Shawn C. Martin, and 2nd Lieutenant Dwayne F. Machosky.

Madam Speaker, in closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join us in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

#### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of HR 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009:

Requesting Member: Rep. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

Bill Number: HR 1105

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

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: St. Francis Medical Center

Address of Requesting Entity: 601 Hamilton Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey 08629

Description of Request: I have secured \$238,000 for St. Francis Medical Center to complete needed expansion and renovation of its Emergency Department and outpatient services in order to improve health care services for the uninsured and underinsured resi-

dents of Trenton, New Jersey. Requested project funds will cover the cost of renovations and furnishings to upgrade and streamline the ED and clinics. The upgraded Emergency Department will improve security, privacy, and efficiency for patients and their families. Further, the flow of services between the Emergency Department and the specialty and walk-in clinics will be greatly improved to better meet the needs of vulnerable patient population. St. Francis Medical Center will invest \$250,000 over the next two years to cover additional operational costs and will seek funding for the additional costs of the project through operations, philanthropy, and other sources.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY SEASON

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University at Buffalo Bulls on their tremendous 2008 season. For the first time in their history, the Buffalo Bulls secured the Mid-American Conference Championship and competed in a championship bowl. It was fifty years ago that the Bulls last earned a Bowl appearance, when the 1958 team valiantly passed on their chance at the Tangerine Bowl in Orlando, FL to protest of the segregation laws then in effect.

Although the Buffalo Bulls were narrowly defeated in the third annual International Bowl in Toronto, Ontario, they inspired over twenty five thousand Buffalo fans to drive the ninety miles north to cheer on their team.

On behalf of the people of the 27th district, I would like to express our pride and thanks for the hard work and the perseverance of these players and their coaches. We look forward to many more championship challenges in the years to come.

#### TRIBUTE TO DENNIS WILCOX

#### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Dennis Wilcox, Publisher of the Madrid Register News, on being named 2009 Master Editor and Publisher by the Iowa Newspaper Association.

The Iowa Newspaper Association nominates publishers and editors for the award, and winners are selected by previous Master Editor-Publisher winners. Dennis was selected on the criteria of working hard, thinking soundly, being influenced unselfishly, and living honorably.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in congratulating

• 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.

Dennis Wilcox on his accomplishments. It is an honor to represent Dennis in Congress, and I wish him the best in his future.

HONORING ALISA FERGUSON FOR  
HER DEDICATED SERVICE

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Alisa Ferguson for her dedicated service over the last six years as she has worked in my personal office and on the staff of the Science and Technology Committee. Friday will be her last day working in the House, and she will certainly be missed as she leaves the Hill to pursue a new endeavor.

Alisa began her career on Capitol Hill seven years ago as a legislative assistant to Rep. Brian Baird, where she developed an affinity for energy policy. In 2003, she began working in my personal office and quickly proved herself to be a valuable addition. She was adept at handling a myriad of issues, including appropriations and my Energy and Commerce Committee work, and addressing the concerns and needs of my constituents in Middle Tennessee.

When I became chairman of the Science and Technology Committee in 2007, I asked Alisa to join the committee staff as legislative director. She has risen to and triumphed over every challenge, and she has won the respect of her colleagues for her skill in running the committee's legislative operation. Two of the committee's finest legislative achievements, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 and the America COMPETES Act, are due in no small measure to Alisa's command of the issues, knowledge of the legislative process and ability to get things done.

Alisa has been invaluable to me, the committee, the state of Tennessee and our nation. She is the very definition of a "go-to" person, and I'm fairly certain her blood now bears a tinge of MTSU Raider Blue as a result of her hard work over the years.

While I am sad to see her go, I will always be grateful for her advice and counsel over the years. Alisa, I wish you all the best.

TRAVIS REA MYERS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize Travis Rea Myers on the occasion of his approaching graduation from the United States Naval Academy on May 22nd, 2009.

Travis is the son of Rea and Myrna Myers and is a graduate of Blue Springs High School in Blue Springs, Missouri. In 2005, I was proud to nominate Travis to the Naval Academy. It was evident that Travis was among the best and brightest of his class, and that he was going to be successful in life, no matter which path he chose. He will graduate in May with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aero-

space Engineering. Following in the footsteps of his father Rea, Travis will be a second generation graduate from the Naval Academy.

Travis has earned the gratitude and respect of his community of Blue Springs, Missouri. The Blue Springs Rotary Club even honored Travis by presenting him with his Officers Sabre at a meeting in his honor. His dedication and hard work should serve as an example to the rest of us on how we can better serve each other and our great nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Travis Myers for his dedication to his community and his country. I know Travis' family and friends join with me in congratulating him on his graduation and wishing him best of luck on all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE MEN AND  
WOMEN OF THE ARMED SER-  
VICES AND THEIR FAMILIES

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the honorable service and devotion to duty of our men and women of the United States Armed Services. These men and women in uniform have put themselves in harms way—many having given the ultimate sacrifice—in defense of freedom and liberty at home and abroad. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my utmost thanks and appreciation to their selfless service and to wish them all the best in the years to come.

As part of this recognition, I would like to thank the military spouses who spend weeks and months without their significant others, often having to raise families on their own. My appreciation also goes out to the parents, family members and communities who provide support for the soldier and their family during these trying times. I would also like to extend my condolences and appreciation to the American Gold Star Mothers who have lost a son or daughter while serving our great country. These women are too counted as heroes for our country.

In addition to our active duty soldiers, I would like to thank our veterans, Reservists and Military Academy personnel. These individuals are the past, present and future of what protects American values each day. May all those who are involved with the Armed Services know the support of a grateful nation.

THANKS TO DOREEN WELSH, A  
SELFLESS HERO OF U.S. AIR-  
WAYS FLIGHT 1549

**HON. JASON ALTMIRE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I would like to salute Doreen Welsh of Ambridge, Pennsylvania for her heroic and selfless action on U.S. Airways Flight 1549, now known as the "Miracle on the Hudson." Doreen Welsh served as a flight attendant on Flight 1549,

which made a successful emergency landing on the Hudson River on January 15, 2009, and helped to safely evacuate the flight's passengers.

The heroic deeds and masterful skills of Flight 1549's crew is something our nation will never forget.

Despite being injured during the landing, Doreen Welsh helped to evacuate passengers and ensure that no lives were lost that day. All western Pennsylvanians should be proud that one of our own played such a crucial role in saving the lives of 150 passengers and making this a truly miraculous landing.

I want to salute Doreen Welsh for her admirable service and thank her for sacrificing her own comfort for the safety of the passengers in her care and inspiring Americans everywhere in the process.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. GERLACH. 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, Consolidated Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2009.

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT—FTA PRIORITY CONSIDERATION PROJECTS

\$6 million for the Ardmore Transportation Center—Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority—123 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the funding made available for the Ardmore Transportation Center through the U.S. Department of Transportation Appropriations Acts for Federal Fiscal Year 2005 shall remain available for that project during fiscal year 2009."

\$1 million for the Coatesville Train Station—City of Coatesville—One City Hall Place, Coatesville, Pennsylvania. "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the funding made available for the Coatesville Train Station through the U.S. Department of Transportation Appropriations Acts for Federal Fiscal Year 2006 shall remain available for that project during fiscal year 2009."

TRIBUTE TO SANDRA BROCKMAN

**HON. KEVIN McCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. McCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a community leader, Sandra Brockman, on her retirement after 27 years of service to the people of Kern County, California, most recently as Chief Deputy Registrar of Voters.

Sandy Brockman began her career with Kern County on February 8, 1982 as a Deputy Court Clerk with the West Kern Municipal Court. In June 1984, she was promoted to Secretary, and five months later transferred to the County Clerk Election Division, where she has worked for over 25 years in the elections

field. Ms. Brockman's position was reclassified to Senior Secretary in 1987, and by taking specialized classes relating to the conduct and history of elections over a two year period, she earned a National Certification as a Certified Elections Registration Administrator. In 1998, she was promoted to Election Process Supervisor and became interim Election Division Chief in 2000, accepting the position as a permanent appointment six months later. Ms. Brockman continued her education by attending classes designed specifically for California election law and became a Certified California Professional Elections Administrator in 2005. She has worked and supervised nearly every section in elections and capped her career off as Chief Deputy Registrar of Voters.

Under her leadership, the Election Division, which conducts all federal, state and local elections in Kern County and maintains voter registration and precinct boundaries, implemented both voter registration and voting systems. She was the right person at the right time for the job; during the past seven years, the Elections Division has experienced more material changes in election law than in the previous 18 years of Ms. Brockman's career.

Ms. Brockman has worked long hours to ensure that the election process has integrity and transparency. Her accessibility and commitment to helping anyone needing information, assistance or direction personifies how dedicated she was as a public servant. Ms. Brockman's institutional knowledge, personality and dedication to the citizens of Kern County will be sorely missed. I thank Sandy for her service to Kern County and wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

NATIONAL MS AWARENESS WEEK

**HON. MARY JO KILROY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mrs. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today during National MS Awareness Week to bring attention to a disease that affects an estimated 400,000 people living in the United States. Multiple sclerosis is a chronic disease of the central nervous system that is unpredictable, the symptoms of which vary from person to person. Because MS affects individuals so differently, it is difficult to make generalizations about disability; however, MS is often characterized by tingling, numbness, painful sensations, muscle tightness or paralysis. Statistics suggest that two out of three people with MS remain able to walk over their lifetime, though many require a cane or other assistive device. MS is not always easy to diagnose because symptoms come and go but it is estimated every week, 200 people in the United States are diagnosed with MS.

I was diagnosed with MS in 2003; I have an intimate understanding about how important it is to find a cure for the disease. Research has developed "disease-modifying" drugs that help lessen the frequency and severity of MS attacks, reduce the accumulation of lesions in the brain and may slow the progression of disability, but we can do more.

Health insurance reform is a necessity in this country. Because insurance companies "tier" medications as a way to cut costs, peo-

ple diagnosed with MS often find their necessary medications financially out of reach. Decisions about which medications patients should take must be made by doctors, not corporations.

The National MS Society has been a tireless advocate for health care reform and research on behalf of persons living with MS. I would like to take a moment to recognize all the work the National MS Society has put into combating this disease. Through extensive research, providing comprehensive services to people with MS and through their advocacy, they have made great strides in raising MS awareness. I congratulate them on their hard work.

Madam Speaker, I know first-hand how important it is to fund medical research to find cures for chronic diseases. As individuals and as a government, we need to come together and provide the resources necessary to create a world free of MS. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in fighting for a cure for MS and other diseases, so that all Americans can live fully active, healthy lives.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. ROB BISHOP**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I am submitting the following earmark disclosure and certification information for requests I made which are included in the text and/or report to accompany H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009. I certify that neither I, nor my spouse, have any financial interest in these requests, and certify that, to the best of my knowledge, these requests: (1) are not directed to an entity or program named or that will be named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2) are not intended for a "front" or "pass-through" entity; and (3) meet or exceed statutory requirements for matching funds (where applicable).

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: COPS, Department of Justice

Name of requesting entity: Kaysville City, Utah

Address of requesting entity: 23 East Center, Kaysville, Utah 84037

Description of request: \$300,000 for law enforcement communications and operations technology

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: OJP—Byrne Discretionary Grants

Name of requesting entity: Clearfield City

Address of requesting entity: 55 South State Street, Clearfield, Utah 84015

Description of request: \$200,000 for technology to combat gang activity

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: Bureau of Reclamation, Water and Related Resources

Name of requesting entity: Park City

Address of requesting entity: PO Box 1480, Park City, Utah 84060

Description of request: \$200,000 for water feasibility study

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy—Solar Energy

Name of requesting entity: Salt Lake County, Utah Address of requesting entity: 2001 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84190

Description of request: \$618,475 for the Energy Efficient Buildings Project

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: Small Business Administration

Name of requesting entity: World Trade Center Utah

Address of requesting entity: 175 East 400 South, suite 609, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Description of request: \$385,000 for the World Trade Center Utah to connect the Utah and Intermountain business community to the people, companies, data, and government agencies which make up the fabric of global commerce, through training classes and cross cultural seminars, identification of new market opportunities, creating access to trade missions, and facilitating export financing, controls, and distribution.

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: Economic Development Initiatives

Name of requesting entity: Clearfield City, UT

Address of requesting entity: 55 South State Street, Clearfield, Utah 84015

Description of request: \$380,000 for the purchase of blighted lands for use in the development of a private/public project known as West Phase I, a downtown redevelopment project within the city.

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: National Park Service Statutory or Contractual Aid

Name of requesting entity: Ogden City, Utah Address of requesting entity: 2549 Washington Blvd, Ogden, Utah 84401

Description of request: \$300,000 to implement the Crossroads of the West Historic District.

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: Environmental Protection Agency STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Name of requesting entity: Washington Terrace, UT

Address of requesting entity: 5249 South Pointe Drive, Washington Terrace, Utah 84405

Description of request: \$1,240,000 for water and sewer infrastructure replacement project

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: Fund for the Improvement of Education

Name of requesting entity: Open Content Foundation at Utah State University

Address of requesting entity: 1750 North Research parkway, North Logan, UT 84341

Description of request: \$190,000 for curriculum development and textbook materials for Utah's ninth grade core curriculum.

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: Fund for the Improvement of Education

Name of requesting entity: Weber State University

Address of requesting entity: 3850 University Circle, Ogden, Utah 84408

Description of request: \$143,000 for a teacher training initiative to prepare teaching assistants to become teachers.

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration

Name of requesting entity: Intermountain Healthcare

Address of requesting entity: 36 South State Street Floor 22, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Description of request: \$476,000 for the Patient Safety Initiative, including purchase and implementation of electronic medical records and equipment

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: FTA Bus and Bus Facilities account

Name of requesting entity: Cache Valley Transit District

Address of requesting entity: 754 West 600 North, Logan, Utah 84321

Description of request: \$475,000 to construct a new multi-use facility for the transit district

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: FTA Bus and Bus Facilities account

Name of requesting entity: Cache Valley Transit District

Address of requesting entity: 754 West 600 North, Logan, Utah 84321

Description of request: \$475,000 for Cache Valley Transit District Hybrid Bus Fleet Expansion

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: FTA New Starts/Fixed Guideway account

Name of requesting entity: Utah Transit Authority

Address of requesting entity: 669 West 200 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84130

Description of request: \$81,600,000 for a 44 mile commuter rail project linking Weber County to Salt Lake City

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: Federal Highway Administration—Federal Lands account

Name of requesting entity: Brigham City, Utah

Address of requesting entity: 20 North Main Street, Brigham City, Utah 84302

Description of request: \$285,000 to complete construction on the Bear River Access Road to the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge.

## TRIBUTE TO JESSE PURVIS

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Jesse Purvis, a high school student and Boy Scout, from Woodward, Iowa.

Jesse, who remembers the tornado that stormed through his town in November 2005, distributed emergency kits throughout Woodward this February. The emergency kits contain information provided by the Red Cross, Dallas County Emergency Management, Iowa One Call, and Iowa Homeland Security including directions on what to do in case of an emergency or disaster, and colored ribbons to be used on homes to help first responders during emergencies.

Jesse's concern and sacrifices for his community serve as wonderful examples of the compassionate nature of Iowans. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in thanking Jesse Purvis for his philanthropy and setting an example as a young leader. I consider it an honor to represent Jesse in Congress, and I wish him the best in his future.

## INTRODUCING THE CHILD HEALTH CARE AFFORDABILITY ACT

### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to help working Americans provide for their children's health care needs by introducing the Child Health Care Affordability Act. The Child Health Care Affordability Act provides parents with a tax credit of up to \$500 for health care expenses of dependent children. Parents caring for a child with a disability, terminal disease, cancer, or any other health condition requiring specialized care would receive a tax credit of up to \$3,000 to help cover their child's health care expenses.

The tax credit would be available to all citizens, regardless of whether or not they itemize their deductions. The credit applies against both income and payroll tax liability. The tax credits provided in this bill will be especially helpful to those Americans whose employers cannot afford to provide health insurance for their employees. These workers must struggle to meet the medical bills of themselves and their families. This burden is especially heavy on parents whose children have a medical condition, such as cancer or a physical disability, that requires long-term or specialized health care.

As an OB-GYN who has had the privilege of delivering more than four thousand babies, I know how important it is that parents have the resources to provide adequate health care for their children. The inability of many working Americans to provide health care for their children is rooted in one of the great inequities of the tax code—Congress's failure to allow individuals the same ability to deduct health care costs that it grants to businesses. As a direct result of Congress's refusal to provide individuals with health care related tax credits, par-

ents whose employers do not provide health insurance have to struggle to provide health care for their children. Many of these parents work in low-income jobs; oftentimes, their only recourse for health care is the local emergency room.

Sometimes parents are forced to delay seeking care for their children until minor health concerns that could have been easily treated become serious problems requiring expensive treatment. If these parents had access to the type of tax credits provided in the Child Health Care Affordability Act, they would be better able to provide care for their children, and our nation's already overcrowded emergency rooms would be relieved of the burden of having to provide routine care for people who otherwise cannot afford it.

According to research on the effects of this bill done by my staff and legislative counsel, the benefit of these tax credits would begin to be felt by joint filers with incomes slightly above \$18,000 dollars per year, or single income filers with incomes slightly above \$15,000 dollars per year. Clearly, this bill will be of the most benefit to low-income Americans balancing the demands of taxation with the needs of their children.

Under the Child Health Care Affordability Act, a struggling single mother with an asthmatic child would at last be able to provide for her child's needs, while a working-class family will not have to worry about how they will pay the bills if one of their children requires lengthy hospitalization or some other form of specialized care.

Madam Speaker, this Congress has a moral responsibility to provide tax relief so that low-income parents struggling to care for a sick child can better meet their child's medical expenses. Some may say that we cannot enact the Child Health Care Affordability Act because it would cause the government to lose revenue. But, who is more deserving of this money, Congress or the working parents of a sick child?

The Child Health Care Affordability Act takes a major step toward helping working Americans meet their health care needs by providing them with generous health care related tax cuts and tax credits. I urge my colleagues to support the pro-family, pro-health care tax cuts contained in the Child Health Care Affordability Act.

## CONGRATULATING THE SANTA ROSA WARRIORS

### HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the mighty Santa Rosa Warriors (30-6), who last Saturday represented the City of Santa Rosa and the entire Rio Grande Valley of South Texas in winning the Class 2A 2009 Region IV-2A championship game against Randolph, Texas. The Warriors won in dramatic fashion in overtime and will now take on Ponder, Texas in the state semifinals.

The Rio Grande Valley is a Texas region with a long tradition of great high school sports successes, with state titles in football

and soccer. In reaching the final four, the Warriors are now at the brink of adding a basketball state title to our impressive history of victories.

When any high school team approaches the pinnacle of high school sports—state championship glory—the entire region comes together to cheer on that team. That is the case as the Warriors advance forward one win at a time. On March 13, at the Frank Erwin Center in Austin all of Santa Rosa, all of Cameron County, all of the Rio Grande Valley, and all of South Texas will be rallying for the Warriors. All Valley high schools are united as Santa Rosa takes the court to face their next formidable opponent.

The Warriors have reminded all of us that with outstanding players, solid coaches, hard work, disciplined training, committed parents, and a supportive school, more state titles are in our future. Thank you, Warriors, for representing your school and the Rio Grande Valley so admirably for all the State of Texas to see.

As their Congressman, I am so proud of the Santa Rosa High School Warriors for their outstanding wins on the basketball court and for playing their heart out throughout the season in their fight for a state crown. Please join me in applauding the coaches and each and every one of the Warriors: Coach Johnny Cipriano; Assistant Coaches Omar Guerra and Juan Esparza; Dario Mendoza, Junior; Ruben Lopez, Sophomore; Jacob Garcia, Senior; Jesus Mosqueda, Sophomore; Chris Diaz, Sophomore; Danny Theys, Junior; Rick Cavazos, Junior; Aaron Ramirez, Freshman; Ivan Martinez, Senior; Mark Cordero, Sophomore; Nacho Serrato, Sophomore.

Again, congratulations to the Warriors and their families, Santa Rosa High School, the City of Santa Rosa, and the Rio Grande Valley.

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EARL CAMPBELL

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, Earl Campbell is known throughout the nation as one of the best running backs to ever play the game of football. He was an outstanding athlete and will be remembered as one of Texas's best. Born in Tyler, TX he grew up to become a star at The University of Texas. His presence on the field dwarfed most opponents and he rose to the occasion many times and became a standout. Recently, he was inducted into the voted into the UT Hall of Fame and was also voted the top UT football player of all time.

From 1974–77, Earl Campbell compiled 4,443 yards and forty touchdowns. In college, his games usually ended with his rushing total above 100 yards. In fact, he rushed for over 100 yards twenty-one times, and twice he rushed for over 200 yards in a single game. He finished his career with the Longhorns as a two-time All-American and winner of the 1977 Heisman Trophy.

Campbell is known as the “Tyler Rose” in reference to his hometown of Tyler, Texas which is known as the “Rose Capital of America” for its rose-growing industry. His legacy in

Texas lived on after college because he was the first player drafted in the 1978 NFL Draft by the Houston Oilers.

As an Oiler, he became the Offensive Rookie of the Year and Most Valuable Player in his rookie season. The induction of Earl Campbell into the UT Hall of Fame is a testament to the hard work that he put in as a student athlete. We will forever remember “Tyler Rose” and what he did for the sport of football in the great state of Texas.

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FINANCIAL CONSUMER HOTLINE  
ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, with the regulatory structure of our nation's banks divided among a series of governing bodies, it can be difficult for consumers to identify and contact the appropriate regulator when they have an inquiry or complaint. In an effort to address this situation, I will be introducing the Financial Consumer Hotline Act. This legislation would establish a single, toll-free telephone number consumers can call if they have a question or complaint and want to speak to the bank's regulator. This legislation also would establish a corresponding informational website.

This legislation directs the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC), a statutory interagency body empowered to prescribe uniform principles and standards for financial institutions, to set up the toll-free number and website. The Federal Reserve, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), and the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) are all members of FFIEC. This legislation also directs FFIEC to work with state banking regulators to integrate state regulated banks into the hotline service.

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RECOGNIZING DR. JEAN MALECKI  
ON HER SERVICE TO PALM  
BEACH COUNTY

**HON. RON KLEIN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a leader in our community. On August 1 Florida will lose a wonderful public servant, as Dr. Jean Malecki is leaving the Palm Beach County Department of Health. Dr. Malecki has been with the Department of Health since 1989, serving as its Director for the last 17 years.

Born and raised in South Florida, Dr. Malecki has dedicated herself to making Palm Beach County the healthiest community in the nation. She created the Healthy Start program in which nurses make in-home visits throughout a woman's pregnancy to provide counseling to expectant mothers. She expanded the number of primary clinics, where they now treat 67,000 patients annually.

Her leadership was most visible shortly after the attacks of September 11, 2001, when she

led the Palm Beach County Department of Health through the first biological terror attack in the country. Under her direction the County diagnosed the first anthrax cases and quickly mobilized a team to help investigate the attacks.

I have personally watched and learned from Dr. Jean Malecki's extraordinary service to the people of Palm Beach County. We will miss her, but wish her the best in her new life and career.

Thank you for allowing me the time to speak about this admirable leader in my community, Madam Speaker.

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CALLING FOR RETURN OF SEAN  
GOLDMAN

SPEECH OF

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 11, 2009*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 125. This resolution calls on the central authority of Brazil to uphold the Hague Convention by facilitating the immediate release of Sean Goldman to his father, David Goldman.

June 16, 2004 was the day Sean Goldman was abducted by his mother, Bruna Goldman, and taken to Brazil. That day marked the beginning of a 4½ year struggle to reunite David Goldman with his son Sean. During those subsequent years, David Goldman tirelessly lobbied the Brazilian judicial system, sought international legal advice, and mourned the death of Sean's mother in August 2008. Recently, the situation was further complicated when Sean's step-father petitioned the Brazilian courts for custody of Sean and illegally replaced David's name with his own on a Brazilian birth certificate.

H. Res. 125 was introduced by my New Jersey colleague, Representative CHRISTOPHER SMITH, and I am proud to be one of the 57 co-sponsors of this bill. This resolution urges the Brazilian government to uphold its commitment to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. This multilateral treaty, developed by the Hague Conference on Private International Law in 1980, provides an expeditious method for returning a child taken from one member nation to another. H. Res. 125 is of the utmost importance, as it not only calls on Brazil to display their intention to follow international law, but also brings a father and son one step closer to reunification.

It is imperative for us to support David Goldman's quest to be reunited with his son. H. Res. 125 will help us accomplish this goal and I thank my colleagues for joining me in voting unanimously for its passage yesterday.

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HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF  
WINTER HAVEN HOSPITAL

**HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, the state of health care in our country can be well measured by the quality of service provided by our

nation's hospitals. I applaud Winter Haven Hospital as it celebrated its designation as a nursing Magnet hospital on Tuesday, February 24, 2009.

The Magnet distinction is a great accomplishment for Winter Haven Hospital, the first institution in Polk County to achieve this honor. The American Nurses Credentialing Center established the Magnet Recognition Program to recognize excellence in patient care and nursing practice in healthcare organizations across the country.

Recognition as a Magnet organization requires that an institution meet a series of quality indicators and standards in nursing practice. Only about 5 percent of our nation's hospitals have attained this honor, which is a true testament to Winter Haven Hospital's commitment to quality healthcare.

Since its establishment in 1928, Winter Haven Hospital has proven itself time and again as a strong local hospital with a reputation of quality specialty care and exceptional patient relations. In 2003, Winter Haven Hospital received the Best Places to Work Award by Polk Works Workforce 2020. The hospital has also received high marks for its Stroke Center, including the Gold Get-With-The-Goals Stroke Award received in 2008. Winter Haven Hospital has also earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval, and consistently extends a great deal of resources to community support, including babysitting classes for young teenagers and cancer support groups.

Under the leadership of President Lance Anastasio, I am confident that Winter Haven Hospital will continue to be a leader in providing high quality healthcare to the citizens of Central Florida and continue to grow as a center of medical excellence.

A TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL DONTE  
JAMAL WHITWORTH

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute the life of Corporal Donte Jamal Whitworth of Noblesville, Indiana who died on Saturday, February 28th, 2009 while serving our country near Al Taquddum Air Base, about 50 miles west of Baghdad.

Donte graduated from Noblesville High School in 2005 and promptly joined the United States Marine Corps where he served for the last 4 years. Most recently he deployed to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom where he was responsible for commanding supply convoys. Donte's commitment for this country is something we can all be proud of.

A marine and a soldier, he served to promote freedom. He gave his life in defense of his family, community, State and Nation. He made our world safer. He made his family and every American proud. For this, each and every American owes him and his family a great debt of gratitude.

Madam Speaker, Corporal Donte Jamal Whitworth is a true American hero who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. He will be deeply missed, but the strength of his character and the courage he demonstrated through his service will live on. I ask my colleagues to keep his family and friends in their

thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

(1) Requesting Member: TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

Bill Number: Fiscal Year 2009 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill included in H.R. 1105

Account: Higher Education  
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Eastern Illinois University

Address of Requesting Entity: 600 Lincoln Avenue, Charleston, IL 61920

Description of Request: \$190,000 for the Eastern Illinois University for the purchase of a new campus-wide siren and emergency system upgrade to extend the communication from the county emergency management officials into the classrooms and other interior public campus space. The proposed system will have emergency notification from both the classroom to the emergency responders and also from the emergency responders into the classrooms. The systems will be designed to crosstalk between the campus distributed fire alarm systems, computer network, and wireless speakers. This system will be expanded to provide more effective and efficient notification to the campus and public. Of this funding, \$90,400 will be used for 226 interior speakers at public locations around the campus, \$33,500 will be used to install the wireless computer center, \$6,700 will retrofit existing alarms and interface with radio connections, \$21,200 will be spent to purchase and install panic buttons and their mobile receivers across campus, and \$38,200 is set aside for Higher Education (FIPSE) administrative costs.

(2) Requesting Member: TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

Bill Number: Fiscal Year 2009 Transportation-HUD Appropriations bill included in H.R. 1105

Account: Economic Development Initiatives  
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Octave Chanute Aerospace Heritage Foundation-Chanute Air Museum

Address of Requesting Entity: 1011 Pacesetter Drive, Rantoul, IL 61866

Description of Request: \$118,750 for the construction of a new building for historic aircraft display. Of this amount, \$70,000 will be used for property acquisition, \$8,000 will be allocated for a site survey, \$13,000 will be used to conduct a feasibility study by an architectural firm, and \$27,750 will be used for the installation of public facilities on site.

(3) Requesting Member: TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

Bill Number: Fiscal Year 2009 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill included in H.R. 1105

Account: Innovation and Improvement  
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: National Writing Project

Address of Requesting Entity: 2105 Bancroft Way #1042, Berkeley, California 94720

Description of Request: \$24,291,000 for the National Writing Project to fund programs in teacher development, quality writing, and research to help improve student performance in writing across the nation.

(4) Requesting Member: TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

Bill Number: Fiscal Year 2009 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill included in H.R. 1105

Account: Innovation and Improvement  
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Reading is Fundamental

Address of Requesting Entity: 1825 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20009

Description of Request: \$24,803,000 for the Reading is Fundamental program which prepares children to read by delivering free books and literacy resources to children in-need across the country.

(5) Requesting Member: TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

Bill Number: Fiscal Year 2009 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill included in H.R. 1105

Account: Innovation and Improvement  
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Center for Civic Education

Address of Requesting Entity: 5145 Douglas Fir Road, Calabasas, California 91302

Description of Request: \$25,095,000 for the Center for Civic Education to be used to support programs that educate American students about our nation's fundamental ideals and democratic values.

(6) Requesting Member: TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

Bill Number: Fiscal Year 2009 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill included in H.R. 1105

Account: Safe Schools and Citizenship Education

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: National Council of Economic Education

Address of Requesting Entity: 1140 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 202, New York, New York 10036

Description of Request: \$5,019,000 for the National Council of Economic Education to support programs that educate American students about our nation's fundamental ideals and democratic values.

(7) Requesting Member: TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

Bill Number: Fiscal Year 2009 Energy & Water Appropriations bill included in H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Investigations

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District  
Address of Requesting Entity: Clock Tower Bldg., PO Box 2004, Rock Island, IL 61204

Description of Request: \$8,604,000 for the first phases of construction of new 1,200 foot lock chambers at L/Ds 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, LaGrange and Peoria; for implementing small-scale navigation aids; and beginning ecosystem restoration projects along the Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Army Corps of Engineers, Investigations account and has previously been authorized by P.L. 99-662 and P.L. 110-280 Sec. 8001-8005.

(8) Requesting Member: TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

Bill Number: Fiscal Year 2009 Energy & Water Appropriations bill included in H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District  
Address of Requesting Entity: Clock Tower Building, PO Box 2004, Rock Island, IL 61204

Description of Request: \$17,713,000 to address the adverse impacts to the aquatic ecosystem caused by maintenance of the river's navigation channel. This includes habitat rehabilitation and measures to determine if enhancement projects are effectively preserving and improving fish and wildlife habitat on the river.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

### HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Labor, HHS, Education, Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)—Health Facilities and Services

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughters

Address of Requesting Entity: 601 Children's Lane, Norfolk, VA 23507

Description of Request: Provides \$1,000,000 to the Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughters (CHKD) Health Center to provide optimal accessibility, convenience, continuity and quality of care by co-locating primary care practices, specialist offices, surgical practices, physical, occupational and speech therapy services in one location in close proximity to the interstate and within the heart of the city's pediatric population. Chesapeake, Virginia has the second highest concentration of children in the Hampton Roads region, with 20 percent of the pediatric population (ages 0–17) from the south side living within this community. The need for pediatric specialists in the Norfolk, Virginia area has outstripped the capacity of the current CHKD building, with all inpatient and outpatient services at or beyond capacity. Funds will be used to assist in the building of a centralized multi-specialty children's health center in the Norfolk area. CHKD has already demonstrated success in building a regional facility at Oyster Point in Newport News, Virginia, which is exceeding all patient forecasts.

TRIBUTE TO DELTA SIGMA THETA:  
BERKELEY BAY AREA ALUMNAE  
CHAPTER

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, Ms. LEE of California and I rise today to pay tribute to the Berkeley Bay Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority on the occasion of their 75th Diamond Anniversary on March 28, 2009. The Berkeley Bay Area Alumnae Chapter is the local chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated and encompasses the

Berkeley, San Francisco, and California Bay Area.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated is a sisterhood of more than 250,000 predominantly African American college educated women. The sorority currently has over 950 chapters throughout the world including the United States, England, Japan, Germany, the Virgin Islands, Bermuda, the Bahamas and the Republic of Korea.

The local Berkeley Bay Area Chapter was chartered in 1934 and has membership representation from all cities in the California Bay Area. The major programs of the sorority are based upon the organization's Five Point Thrust of economic development, educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health, political awareness and involvement. Through their outreach they provide a myriad of programs and services benefitting local cities and communities.

This past week we were honored to welcome members of the Berkeley Bay Area Chapter along with approximately 1,100 members of Delta Sigma Theta from across the country to Capitol Hill during their 20th annual "Delta Days in the Nation's Capitol Conference." During their visit in Washington the Sorority members discussed a variety of issues including the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, DC Voting Rights and the 2010 Census.

"In Full Stride at Seventy-Five" is the Berkeley Bay Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta's 75th anniversary theme. We are honored to recognize this exemplary organization as it celebrates three-quarters of a century of service to the community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH  
BIRTHDAY OF THE CITY OF  
PRINCETON, WEST VIRGINIA

### HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th birthday of the great City of Princeton, West Virginia.

In West Virginia, transportation industries and coal mining have played an integral role in the economic development of the region. The City of Princeton is no exception. As early as the nineteenth century, emerging transportation technology, the railroad, and a Nation demanding West Virginia's coal helped form booming new industry in the Princeton area. Much of the coal produced was sent west to the Great Lakes region or east to Baltimore, New York City and New England, heating our great Nation and providing steam power to the U.S. Navy.

What was once a small railroad-side village in beautiful Mercer County is now a thriving city with a population of 6,300. Between 25,000 and 28,000 pass through each day, bringing business and goods to a city with a history as rich and varied as the state itself.

Many notable actors and sports team owners at one point called Princeton home. Kevin Sizemore, of the television show *Prison Break*, and Sam Eliot, who was in *We Were Soldiers* both hailed from our hallowed hills. And Ken Kendrick, owner of the Arizona

Diamondbacks, and Rod Thorn, President and Manager of the New Jersey Nets called West Virginia home in their childhoods.

February 20th marked the 100th birthday of the City of Princeton. I invite you all to join me in celebrating this great City! Happy birthday Princeton!

#### COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE REFORM ACT

### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, America faces a crisis in health care. Health care costs continue to rise while physicians and patients struggle under the control of managed-care "gatekeepers." Obviously, fundamental health care reform should be one of Congress' top priorities.

Unfortunately, most health care "reform" proposals either make marginal changes or exacerbate the problem. This is because they fail to address the root of the problem with health care, which is that government policies encourage excessive reliance on third-party payers. The excessive reliance on third-party payers removes all incentive from individual patients to concern themselves with health care costs. Laws and policies promoting Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) resulted from a desperate attempt to control spiraling costs. However, instead of promoting an efficient health care system, HMOs further took control over health care away from the individual patient and physician.

Returning control over health care to the individual is the key to true health care reform. The Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act puts control of health care back into the hands of the individual through tax credits, tax deductions, improving Health Savings Accounts, and Flexible Savings Accounts. Specifically, the Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act:

A. Provides all Americans with a tax credit for 100 percent of health care expenses. The tax credit is fully refundable against both income and payroll taxes;

B. Allows individuals to roll over unused amounts in cafeteria plans and Flexible Savings Accounts (FSA);

C. Provides a tax credit for premiums for a high-deductible insurance policy connected with a Health Savings Account (HSA) and allows seniors to use funds in an HSA to pay for a medigap policy;

D. Repeals the 7.5 percent threshold for the deduction of medical expenses, thus making all medical expenses tax deductible.

By providing a wide range of options, this bill allows individual Americans to choose the method of financing health care that best suits their individual needs. Increasing frustration with the current health care system is leading more and more Americans to embrace this approach to health care reform. I hope all my colleagues will join this effort to put individuals back in control of health care by cosponsoring the Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act.

HONORING JUSTIN BALFANY

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember a young Nebraskan who left this world too soon. Justin Balfany, 15 years old, will be laid to rest tomorrow afternoon. My heart goes out to his parents Greg and Susan, his sister Kaci and the rest of his family, and I pray they find comfort in the coming days.

Justin had a strong faith in God and in his fellow students. He has been described as a "tremendous young man" who competed in tennis, baseball, and basketball. He was active in his church and in other groups in his hometown of Kearney.

Last year, he was invited to attend President Barack Obama's nomination acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention in Denver, where he served as a correspondent for his hometown newspaper, the Kearney Hub, as well as the Sidney Sun Telegraph.

I was fortunate to have met Justin last year. I was impressed with his intelligence, his spirit, and his dedication.

Justin's spirit and his enthusiasm with his church, his friends, and his community reminds us what it means to be a Nebraskan. He will be missed by many.

HONORING EMERGENCY RESPONSE MEMBERS

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims, Supervisor Judy Case, Julianne Tuggle, and Darren Rose for their heroic efforts in an emergency situation in Washington, D.C. on February 11, 2009. Sheriff Mims, Supervisor Case, Julianne Tuggle from Supervisor Susan Anderson's office, and Darren Rose from my district office deserve full recognition for their responsiveness and public service in the nation's capital, where they gave first aid to an individual who was in a state of cardiac arrest. The 21-year-old man was unresponsive and lying face down on the ground in a crowded Metro station near the Capitol building.

Julianne and Darren were the first upon the scene; Julianne initiated the emergency response among the eclectic mix of Fresno County Officials in the vicinity while Darren Rose called 911 and coordinated the response with DC fire and emergency medical services. Julianne was able to procure a pocket face mask. Supervisor Case affixed the mask and breathed for the patient. Sheriff Mims and Supervisor Case began skilled compression and breathing coordination efforts until the man, who originally had no pulse, was able to breathe on his own. Sheriff Mims has been trained in first aid, and Supervisor Case is a registered nurse who had just been recertified in CPR, and knew the most current standard medical procedure. Together, they performed

chest compressions and provided air for his lungs, which kept him stable and breathing until the Washington medics arrived 10 minutes later.

I had the honor to be able to meet with these local heroes when they were in Washington with the Council of County Governments (COG) as part of the "One Voice" delegation, which unites communities and regional interests in a voluntary and collaborative effort to promote and bring attention to the needs of the local community and regions.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and thank Sheriff Mims, Supervisor Case, Julianne Tuggle from Supervisor Anderson's office, and Darren Rose from my office for their service to the community and their heroism in providing emergency services to stabilize and preserve the life of this citizen in D.C. and in their everyday efforts on the job.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTER FOR APPLIED LINGUISTICS

**HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL), which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year.

CAL was established in 1959 in Washington, DC by a grant from the Ford Foundation. At the close of the 1950s, issues of U.S. language capacity, interest in U.S. and international language policy, and the emergence of English as a world language created a demand for expertise in linguistics and language training. CAL's primary function was to serve as a liaison between the academic world of linguistics and the language-related concerns of the practical world. CAL was the first organization to focus on the identification of qualified personnel for language-related professions, professional development for language teachers and development of linguistically sound materials for English as a second language as well as foreign language instruction.

CAL's original mandate was to improve the teaching of English around the world; encourage the teaching and learning of less commonly taught languages; contribute new knowledge to the field by conducting language research; and serve as a clearinghouse for information collection, analysis, and dissemination and as a coordinating agency to bring together scholars and practitioners involved in language-related issues. This was accomplished by convening meetings and issuing papers that addressed crucial language and education issues; consulting with ministries of education of countries that were newly independent, particularly in East Africa and the Middle East; working on English language learning among Native American populations; and developing materials in the less commonly taught languages.

During the Cold War, CAL enabled Eastern European scholars to disseminate their work in linguistics. During the height of the civil rights movement, CAL developed the Urban Language Program and invested resources in American dialect work, beginning with African American varieties and expanding to other

ethnic and regional dialects. When large numbers of refugees arrived from Southeast Asia, CAL responded with resources to support their orientation and resettlement. In the last several decades, attention to the education of child and adult immigrants has expanded significantly. Recently, the organization has addressed national security needs by expanding the availability of resources in critical languages, such as Arabic and Chinese.

From its inception, CAL has grown and evolved to meet the needs of a changing world by providing reliable and objective information and by making complex linguistic issues comprehensible to students, researchers, teachers, parents, policy makers, and the general public. Central to its work is its research and seminal publications that serve as the basis for assessment, language education, bilingual education, English as a foreign/second language, language policy, and second language acquisition. Details of CAL's current work can be found at its website [www.cal.org](http://www.cal.org).

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on member requests, I am submitting the following information regarding an earmark I received as part of H.R. 1105, the FY09 Omnibus Appropriations Bill:

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF FORTENBERRY

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY09 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

Account: Economic Development Initiatives  
Project Name: CEDARS Children's Crisis Center

Amount: \$142,500

Name and Address of Requesting Entity: CEDARS Youth Services, Inc., located at 620 North 48th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68504.

Description: The funding will be used for construction of a new Children's Crisis Center for abused, homeless, and runaway youth in Southeast Nebraska. CEDARS Youth Services plans to build a children's crisis center to provide short-term emergency shelter, immediate professional assessment of each child's needs, intense family-centered therapeutic services, and an environment that inspires a rapid return to stable and enduring family living. The 18,000 square foot facility will not only provide immediate safety and protection for vulnerable children and youth across the Midwest, but also a comfortable family-friendly setting for them to begin reunification or to meet prospective foster parents in a safe, professional supervised setting. While primarily helping persons from the Midwest area, the Center has recently served youth from the states of Tennessee, Georgia, California, Michigan, Texas and others. CEDARS is the only emergency shelter provider for children and youth in Southeast Nebraska, and this children's crisis center will expand the current service capacity by as many as 12 children each day. This is a 50% increase.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. COFFMAN. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 100 I was not recorded because I was absent so that I might testify at a public hearing before the Colorado Ethics Commission. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 101 I was not recorded because I was absent so that I might testify at a public hearing before the Colorado Ethics Commission. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall no. 102 I was not recorded because I was absent so that I might testify at a public hearing before the Colorado Ethics Commission. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall no. 103 I was not recorded because I was absent so that I might testify at a public hearing before the Colorado Ethics Commission. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall no. 104 I was not recorded because I was absent so that I might testify at a public hearing before the Colorado Ethics Commission. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall no. 105 I was not recorded because I was absent so that I might testify at a public hearing before the Colorado Ethics Commission. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall no. 106 I was not recorded because I was absent so that I might testify at a public hearing before the Colorado Ethics Commission. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall no. 107 I was not recorded because I was absent so that I might testify at a public hearing before the Colorado Ethics Commission. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall no. 108 I was not recorded because I was absent so that I might testify at a public hearing before the Colorado Ethics Commission. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall no. 109 I was not recorded because I was absent so that I might testify at a public hearing before the Colorado Ethics Commission. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING WOMEN OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Women's History Month by bringing my colleagues' attention to some of the remarkable women of the Eleventh Congressional District of the proud Commonwealth of Virginia. These women, like so many in our District and throughout this nation, worked tirelessly for their families and communities at great personal expense, and deserve recognition for their exceptional contributions to our region's more recent history.

One such example is that of Barbara Varon. A native of Germany, Varon immigrated to America as an adult and was devoted to her adopted land. As a world traveler who could speak several languages, she worked as a translator. Joining the Fairfax County General Registrar's Office, she was committed to a voter registration outreach program for high school students. Using her linguistic skills, she wrote brochures and designed pamphlets to inform the voting public. Her dedication led her to the position of chairman of the Fairfax County Electoral Board, a position in which she faithfully continued to serve her goal of seeing every citizen involved in the electoral process. Varon also donated her time to many volunteer organizations and frequently made generous anonymous donations to those in need. Varon fought valiantly for the rights and privileges of all residents to participate in the electoral process, and today, an award is granted annually in her name to a Fairfax County resident whose dedication to improving the community through volunteer service honors her memory.

Phyllis Campbell Newsome, another exemplary woman from Virginia's Eleventh District, devoted her life to bringing together nonprofit organizations in the Greater Washington area. As the Center for Nonprofit Advancement's Director of Advocacy and Community Relations, Newsome understood the power and strength of coalitions. It was frequently the power of her persuasion that brought together those with the strongest of convictions and convinced them to put aside differences, enabling a powerful nonprofit community bent on positive change. Additionally, she was a consistent and reliable source for the media and other community leaders who needed to know how the nonprofit community would be affected by anything from a hot button issue to a broad policy change. Often quoting Tip O'Neill's, "All politics are local," she felt she could be most effective helping those she especially cared about — the poor and underserved communities—by working with local elected officials rather than at the state or even federal levels. A true community advocate, Phyllis Newsome is also memorialized by an annual award that is granted to an outstanding group of public servants for their dedication to the region's nonprofit community.

While neither of these outstanding women are with us today, their legacy lives on through the recognition of the ongoing contributions of the noble men and women of our District that occur annually in their name. The arrival of Women's History Month serves to remind us that we are fortunate to have such a legacy of service in our rich historical tapestry. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding the contributions of Barbara Varon, Phyllis Campbell Newsome, and the women of the Eleventh Congressional District of the Commonwealth of Virginia, past and present, in honor of Women's History Month.

INTRODUCING THE QUALITY HEALTH CARE COALITION ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Quality Health Care Coalition Act

which takes a first step towards restoring a true free market in health care by restoring the rights of freedom of contract and association to health care professionals. For over a decade, we have had much debate in Congress about the difficulties medical professionals and patients are having with Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs). HMOs are devices used by insurance industries to ration health care. While it is politically popular for members of Congress to bash the HMOs and the insurance industry, the growth of the HMOs are rooted in past government interventions in the health care market through the tax code, the Employment Retirement Security Act (ERSIA), and the federal anti-trust laws. These interventions took control of the health care dollar away from individual patients and providers, thus making it inevitable that something like the HMOs would emerge as a means to control costs.

Many of my well-meaning colleagues would deal with the problems created by the HMOs by expanding the federal government's control over the health care market. These interventions will inevitably drive up the cost of health care and further erode the ability of patents and providers to determine the best health treatments free of government and third-party interference. In contrast, the Quality Health Care Coalition Act addresses the problems associated with HMOs by restoring medical professionals' freedom to form voluntary organizations for the purpose of negotiating contracts with an HMO or an insurance company.

As an OB-GYN who spent over 30 years practicing medicine, I am well aware of how young physicians coming out of medical school feel compelled to sign contracts with HMOs that may contain clauses that compromise their professional integrity. For example, many physicians are contractually forbidden from discussing all available treatment options with their patients because the HMO gatekeeper has deemed certain treatment options too expensive. In my own practice, I tried hard not to sign contracts with any health insurance company that infringed on my ability to practice medicine in the best interests of my patients and I always counseled my professional colleagues to do the same. Unfortunately, because of the dominance of the HMO in today's health care market, many health care professionals cannot sustain a medical practice unless they agree to conform their practice to the dictates of some HMO.

One way health care professionals could counter the power of the HMOs would be to form a voluntary association for the purpose of negotiating with an HMO or an insurance company. However, health care professionals who attempt to form such a group run the risk of persecution under federal anti-trust laws. This not only reduces the ability of health care professionals to negotiate with HMOs on a level playing field, but also constitutes an unconstitutional violation of medical professionals' freedom of contract and association.

Under the United States Constitution, the federal government has no authority to interfere with the private contracts of American citizens. Furthermore, the prohibitions on contracting contained in the Sherman antitrust laws are based on a flawed economic theory which holds that federal regulators can improve upon market outcomes by restricting the rights of certain market participants deemed too powerful by the government. In fact, anti-

trust laws harm consumers by preventing the operation of the free-market, causing prices to rise, quality to suffer, and, as is certainly the case with the relationship between the HMOs and medical professionals, favoring certain industries over others.

By restoring the freedom of medical professionals to voluntarily come together to negotiate as a group with HMOs and insurance companies, this bill removes a government-imposed barrier to a true free market in health care. Of course, this bill does not infringe on the rights of health care professionals by forcing them to join a bargaining organization against their will. While Congress should protect the rights of all Americans to join organizations for the purpose of bargaining collectively, Congress also has a moral responsibility to ensure that no worker is forced by law to join or financially support such an organization.

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that Congress will not only remove the restraints on medical professionals' freedom of contract, but will also empower patients to control their health care by passing my Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act. The Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act puts individuals back in charge of their own health care by providing Americans with large tax credits and tax deductions for their health care expenses, including a deduction for premiums for a high-deductible insurance policy purchased in combination with a Health Savings Account. Putting individuals back in charge of their own health care decisions will enable patients to work with providers to ensure they receive the best possible health care at the lowest possible price. If providers and patients have the ability to form the contractual arrangements that they find most beneficial to them, the HMO monster will wither on the vine without the imposition of new federal regulations on the insurance industry.

In conclusion, I urge my colleagues to support the Quality Health Care Coalition Act and restore the freedom of contract and association to America's health care professionals. I also urge my colleagues to join me in working to promote a true free market in health care by putting patients back in charge of the health care dollar by supporting my Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act.

IN MEMORY OF MARGARET GRAY

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with deep regret that I inform the House of the death of Margaret Louise Gray of Lexington, MO.

Margaret was born October 27, 1931, in Ottawa, Kansas. She was married to William R. Gray, who preceded her in death on September 27, 1986. She is survived by a brother, Stephen Swaim, and two sisters, Doris Boyd and Betty Chatman.

Margaret was a member of the First Baptist Church of Lexington, the Lexington Business and Professional Woman's Club, War Dads, Elks, and a member of SORT. She was the Director of Family Services in Lafayette County for many years. Both her husband and she

were active in developing the Lexington Senior Center and subsequently the 4-Life Center. The senior center was later named the Margaret Gray Senior Center in honor of her hard work and financial support.

Madam Speaker, Margaret L. Gray was an influential member in the Lexington community. I know the members of the House will join me in extending their heartfelt condolences to her family and friends. She will be greatly missed.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF  
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 11, 2009*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 194, a resolution to support the goals of International Women's Day. I'd like to take this opportunity to commend the work of my colleague, Rep. JAN SCHAKOWSKY, for introducing this resolution again in the 111th Congress, and for her invaluable work in support of women's rights as co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues.

In the United States and in countries around the world, women are agents of change, development, and prosperity, contributing in so many ways to the well-being of their families and communities. There is clear and abundant evidence that when women thrive, the entire world thrives as well.

However, the benefits of women's full participation in economic, political, and social life are not being realized in many parts of the world. In all regions, women are less likely than men to receive pay commensurate to the value of their work, be given a voice in their national governments, or have access to basic human rights such as the right to an education. In many countries, the United States included, domestic violence is further reducing the opportunities available to women and girls to lead happy, healthy lives. H. Res. 194 is an important step towards guaranteeing the basic rights of women and girls worldwide by calling for an end to this discrimination.

Throughout my time in Congress, promoting women's rights has been one of my top legislative priorities. For years I have worked tirelessly with likeminded colleagues to restore funding to UNFPA, an organization whose mission is to promote the right of every woman to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. I commend the new Administration for recognizing the value of this goal by committing to funding UNFPA, including \$50 million in the FY09 Omnibus Appropriations Bill.

However, more needs to be done in the 111th Congress to further women's rights. That is why I will be introducing a resolution condemning the actions of the Taliban to restrict girls' access to education in Swat, Pakistan, as well as H.R. 606, the International Women's Freedom Act. This bill reflects the goals of International Women's Day in many ways, as it calls for concerted action on the part of the State Department and Executive Branch to advance the rights of women, including creating an Office of International Women's Rights within the State Department, establishing a women's rights Internet site,

and requiring that Foreign Service Officers receive women's rights related training.

This resolution in support of International Women's Day recognizes the strength, leadership, and capability demonstrated by women in every village, city, and country. I ask my colleagues to join me in reaffirming their commitments to protecting the rights of women and girls around the world, by observing International Women's Day, and by honoring women's contributions every day.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MAJOR  
DRUG TRAFFICKING PROSECUTION  
ACT OF 2009

**HON. MAXINE WATERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Major Drug Trafficking Prosecution Act of 2009. This legislation will refocus federal prosecutorial resources on major drug traffickers and eliminate racial disparities created by the mandatory minimum sentences for powder and crack cocaine.

In the 1980s, Congress passed two Anti-Drug Abuse Acts with the goal that federal prosecutors would go after major drug traffickers at the top of the food chain, instead of low-level drug offenders at the bottom. Lengthy mandatory minimum prison sentences were passed for most drug crimes. These mandatory terms are triggered based solely on the type and weight of the drug involved, and, with very few exceptions, the courts cannot sentence below them.

Twenty years later, mandatory drug sentences have utterly failed to achieve Congress's goals.

First, these sentences are not stopping major drug traffickers. Huge quantities of drugs enter our country each year, but in 2005 the majority of crack and powder cocaine offenses, for example, were street-level dealers, mules and lookouts and users, 61.5 percent and 53.1 percent, respectively. Mandatory minimums lock up thousands of small-time sellers and addicts for decades.

Second, mandatory minimums have lengthened drug sentences, creating the need for more prisons and more taxpayer money to pay for them. Before the advent of mandatory sentences, drug offenders served an average of 22 months in prison; by 2004, that average sentence had nearly tripled, to 62 months in prison. Because of mandatory minimums, the federal prison budget has ballooned from \$220 million in 1986 to \$5.4 billion in 2008.

Longer sentences and more people in prison haven't translated into safer streets. At some point, the effectiveness per dollar in promoting increased public safety will decrease. For example, when crime dropped dramatically between 1992 and 1997, imprisonment was responsible for just 25 percent of that reduction. Seventy five percent was attributed to factors other than incarceration.

Finally, mandatory minimums have a disproportionate impact on African Americans, who comprise 12 percent of the U.S. population and 14 percent of drug users, but 30 percent of all federal drug convictions. African American drug defendants are 20 percent more likely to be sentenced to prison than

white drug defendants. African Americans, on average, serve almost as much time in federal prison for a drug offense (58.7 months) as whites do for a violent offense (61.7 months). Much of this disparity is due to the severe penalties for crack cocaine.

The Major Drug Trafficking Prosecution Act of 2009 will help refocus important federal prosecutorial resources to the major drug traffickers instead of low-level offenders and it will provide more discretion to judges by making some long overdue changes to current law: eliminating all mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses; curbing federal prosecutions of low-level drug offenders; and allowing courts to place drug users on probation or suspend the sentence.

Mandatory minimums have been repealed before. A 2008 report issued by Families Against Mandatory Minimums describes how Congress first enacted mandatory drug sentences in the 1950s, then voted to repeal them in 1970 because they failed to reduce drug trafficking. I would like to refer Members to the report at the following site: [http://www.famm.org/Repository/Files/8189\\_FAMM\\_BoggsAct\\_final.pdf](http://www.famm.org/Repository/Files/8189_FAMM_BoggsAct_final.pdf). In a recent poll, 8 in 10 Americans agreed that courts—not Congress—should determine prison sentences, and 6 in 10 opposed mandatory sentences for nonviolent offenders. Today's Congress should heed the American people and repeal mandatory minimums again.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support The Major Drug Trafficking Prosecution Act of 2009.

#### CHARITABLE GIVING

### HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of charitable giving.

Americans give generously.

In the weeks following the deadly 2004 tsunami in Asia, donations from American charities outpaced official government aid by more than \$100 million.

When Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast of our nation, Americans responded with faster and more forceful giving than ever before. In the first 10 days, charitable giving topped \$700 million. Ultimately, more than \$4 billion was donated to the recovery effort.

Since the mid-1990s, charitable giving has accounted for roughly 2 percent of our annual GDP, which is more than double the rate of giving in any other country.

And Madam Speaker, most donations don't come from big business. They come from hardworking Americans. Individuals account for 75 percent of charitable giving.

Recently, some have proposed limitations on the tax deduction for charitable giving. We face a staggering deficit, and I believe we must balance the budget—but not by raising taxes on these donations.

It has long been a hallmark of the U.S. tax code that giving gets a tax break. Today, I joined Rep. ROS-LEHTINEN of Florida to introduce a resolution that would state this Chamber's support for charitable giving and its opposition to raising taxes on donations. At this time of great need at home and abroad, we

must not make it harder for Americans to give. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing a tax increase on charitable donations.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN DANIEL E. BUTTON

### HON. ERIC J. J. MASSA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. MASSA. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the life and achievements of Daniel E. Button, a former Congressman who represented New York's 29th District. Button, who died this week at age 91, was a father of five and a Columbia University-educated journalist in the late 1950s and early 1960s. In 1966, dismayed by what he saw as entrenched corruption, Button decided to run for Congress and won by doing the hard work of walking the district in a seemingly unattainable quest. He won by only 17,000 votes but was re-elected in 1968 for a second term. Even though Button's tenure as New York's 29th District Representative lasted only two terms, they were filled with Button's drive to fight for what he believed was right. For standing up and taking action for what he believed in, it is my pleasure to honor the late Congressman Daniel E. Button.

#### TREAT PHYSICIANS FAIRLY ACT

### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Treat Physicians Fairly Act, legislation providing tax credits to physicians to compensate for the costs of providing uncompensated care. This legislation helps compensate medical professionals for the costs imposed on them by federal laws forcing doctors to provide uncompensated medical care. The legislation also provides a tax deduction for hospitals who incur costs related to providing uncompensated care.

Under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) physicians who work in emergency rooms, as well as the hospitals, are required to provide care without seeking compensation to anyone who comes into an emergency room. Thus, EMTALA forces medical professionals and hospitals to bear the entire cost of caring for the indigent. According to the June 2/9, 2003 edition of AM News, emergency physicians lose an average of \$138,000 per year because of EMTALA. EMTALA also forces physicians and hospitals to follow costly rules and regulations, and can be fined \$50,000 for failure to be in technical compliance with EMTALA!

Forcing physicians to offer their services without providing any form of compensation is a blatant violation of the takings clause of the Fifth Amendment. After all, the professional skills with which one earns a living are a form of property. Therefore, legislation, such as EMTALA, which forces individuals to use their professional skills without compensation is a taking of private property. Regardless of whether the federal government has the con-

stitutional authority to establish programs providing free-or-reduced health care for the indigent, the clear language of the takings clause prevents Congress from placing the entire burden of these programs on the medical profession.

Ironically, the perceived need to force doctors to provide medical care is itself the result of prior government interventions into the health care market. When I began practicing, it was common for doctors to provide uncompensated care as a matter of charity. However, government laws and regulations inflating the cost of medical services and imposing unreasonable liability standards on medical professionals even when they were acting in a volunteer capacity made offering free care cost prohibitive. At the same time, the increased health care costs associated with the government-facilitated over-reliance in third party payments priced more and more people out of the health care market. Thus, the government responded to problems created by their interventions by imposing EMTALA mandate on physicians, in effect making the health care profession scapegoats for the unintended consequences of failed government health care policies.

EMTALA itself is having unintended consequences that could result in less care availability for low-income Americans at emergency rooms. This is because EMTALA provides a disincentive for physicians from offering any emergency care. Many physicians have told me in my district that they are considering curtailing their practices, in part because of the costs associated with the EMTALA mandates. Many other physicians are even counseling younger people against entering the medical profession because of the way the federal government treats medical professionals! The tax credit of the Treat Physicians Fairly Act will help mitigate some of these unintended consequences.

The Treat Physicians Fairly Act does not remove any of EMTALA's mandates; it simply provides that physicians can receive a tax credit for the costs of providing uncompensated care. This is a small step toward restoring fairness to the physicians. Furthermore, by providing some compensation in the form of tax credits, the Treat Physicians Fairly Act helps remove the disincentives to remaining active in the medical profession built into the current EMTALA law. I hope my colleagues will take the first step toward removing the unconstitutional burden of providing uncompensated care by cosponsoring the Treat Physicians Fairly Act.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE "STUDY OF WAYS TO IMPROVE THE ACCURACY OF THE COLLECTION OF FEDERAL OIL, CONDENSATE, AND NATURAL GAS ROYALTIES ACT"

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to reintroduce the "Study of Ways to Improve the Accuracy of the Collection of Federal Oil, Condensate, and Natural Gas Royalties Act," which would commission a study by

the National Academy of Engineering to examine the policies and procedures for ensuring the oil and gas from federal lands is appropriately measured for the purposes of paying royalties.

The bill has two components. The first calls on the National Academy of Engineering to study specific ways to improve the accuracy of the collection of royalties on oil and natural gas from Federal and Tribal lands. The study is needed because current methods used in the United States for collecting, measuring, valuing, and storing oil and natural gas may not lead to royalty payments that are as accurate as they could be.

Lawsuits have been filed alleging that energy companies are underpaying billions of dollars in royalties because of these inaccuracies—or possibly because of outright manipulation—in the process for determining royalty payments.

Many of these lawsuits have been settled, and we're talking about a lot of money here:

In 2000 and 2001, major oil companies settled with the Justice Department for over half a billion dollars in two False Claims Act lawsuits over oil and royalty underpayments.

In 2004, Chevron paid out \$111 million to the State of Louisiana for underpayments.

In 2005, BP owned up to the tune of \$233 in a Colorado case.

And, in a case still pending, Exxon Mobil may owe up to \$3.6 billion or much more to the State of Alabama for underpayments in royalties there.

Certainly, for this kind of money, we can afford to ask the experts who understand the technical issues here to study the major underlying problems.

The second part of the bill is a review of royalty payments. It provides for a comparison of royalty payments made under federal oil and gas lease provisions to data supplied to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. This is to determine whether such payments were adequate under the terms of the oil and gas leases. With completion of these studies, the Congress, Minerals Management Service, and the Bureau of Land Management will have a better understanding of changes that should be undertaken to make the process more accurate and transparent, and American taxpayers will have a better chance of getting all the oil and gas royalties that they are owed.

HONORING THE MODEL HIGH  
SCHOOL LADY DEVILS

**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a talented group of girls from Floyd County in Georgia's 11th Congressional District. As we move towards March Madness in college basketball, the Georgia High School Association's state basketball playoffs are already underway. The Model High School Girl's Basketball Team—or Lady Devils—have soared to a perfect 30–0 record and are poised for a trip to the Georgia High School Association's Final Four tonight.

The Lady Devils' road to the Final Four has led them through a Region 7AA Championship

and three rounds of State playoffs to send them to the semi-finals for the first time in over a decade.

Although many around Floyd County are riding high on the team's success, the girls of the No. 2–ranked and unbeaten Lady Devils are focused on getting back to work as they prepare for tonight's Final Four match-up against Henry County at the Macon Centreplex.

The Lady Devils are led by Coach Sally Echols, who actually played in Model High School's last trip to the Final Four in 1997. Echols has proved just as valuable as a head coach as she was on the court—leading the Lady Devils to four straight Region Championships. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Coach Echols and the Model High School Lady Blue Devils for their success on the court as well as the hard work and determination that got them there. I wish them luck in the Final Four.

ON EL SALVADOR

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my grave concern about the upcoming elections in El Salvador this week.

Under its current and recent governments, El Salvador has served as a Forward Operating Location in the war on drugs and cooperates closely with the United States. However that may change if the opposition party, the FMLN, comes to power in Sunday's election.

The Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) is a pro-terrorist party with direct ties to sponsors of terror like Cuba, Iran, and FARC, the narcoguerrilla terrorist organization in Colombia. Based on its relationships, the FMLN clearly is not a reliable partner in the fight on drug trafficking and money laundering.

If the FMLN were to enter government in El Salvador, the Department of the Treasury would be forced to use its legal authority to monitor, control, delay, or terminate the movement of nearly \$4 billion in remittances and other money transfers to El Salvador.

The United States must be prepared to apply, on an urgent basis, the full array of legal instruments available should circumstances after the Salvadoran election require the urgent termination of the flow of remittances to that country.

The government of El Salvador has shown itself to be a reliable and trustworthy counterpart regarding U.S. national security. For the sake of the Salvadorans and the United States, I pray that the FMLN is defeated, so that the United States can maintain its special relationship with the government of El Salvador.

On Election Day, El Salvador will be choosing between remaining a close U.S. ally, or realigning itself with countries hostile to the U.S. Let's hope they choose freedom, security, and good neighborliness with the U.S.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT ON  
H.R. 1463

**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, one of the most important challenges confronting the intelligence community is learning the nature of and damage done by the worldwide network in nuclear centrifuge technology, bomb components and training run for almost two decades by A. Q. Khan—the revered “father” of his country's nuclear program. Considered a pariah abroad but a hero at home, that task got a lot tougher when Pakistan's High Court ordered Khan released from house arrest last month.

At the recent Wehrkunde Security Conference in Munich, Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi astonished delegates, telling us that his government had not decided whether to challenge the court decision but that Pakistan would continue to monitor Khan.

For those who stay awake at night worrying about Iran's increasing mastery of centrifuge technology and the ability of terror groups to access nuclear components, Pakistan's action is distressing.

When Khan “confessed” in 2004 to his illegal nuclear dealings, he was promptly placed under “house arrest” and pardoned by then President Pervez Musharraf. The U.S. government was denied access to him, and was never able to question him about what he did and what else he knew.

Today, we introduce legislation to condition future military aid to Pakistan on two things: that the Pakistani Government make A.Q. Khan available for questioning and that it monitor Khan's activities.

This much we do know. As a university student in Europe in the late 1960s and early 1970s, Khan earned degrees in metallurgical engineering from institutions in Holland and Belgium. In 1972, he began working for the Dutch partner of a uranium enrichment consortium and almost immediately raised eyebrows for repeated visits to a facility he was not cleared to see and for inquiries made about technical data unrelated to his own assignments.

Dutch intelligence quietly began to monitor him. In 1974, following India's first nuclear test, Khan offered his expertise to Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Later that year, Khan's company assigned him to work on Dutch translations of advanced, German-designed centrifuges—data to which he had unsupervised access for 16 days.

By 1975, the damage appears to have been done. Pakistan began to purchase components for its domestic uranium enrichment program from European suppliers, and Khan was transferred away from enrichment work due to concern about his activities.

In December, he abruptly returned to Pakistan with blueprints for centrifuges and other components and detailed lists of suppliers.

Convicted in absentia by the Dutch government for nuclear espionage, beginning in the mid-1980s, Khan is widely believed to have provided nuclear weapons technology to Iran, North Korea, Libya and possibly Syria and Iraq. His network involved front companies

and operatives in Dubai, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Switzerland and Turkey. Though much of the network was taken down following his confession, there is no conclusive evidence that it was destroyed.

Khan is again a loose nuke scientist with proven ability to sell the worst weapons to the worst people. Hopefully, appropriate Pakistani officials worry as we do that their civilians could become nuclear targets—as could NATO soldiers in neighboring Afghanistan or civilians in any number of Western countries.

Our bill provides a path for the Zardari government to do the right thing—to allow the U.S. to evaluate the full extent of A. Q. Khan's proliferation activities in order to halt any ongoing or future harm.

**VEOLIA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to honor Veolia Environmental Services and their facility in Port Arthur, TX, for their successful destruction of 1.5 million gallons of what was once the deadly nerve agent VX. Working in conjunction with Tri-State Motor Transit (TSMT) and the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), they were able to complete the project safely and on time.

In the 1950s, the United States began to stockpile VX. Signed by the U.S. in 1993, The International Chemical Weapons Convention requires destruction of all chemical agents by participating nations by specified target dates. The U.S. had a stockpile of VX at the Newport Chemical Weapons Depot in Newport, Indiana where they could deactivate the chemical. They needed a facility to destroy hydrolysate, the caustic wastewater created by the agent's destruction.

The CMA discussed building a \$300 million facility in Indiana to handle the process but the terrorist attack of 2001 forced them to reconsider. In 2007 they awarded Veolia with a \$49 million contract to incinerate the corrosive wastewater. The wastewater would be put in specialized containers and hauled more than 1,000 miles through 8 states by TSMT to Veolia's Port Arthur facility where it would be destroyed.

This is not the type of project that a community greets with open arms. Two other sites denied the venture due to political and community concerns. Public protests and a federal lawsuit almost derailed the project once more, but Veolia made a promise to handle the job safely, in accordance with all regulations and without impact to the environment, 18 months and 428 shipments later, the process concluded without a single incident of any kind.

The project was successful on a number of levels. By utilizing the Port Arthur facility, taxpayers were saved close to \$250 million. Veolia was able to assist the U.S. government in accomplishing its treaty obligations in an expeditious and safe manner. They also brought money and national attention to Southeast Texas.

I would like to commend Veolia Environmental Services and their employees for their hard work and dedication during this project.

Companies like Veolia that care about the community they serve make Southeast Texas such a special place.

**INTRODUCING THE NURSING HOME EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT**

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Nursing Home Emergency Assistance Act. This act makes private, for-profit nursing homes eligible for the same federal aid as is currently available to public nursing homes. Under current federal law, only public nursing homes may receive federal disaster assistance. However, hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes do not distinguish between private and public, or for-profit and not-for-profit, nursing homes.

As I have recently seen in my district, all nursing homes face unique challenges coping with natural disasters and their aftermaths. It is not fair to the taxpayers who work in, reside in, or have entrusted the care of their loved ones to, a private nursing home that private nursing homes are denied the same federal aid available to their public counterparts. Mr. Speaker, the Nursing Home Emergency Assistance Act ensures all residents of nursing homes can benefit from federal disaster aid. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

**RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2009 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today, joined by my colleagues Rep. FRANK WOLF and Rep. JAMES MORAN, to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Awards recognize remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety agencies and their commitment to the community. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. More than 80 awards were presented at this year's ceremony in a variety of categories: The Lifesaving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Medal of Valor.

Two members of the Town of Herndon Police Department have earned this highest honor. It is with great pride that we submit their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Recipient of the Lifesaving Award: Captain Robert L. Presgrave.

Recipient of the Certificate of Valor: Sergeant Darcy L. Nidell.

Madam Speaker, in closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the men

and women who serve in the Town of Herndon Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join us in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

**IN RECOGNITION OF TALLADEGA COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM WINNING NATIONAL TITLE**

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to The Talladega College Tornadoes Men's Basketball Team for winning their first United States Collegiate Athletic Association National Championship Title.

The Talladega College Tornadoes won the national title on Saturday, March 7th in Uniontown, Pennsylvania on the Penn State Fayette campus by beating Rochester College 45 to 31.

I am proud to recognize Head Coach Matt Cross, President Billy Hawkins and the entire Tornado team and staff for their outstanding athleticism both on and off the basketball court. I congratulate each of these young men in claiming their first national championship for Talladega College.

Players: Romondo Banks, Jorge Canedo, Jeral Davis, Michael Ervine, Tory Guillory, Micah Hagans, Ricardo Moss, Donell Pope, Patrick Rodgers and Tarium Taylor.

Coaches: Matt Cross—Athletic Director and Head Men's Basketball Coach; Randy Pulley—Assistant Coach; Ricky Smith—Assistant Coach; Hellion Knight—Assistant Coach; and Demond Walker—Athletic Trainer.

**EARMARK DECLARATION**

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, "Pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of HR 1105."

1) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, General Investigations

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: US Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 Fort Point Road, Galveston, Texas

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$382,000 to complete investigations at Freeport Harbor, Texas in furtherance of maintaining a federally authorized waterway.

2) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, General Investigations

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: US Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 Fort Point Road, Galveston, Texas

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$406,000 to complete investigations in the Lower Colorado River Basin, Texas in furtherance of a federally authorized flood study.

3) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, General Investigations

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: US Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 Fort Point Road, Galveston, Texas

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$1,264,000 to complete investigations in the Lower Colorado River Basin and Wharton and Onion Creeks, Texas in furtherance of a federally authorized flood study.

4) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, General Investigations

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: US Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 Fort Point Road, Galveston, Texas

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$382,000 to complete investigations at GIWW Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay, Texas in furtherance of maintaining a federally authorized waterway.

5) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: US Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 Fort Point Road, Galveston, Texas

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$1,914,000 to complete construction work at Texas City Ship Channel, Texas in furtherance of maintaining a federally authorized waterway.

6) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: US Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 Fort Point Road, Galveston, Texas

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$20,766,000 to complete construction work at Houston-Galveston Navigation Channel, Texas in furtherance of maintaining a federally authorized waterway.

7) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: US Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 Fort Point Road, Galveston, Texas

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$478,000 to complete construction work at Houston Ship Channel, Texas in furtherance of maintaining a federally authorized waterway.

8) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: US Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 Fort Point Road, Galveston, Texas

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$478,000 to complete construction work at Clear Creek, Texas in furtherance of a federally authorized flood control.

9) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, O&M

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: US Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 Fort Point Road, Galveston, Texas

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$323,000 to maintain the Channel to Port Bolivar, Texas in furtherance of a federally authorized water project.

10) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, O&M

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: US Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 Fort Point Road, Galveston, Texas

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$6,516,000 to maintain Freeport Harbor, Texas in furtherance of a federally authorized water project.

11) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, O&M

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: US Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 Fort Point Road, Galveston, Texas

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$5,590,000 to maintain Galveston Harbor Channel, Texas in furtherance of a federally authorized water project.

12) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, O&M

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: US Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 Fort Point Road, Galveston, Texas

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$2,512,000 to maintain the GIWW Channel to Victoria, Texas in furtherance of a federally authorized water project.

13) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, O&M

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: US Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 Fort Point Road, Galveston, Texas

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$2,716,000 to maintain the GIWW Chocolate Bayou, Texas in furtherance of a federally authorized water project.

14) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, O&M

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: US Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 Fort Point Road, Galveston, Texas

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$5,730,000 to maintain the Matagorda Ship Channel, Texas in furtherance of a federally authorized water project.

15) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, O&M

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: US Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 Fort Point Road, Galveston, Texas

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$1,376,000 to maintain the Texas City Ship Channel, Texas in furtherance of a federally authorized water project.

16) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, O&M

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: US Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 Fort Point Road, Galveston, Texas

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$1,622,000 to maintain the Wallisville Lake, Texas in furtherance of a federally authorized water project.

17) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, O&M

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: US Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 Fort Point Road, Galveston, Texas

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$29,586,000 to maintain the GIWW, Texas in furtherance of a federally authorized water project.

18) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, O&M

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: US Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 Fort Point Road, Galveston, Texas

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$13,788,000 to maintain the Houston Ship Channel, Texas in furtherance of a federally authorized water project.

19) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Transportation, Buses and Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Galveston

Address of Requesting Entity: 823 Rosenberg, Galveston, Texas 77553

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$237,500 for transit facility renovation in Galveston, Texas in furtherance of hurricane recovery.

20) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Transportation, CTPS

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Galveston

Address of Requesting Entity: 823 Rosenberg, Galveston, Texas 77553

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$95,000 for work on the Seawall in Galveston, Texas in furtherance of hurricane recovery.

21) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105  
 Account: Department of Transportation, Buses and Facilities  
 Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission  
 Address of Requesting Entity: 568 Big Bend Drive, Victoria, TX 77904

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$237,500 for bus replacement in Victoria, Texas in furtherance of transportation system improvement to enhance job retention and creation in and around Victoria, Texas

22) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105  
 Account: HHS, HRSA, Health Facilities and Services

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Memorial Hermann Health Care Systems  
 Address of Requesting Entity: 7737 Southwest Freeway, Houston, Texas 77074

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$190,000 for healthcare facilities and equipment in and around Houston, Texas

23) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105  
 Account: Department of Education, Innovation and Improvements

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Reach out and Read  
 Address of Requesting Entity: 56 Roland Street, Suite 100D; Boston, MA 02129

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$4,965,000 for reading based federally-funded national educational program.

24) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105  
 Account: Department of Education, Innovation and Improvements

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Reading is Fundamental (RIF)

Address of Requesting Entity: 1825 Connecticut Avenue, NW—Suite 400; Washington, DC 20009

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$24,803,000 for reading based federally-funded national educational program.

25) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105  
 Account: Department of Education, Innovation and Improvements

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: SURE BET

Address of Requesting Entity: 5606 N. Navarro, Suite 200 R; Victoria, TX 77904

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$95,000 for program to reduce school drop-out rates in and around Victoria, Texas

26) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105  
 Account: Economic Development Initiatives  
 Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Housing and Community Services, Inc

Address of Requesting Entity: 8610 N. New Braunfels, Suite 500; San Antonio, TX 78217  
 Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$23,750 for equipment at Fox Run Apartments in Victoria, Texas

27) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105  
 Account: OJP, Juvenile Justice

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Texana Center, inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 4910 Airport Avenue, Rosenberg, TX 77471

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$500,000 for Nublac drug rehabilitation program targeted to serve minority residents in and around Bay City, Texas

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL FOR RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, for almost half a century Rabbi Arthur Schneier has promoted religious freedom and human rights throughout the world. A Holocaust survivor, and the Founder and President of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, Rabbi Schneier has devoted his life to overcoming the forces of hatred and intolerance.

He has been a pioneer in bringing together religious leaders to address, ethnic or religious conflicts. For example, in Bosnia in 1997, he convened government and religious leaders to promote healing and conciliation between Orthodox, Muslim and Jewish communities. In the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia he worked with the Orthodox Patriarch and the Turkish Government to hold the Peace and Tolerance Conference in 1994 and address religious and ethnic tensions in that area. In the former Yugoslavia, he mobilized religious leaders to halt the bloodshed of the early 90s, holding the Religious Summit on the Former Yugoslavia and the Conflict Resolution Conference to build support and consensus among religious leaders of different faiths. Since the early 1980s, he has led delegations of religious leaders to China to open a dialogue on religious freedom.

Born in Vienna, Austria, in 1930, Rabbi Schneier lived under Nazi occupation in Budapest during World War II and came to the United States in 1947. He has been the Spiritual Leader of the Park East Synagogue in New York City since 1962.

Today I am reintroducing the Rabbi Arthur Schneier Gold Medal act and I urge my colleague to support this legislation in recognition of a truly remarkable man.

RECOGNIZING AT&T FOR JOBS CREATION AND COMMITMENT TO CLEAN ENERGY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to applaud AT&T for its commitment to creating new jobs with an environmentally friendly, clean energy business model.

At a time when millions of Americans are suffering through one of the most difficult economies in many years, AT&T plans to create 3,000 new jobs as part of an \$18 billion investment. Under this initiative, the company will enhance its broadband capacity—increasing Internet speed and accessibility for its customers.

AT&T also plans to invest \$565 million in replacing its current fleet with 15,000 domestically manufactured Compressed Natural Gas, CNG, and alternative-fuel vehicles. Over the next 10 years, this will create or save 1,000 jobs.

The Center for Automotive Research, CAR, in Ann Arbor, MI., estimates that the new vehicles will save 49 million gallons of gasoline and reduce carbon emissions by 211,000 metric tons over the 10-year deployment period. That is equivalent to removing the emissions from more than 38,600 traditional passenger vehicles for a year.

Madam Speaker, AT&T has not only answered the call to help lead this country out of the economic downturn, but done so in an environmentally conscious manner. AT&T stands as a strong example for corporate America, and I hope that others will follow in their footsteps.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, I was unexpectedly detained at a doctor's appointment and missed one vote. I would like the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted.

Rollcall No. 116, on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 67, Recognizing and commending the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), and Cornell University for the success of the Mars Exploration Rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, on the 5th anniversary of their successful landing, I would have voted "yea."

SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. SIRE. Mr. Speaker. I rise today in support of House Resolution 194, supporting the goals of International Women's Day. Women have come a long way in our nation; leading graduation rates at universities, running major corporations and being elected to the highest levels of government. I am proud to live in a country where more women than ever before are being elected to office and I am proud to serve with the first woman Speaker of the House of Representatives. However, many women around the world continue to be less fortunate; living in poverty, without access to health care, education or basic human rights. We must continue to be their voice, so that women all across the world will one day have the ability to make their own decisions about their lives. I hope that by providing women with the tools to educate themselves, they are better equipped to provide for their families, protect themselves against HIV/AIDS, end cycles of domestic violence, and fight for their rights. Mr. Speaker, we must continue to support the goals of International Women's Day to

ensure the further advancement of women in our country and around the globe.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION TO COMMEND THE AUSTRALIANS' UNQUALIFIED APOLOGY TO INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS AND TORRES ISLANDERS

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that commends the Australian government for apologizing for its mistreatment of Indigenous Australians and Torres Islanders, and for committing to fighting the disparities that continue to impact Indigenous communities.

Indigenous Australians first arrived on the continent more than 50,000 years ago, developed one of the oldest cultures on earth, and made world renowned contributions to the arts, politics and athletics despite the hardships that they faced at home.

From the mass killings of Indigenous people by European settlers during the 18th Century to restricting Indigenous Australians from the right to vote until 1962, violence, discrimination and disenfranchisement have however, played a significant role in European and Indigenous relations for centuries. Perhaps Australia's most notorious action against the Indigenous population during the 20th Century was the Australian government's authorization of the removal of tens of thousands of children of native and mixed ancestry from their homes under the Protection Acts. These were inspired by racist and pseudo-scientific notions of cultural and racial superiority, and designed to eradicate Indigenous culture and the very existence of the Indigenous people. The victims of this national atrocity are often referred to as the Stolen Generation.

Madam Speaker, the legacy of official and unofficial discriminatory practices by the Australian Government has contributed to substandard education, health, employment and lack of political power among Australia's Indigenous population. On average, Indigenous Australians die 17 years earlier than white Australians, and have higher instances of infant mortality, unemployment and homelessness. These figures are a jarring reminder that Australia's prosperity has yet to fully reach the people who first inhabited the land.

On February 13, 2008 millions of Australians of all colors and ethnicities witnessed Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's formal apology—on behalf of the Australian Government and its Parliament—to the Indigenous and Torres Island community. The long awaited apology was accompanied with a promise from the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to donate \$4.6 billion to fund initiatives to improve life expectancy, health, education and employment in Indigenous communities. Nearly a year later, Prime Minister Rudd addressed the nation and reported on the status of the initiatives that were implemented and drafted after the apology, and reiterated the importance of change and reconciliation.

Madam Speaker, American Theologian Tryon Edwards said, "Right actions in the future are the best apologies for bad actions in

the past." The value of Australia's apology is undoubtedly determined by the Australian government's ability to aggressively address the systemic inequalities that exclude most Indigenous people from the standard of living that is held by the vast majority of non-Indigenous Australians.

Like Australia, racial disparities exist in the United States. As we commend Australia on its willingness to confront its past, let us also reflect on our history with the purpose of comprehensively targeting the residual barriers that prevent some Americans from accessing opportunities in this country.

A TRIBUTE TO KO-THI AFRICAN DANCE COMPANY OF MILWAUKEE

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the internationally renowned dance troupe, Ko-Thi African Dance Company of Milwaukee. In May, 2009, Ko-Thi African Dance Troupe will celebrate its 40th anniversary.

Much of the success of the Ko-Thi African Dance Company can be attributed to its founder and Artistic/Executive Director, Ferne Caulker. Ms. Caulker, born in Sierra Leone, West Africa is a creative genius blessed with the passion and determination needed to create a "family" of professional performers. She is a full professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the School of Dance where she has taught since 1971. Ms. Caulker is not only a former Fulbright Fellow but a recipient of numerous award. She has made the music and dance of the peoples of the African Diaspora accessible to all Americans, especially African-American audiences. Twenty years ago she extended that vision to include a children's troupe, Ton Ko-Thi, to instill cultural pride and self-worth to children through the discipline required to create art.

The Company is comprised of both musicians and dancers trained in the history, mythology and techniques of art forms within the African Diaspora. The troupe utilizes a myriad of traditional instruments, authentic costumes, infectious music and extraordinary dance to educate and bridge the gap between cultures. Ko-Thi operates a comprehensive educational outreach program, Drum Talk that works with institutions to assist with expanding and diversifying any curriculum with the history, dance, and drumming of the African continent and its Diaspora. If you have had the privilege of attending a Ko-Thi Dance Company performance, you know it is a tremendous experience to observe their exacting stepping, pulsating vibrant rhythm and hypnotic movement. The Ko-Thi African Dance Company is Wisconsin's regional, national and international touring gem. They have performed in Japan, Canada and many venues throughout the United States.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to say the Ko-Thi African Dance Company hails from the 4th Congressional District and pleased to give praise to Ferne Caulker, the ensemble, and their Board of Directors. I wish them many more years of success.

RECOGNIZING FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT RECIPIENTS OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2009 VALOR AWARD

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today, joined by my colleagues Rep. FRANK WOLF and Rep. JAMES MORAN, to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Awards recognize remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety agencies and their commitment to the community. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line everyday to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. More than 80 awards were presented at this year's ceremony in a variety of categories: The Lifesaving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Medal of Valor.

Nine members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department earned this high honor. It is with great pride that we submit their names into the Congressional Record:

Recipients of the Lifesaving Award: Shift Captain Ronald A. Gemsheim Jr. and Firefighter Brian J. Bonkoski.

Recipients of the Certificate of Valor: Technician Michael S. Eddy, Technician Tie L. Burlow, Technician Kathleen M. Vorbau, and Firefighter Medic Damian C. Ripley.

Recipients of the Bronze Medal of Valor: Station Captain Tony C. Kostecka, Firefighter Miguel Obleas, and Firefighter Henry T. Chan.

Madam Speaker, in closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join us in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GERIATRICS LOAN FORGIVENESS ACT OF 2009

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Geriatrics Loan Forgiveness Act of 2009. This bill would take an important step towards encouraging more health professionals to enter the field of geriatrics and care for our aging population.

In 2011—just two years from now—the first baby boomers will turn 65. By 2030, the number of Americans 65 and older will have nearly doubled, to over 70 million.

Our nation currently has too few health care professionals who specialize in geriatrics to treat older adults with complicated illnesses,

and that problem is going to dramatically worsen in the very near future. Yet there are currently fewer than 9,000 geriatric physicians practicing in the United States, far below the 36,000 or more needed to effectively care for the nation's booming population of seniors by 2030. The numbers are similar across health care disciplines, including nursing, social work, psychology, pharmacy and psychiatry.

Geriatric specialists are the foundation of high-quality, comprehensive health care for our older adults. This kind of specialized care is complicated and demanding. For example, about 80 percent of the senior population has one or more chronic conditions. In 2002, older people made up 13 percent of the U.S. population yet accounted for 36 percent of all hospital stays, 49 percent of all days of hospital care, and 50 percent of all physician hours.

Despite this growing need, many health care professionals inclined to study and practice in geriatrics are dissuaded from doing so because treating the elderly carries financial disincentives for them. Currently, over 86 percent of medical school graduates carry educational debt, and the median debt burden for graduates of public medical institutions has risen to over \$119,000 while that for private school graduates has increased to nearly \$150,000.

The Geriatrics Loan Forgiveness Act of 2009 would address the national shortage of geriatric specialists by enabling geriatric specialists to participate in the existing National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, encouraging more health care professionals to be certified in geriatrics. This program currently forgives up to \$25,000 on behalf of an individual for each of the first two years of obligated service.

In its April 2008 report, "Retooling for an Aging America," the Institute of Medicine recommended that "Public and private payers should provide financial incentives to increase the number of geriatric specialists in all health professions." The Geriatrics Loan Forgiveness Act would provide a very important incentive for health care graduates to enter geriatric specialties early in their careers and become part of the workforce that we need to provide quality health care to America's seniors.

THE SAFE AND SECURE AMERICA  
ACT OF 2009

**HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the Safe and Secure America Act of 2009 to instill confidence in the American people that our intelligence community is fully equipped to investigate and prevent threats to our safety and security.

This legislation extends for ten years sections 206 and 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act and section 6001 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, which are scheduled to sunset on December 31, 2009. Three years ago, Congress reauthorized the USA PATRIOT Act, eliminating all but these three sunsets.

Section 206 of the USA PATRIOT Act authorizes the use of multipoint or "roving" wiretaps for national security and intelligence in-

vestigations. A "roving" wiretap applies to an individual and allows the government to use a single wiretap order to cover any communications device that the suspect uses or may use. This type of wiretap differs from a traditional criminal wiretap that only applies to a particular phone or computer used by a target. Without roving wiretap authority, investigators would be forced to seek a new court order each time they need to change the location, phone, or computer that needs to be monitored.

Section 215 allows the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to apply to the FISA court to issue orders granting the government access to any tangible items (including books, records, papers, and other documents), no matter who holds it, in foreign intelligence, international terrorism, and clandestine intelligence cases. The USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 contains several protections against abuses of Section 215 authority, including Congressional oversight, procedural protections, application requirements, and judicial review.

Section 6001 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 amends the definition of "agent of a foreign power" to include "lone wolf" terrorists who are non-U.S. persons engaged in international terrorism, regardless of whether they are affiliated with an international terrorist group. When FISA was originally enacted in the 1970s, terrorists were more commonly members of an identified group. That is not the case today. Many modern-day terrorists may subscribe to a movement but do not subscribe to a specific group and often act alone. It is imperative that such an out-dated definition does not impede our ability to gather intelligence about perhaps the most dangerous terrorists operating today.

Madam Speaker, America is fortunate to not have suffered a terrorist attack on our soil in over seven years. But we must not let our safety become complacency. America is safe today not because terrorists and spies have given up their mission to destroy our freedoms and our way of life. America is safe today because the men and women of the intelligence community work tirelessly to protect us. It would be irresponsible of Congress to take away the authorities needed to their job. The threat to America from terrorists, spies, and enemy nations will not sunset at the end of this year. Neither should America's anti-terrorism laws.

CONSUMER OVERDRAFT  
PROTECTION FAIR PRACTICES ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, overdraft fees are becoming an increasing problem for bank customers. A November 2008 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) study of 462 FDIC regulated banks found that 86% operated formal overdraft programs, with 75% automatically enrolling consumers into an overdraft protection plan. In some cases, consumers were not allowed to opt-out. Automated overdraft usage fees assessed by banks ranged from \$10 to \$38, and the median fee assessed was \$27.

A separate report released by the non-partisan Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) demonstrates that well over \$10 billion dollars in overdraft fees are generated each year, with almost half generated from debit card purchases, in which the customer typically has no warning that the transaction will trigger an overdraft fee. Not surprisingly, the CRL study also showed that the overwhelming majority of customers want to know if a debit or ATM transaction would trigger an overdraft fee.

To provide consumers more notice and choice related to overdraft fees, I am reintroducing the Consumer Overdraft Protection Fair Practices Act.

The central provision of the Consumer Overdraft Protection Fair Practices Act is that it requires notice to customers when an ATM or debit card transaction will trigger an overdraft and an opportunity in real time for the consumer to accept or reject the overdraft service (and the associated fee) for that transaction.

This legislation amends the Truth in Lending Act (TILA) to provide these new consumer protections. By bringing overdraft plans under the TILA, as an extension of credit, it would require the disclosure of the terms and charges associated with an overdraft program. This would give an opportunity for account holders to choose to have an overdraft plan or not—the same basic consumer protections provided for other consumer credit products.

In addition, the bill seeks to stop the practice of banks maximizing their overdraft fee income by intentionally manipulating the order in which they process debits on customer accounts so as to increase the number of overdrafts. For example, some banks pay the largest check first before paying other smaller checks or making any deposits. While banks argue that the largest check is often the most important, a bank that has an overdraft program generally pays them all, so changing the order only changes the amount of the fees paid by the customer.

This disclosure bill is modeled on legislation with which most Americans are now very familiar—requiring disclosure at ATMs that ATM transactions will trigger a fee. Just as individuals may choose the convenience of withdrawals from an ATM, they may choose the convenience of overdraft protection or not, after being informed of the cost of the service.

In summary, the bill provides these key protections:

Requires consumer consent before banks can permit overdraft loans for a fee. Banks will be required to obtain written consent for covering overdrafts for a fee, and to disclose to consumers the amount of any fee, the types of transactions that will overdraw the account, and the time period for repayment of the extension of credit.

Clarifies that overdraft fees are finance charges under the Truth in Lending Act, so consumers can compare the cost of borrowing the bank's funds through an overdraft with other sources of cash advances.

Prohibits banks from manipulating the order in which checks and other debits are posted if it causes more overdrafts and maximizes fees.

Requires banks to warn the customer that an electronic transaction may trigger an overdraft loan fee and allow the customer to cancel the transaction after receiving this warning.

## THE DEATH OF COMMON SENSE

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, John A. Smaldone of Maryville, Tennessee reads constantly and follows current events more closely than almost anyone.

He recently sent a letter to the editor of the Maryville-Alcoa Daily Times about the death of common sense.

I agree with this letter and would like to call it to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

[From the Daily Times, Feb. 27, 2009]

COMMON SENSE LONG DECEASED

(By John A. Smaldone)

DEAR EDITOR: Today I am sad to announce that we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense. Common sense has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as: Knowing when to come in out of the rain; why the early bird gets the worm; Life isn't always fair; and maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live, as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; by his wife, Discretion; by his daughter, Responsibility; and by his son, Reason.

His four stepbrothers survive him;

I Know My Rights.

I Want It Now.

Someone Else Is To Blame.

I'm A Victim.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUNDS SEMIPOSTAL STAMP ACT: MARCH 12, 2009

**HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation today to financially assist some of the most endangered, charismatic and landmark wildlife species on this planet.

This measure is modeled after highly successful efforts to raise money for breast cancer research, to fund domestic violence prevention programs and to assist the families of rescue workers killed or disabled in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Under the terms of my proposal, the U.S. Postal Service would issue a semipostal stamp depicting highly imperiled African and Asian elephants, Rhinoceros, Tigers, Great Apes and Marine turtles. The stamp would be issued at a premium price so that the Postal Service could recapture their costs and would provide any additional revenues to the Multinational Species Conservation Funds.

While it is unclear how much money would be raised through the sale of semipostal wildlife stamps, we do know that since 1998, 802 million breast cancer stamps have been sold to the public which has raised a remarkable \$59.5 million for critical breast cancer research. It is also important to note that these new wildlife stamps will not replace or undermine the breast cancer stamps which by law will be available until at least December 31, 2011. I am also convinced that stamp enthusiasts will not only buy more breast cancer stamps but will purchase wildlife flagship species stamps.

For the past twenty years, the United States Congress has enacted Multinational Species Conservation Funds to assist African and Asian elephants, Rhinoceros, Tigers, Great Apes and Marine Turtles. Money appropriated to these funds are the only continuous source of revenue in the world for these species and approved conservation projects have stopped several of these animals from sliding toward extinction. Nevertheless, there is no denying that there are now less than 40,000 Asian elephants, 15,000 Rhinoceros and 5,000 tigers living in the wild and that six of the seven species of marine turtles are highly endangered. Without further assistance several of these species will disappear in our lifetime and it is, therefore, essential that new creative funding mechanisms be developed to save these imperiled species. The semipostal wildlife stamp has the potential to raise millions of dollars at no cost to the U.S. taxpayer.

Since 1988, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has funded more than 1,600 conservation projects to assist these species. What is not well known, however, is that the agency was unable to support an additional 1,300 meritorious projects which could well determine whether these species survive in the future.

Since coming to Congress, I have worked together with a number of conservation organizations to establish and extend funding for the Multinational Species Conservation Funds. I am pleased that 24 conservation organizations have endorsed this legislation including the African Wildlife Foundation, American

Veterinary Medical Association, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Born Free USA, Caribbean Conservation Corporation, Cheetah Conservation Fund, Conservation International, Defenders of Wildlife, Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International, Fauna and Flora International, Feld Entertainment, Humane Society of the United States, Humane Society International, International Elephant Foundation, International Fund for Animal Welfare, International Rhino Foundation, Jane Goodall Institute, The Nature Conservancy, Ocean Conservancy, Safari Club International, Wildlife Alliance, Wildlife Conservation Society, The WILD Foundation, and the World Wildlife Fund. These diverse groups which represent tens of millions of people understand that additional funding for these landmark species is essential.

Finally, I would like to thank my Subcommittee Chairwoman MADELEINE BORDALLO, the former Chairmen of the Committee on Natural Resources, Congressmen DON YOUNG and GEORGE MILLER, Congressman RON KIND, Congresswoman MARY BONO MACK, Congressman PETER KING, Congressman JOHN TANNER and Congresswoman ILEANA ROSLEHTINEN for joining with me as co-sponsors of the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Act.

## ON INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT FOR ISSUING AN ARREST WARRANT FOR SUDANESE PRESIDENT OMAR HASSAN AHMAD AL-BASHIR

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce a resolution commending the International Criminal Court for issuing an arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir, for war crimes and crimes against humanity. This resolution reaffirms our nation's commitment to supporting a multifaceted approach to bringing about peace and stability in the Darfur region. After over six years of conflict in Darfur, six years of government-led genocide against its own people, six years of murder, rape, torture, and oppression, I applaud the international community for taking a major step forward in the name of justice, humanity, and the rule of law.

Madam Speaker, no leader who commits such horrific crimes should be allowed to remain free. President al-Bashir has directed the Sudanese government's efforts to use the very worst kinds of crimes to carry out an active program of oppression. While the roots of this conflict run deep, combining a complex mix of racial, tribal, religious, political, geographic, and environmental matters, surely there can be no excuse to engage in the kind of violence that President al-Bashir has inflicted on the people of Darfur. It is well past time to bring him to justice.

I laud the International Criminal Court for issuing a warrant for President al-Bashir's arrest. This was a long time coming. The ICC owes a great deal to the grassroots efforts of a wide range of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), human rights groups, individual

experts, and other activists for keeping up the pressure on the international community to act.

This warrant has not yet resulted in an arrest, nor even in a cessation of hostilities. In fact, President al-Bashir responded to the warrant by expelling over a dozen international aid agencies from the region, further threatening the lives of well over 1 million people who depend on these organizations for food, water, shelter, health care, and personal safety. Such is the measure of the Sudanese government and its leadership. But this warrant is a major step forward. When the international community begins to hold leaders responsible for their unconscionable crimes, we begin to prevent such abuses from occurring in the future.

Madam Speaker, I am under no illusion that this arrest warrant—even if it results in President al-Bashir’s arrest and removal from power—will end the conflict in Darfur. This warrant is yet another step on the long road to ending this conflict and achieving some measure of stability in the war-torn region. But it will require a comprehensive approach combining positive political, economic, social, and even military efforts. The United States, for one, needs to build on the ICC’s momentum by immediately committing to an intense diplomatic effort. I welcome Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s affirmative remarks on the ICC’s warrant, and I further encourage President Obama to appoint a full-time, high-level envoy to the region. We can and we must build on the ICC’s efforts to bring to justice those responsible for the atrocities in Darfur.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RON KLEIN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, on March 9, 2009, I was tending to a family commitment, for which the timing was not flexible.

Had I been able to vote, I would have voted “yes” on rollcall No. 110; “yes” on rollcall No. 111; “yes” on rollcall No. 112.

HONORING WINTER HAVEN AREA  
TRANSIT’S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, the Winter Haven Area Transit (WHAT) began as a three-year pilot program funded jointly by the City of Winter Haven and the Polk County Board of County Commissioners. It is now celebrating its 10th anniversary, marked by a special time capsule ceremony on Tuesday, March 17, 2009.

WHAT served 47,553 riders in its first year and served 589,747 last year. WHAT now provides transportation to Bartow, Eagle Lake, Auburndale, Lake Alfred, Lake Wales, Haines

City, Lakeland and Winter Haven. It has a fully functional state-of-the-art transit terminal serving thousands of riders each day.

The WHAT is operated under the Citrus Connection, which serves Lakeland—another city in my district. The Citrus Connection estimated that riders save \$1,300 they would otherwise spend on car expenses such as gas, title payments, maintenance, insurance, or parking fees. Given the pervasive ridership, the WHAT system puts money back in the pocket of taxpayers who would otherwise use it to unnecessarily sit in traffic.

The WHAT system moves people more efficiently to places of employment, shopping districts, medical appointments, and generally improves the quality of life of local residents.

Finally, I would like to draw attention to Winter Haven resident Larry Murphy, because this system would not have been put in place without his efforts. Mr. Murphy gathered 175 signatures on a petition and continually pushed his case before the city commission for the bus service. His efforts paid off and have been enjoyed by 2,687,618 riders over the past 10 years.

Mr. Murphy’s vision was to help people get where they needed to go. His advocacy is what got the Winter Haven Area Transit buses. His legacy is what keeps them moving forward.

Happy 10th Anniversary to the Winter Haven Area Transit and a great thanks to Mr. Murphy.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FREEDOM  
FROM UNNECESSARY LITIGATION  
ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act. As its title suggests, this bill provides an effective means of ensuring that those harmed during medical treatment receive fair compensation while reducing the burden of costly malpractice litigation on the health care system. This bill achieves its goal by providing a tax credit for negative outcomes insurance purchased before medical treatment. The insurance will provide compensation for any negative outcomes of the medical treatment. Patients can receive this insurance without having to go through lengthy litigation and without having to give away a large portion of their award to a trial lawyer.

Relying on negative outcomes insurance instead of litigation will also reduce the costs imposed on physicians, other health care providers, and hospitals by malpractice litigation. The Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act also promotes effective solutions to the malpractice crisis by making malpractice awards obtained through binding, voluntary arbitration tax-free.

The malpractice crisis has contributed to the closing of a maternity ward in Philadelphia and a trauma center in Nevada. Several years ago, surgeons in West Virginia actually walked away from their jobs to protest increasing liability rates. These are a few of the examples of how access to quality health care is jeop-

ardized by the epidemic of large, and medically questionable, malpractice awards, and the resulting increase in insurance rates.

As is typical of Washington, most of the proposed solutions to the malpractice problem involve unconstitutional usurpations of areas best left to the states. These solutions also ignore the root cause of the litigation crisis: the shift away from treating the doctor-patient relationship as a contractual one to viewing it as one governed by regulations imposed by insurance company functionaries, politicians, government bureaucrats, and trial lawyers. There is no reason why questions of the assessment of liability and compensation cannot be determined by a private contractual agreement between physicians and patients. The Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act is designed to take a step toward resolving these problems through private contracts.

Using insurance, private contracts, and binding arbitration to resolve medical disputes benefits patients, who receive full compensation in a timelier manner than under the current system. It also benefits physicians and hospitals, which are relieved of the costs associated with litigation. Since it will not cost as much to provide full compensation to an injured patient, these bills should result in a reduction of malpractice premiums. The Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act benefits everybody except those trial lawyers who profit from the current system. I hope all my colleagues will help end the malpractice crises while ensuring those harmed by medical injuries receive just compensation by cosponsoring my Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY PATTERSON

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Jerry Patterson, a native of Fort Dodge, Iowa, on being inducted into the Iowa High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Jerry, a 70-year-old resident of Fort Dodge has done everything in the game of baseball. He played high school baseball in Fort Dodge, has coached for many years, and has even owned a ball park. Fort Dodge’s baseball field, Patterson Field, is named after Jerry.

Jerry was recently honored in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in front of a crowd of approximately 1,000 people from across the state. Patterson has been inducted to the Hall of Fame in honor of his passion, dedication, and contributions to the game of baseball and Fort Dodge.

Jerry, who has been successfully battling cancer for over 12 years, continues to serve as an inspiration to his community, and his contributions have made a lasting impact across the state. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in congratulating Jerry Patterson on his induction into the Hall of Fame. I consider it an honor to represent Jerry in Congress, and I wish him and his wife happiness and health in the future.

## EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2009*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. 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 Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009:

Requesting Member: Rep. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

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

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Georgian Court University

Address of Requesting Entity: 900 Lakewood Avenue, Lakewood, New Jersey 08701

Description of Request: I have secured \$190,000 for the Autism Institute for Training and Applied Research at Georgian Court University, Lakewood, New Jersey in Division F of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009. The Institute will establish a statewide resource for parents, caregivers and healthcare professionals and provide development and in-service training and outreach and conduct applied research on all facets of autism spectrum disorders. Georgian Court University is committed to this project and is in the process of developing courses in autism and has hired a full-time faculty member devoted to autism research.

HONORING ANNE A. ANDREWS,  
FAIRFAX COUNTY'S CITIZEN OF  
THE YEAR

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 11, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Anne A. Andrews, Fairfax County's Citizen of the Year. For over three decades, Anne Andrews has raised her voice for, and our awareness of, the needs of Fairfax County's most vulnerable residents. She demonstrates an unparalleled dedication to helping others and is one of the most committed citizen leaders in the County. The passion she embodies is apparent in the expansiveness and intensity of volunteer services she has faithfully provided over the years.

Anne is most well-known for her tireless commitment and dedicated service, for the past 34 years, as Convener of the Route One Task Force for Human Services, providing a collaborative forum for over 40 community and government representatives and community-based organizations. The Task Force has raised awareness of issues, developed capacities to fill service gaps, and engaged wide community participation in enhancing mental health and homeless services as well as providing more accessible health care in the Richmond Highway area.

Anne's expertise lies in identifying a need and mobilizing an entire community to help serve that need. An excellent example is that of the Community Health Care Network (CHCN), formed in 1989, an organization that credits its formation largely to her tireless advocacy. It is one of the best resources to provide accessible, quality primary health care services for low income, uninsured, and

underinsured residents. She was a key force behind pulling together community support, helping establish the CHCN that today enrolls over 20,000 residents each year through three community health care centers. Since its beginning, she has served as a stalwart member of the CHCN Community Advisory Committee.

Anne also championed the establishment of the Program of Assertive Community Treatment (PACT), providing comprehensive, community-based services in areas of treatment, rehabilitation, and support for the most severely mentally ill members of our community for whom traditional clinic-based treatments have been insufficient. She was unanimously elected to lead the Southeast Health Planning Task Force, established to develop strategies to provide enhanced services and deliver accessible health care in southeastern Fairfax County. Anne co-revived a Citizen's Advisory Board to strengthen the Mount Vernon Center for Community Mental Health. The Board assists in improved service delivery, advocates for expanded mental health programs, and provides citizen advice on mental health issues and policies.

Under Anne's leadership, the first shelter for the homeless in Fairfax County was established in the Richmond Corridor. More recently, she facilitated a community tie-in to the county's hypothermia project.

Anne remains a steady and effective advocate for community-based mental health treatment and community access to health care, particularly for the most vulnerable members of our community. There are few people who take the time and energy to affect a community so greatly and as positively as Anne. Due to her outstanding contributions and persistent efforts, Fairfax County is a healthier community, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Anne Andrews as the 2008 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year.