

of the Lincoln bicentennial exhibit and participate with Library and outside scholars in a fascinating discussion about our 16th President. Additionally, I know how much we here in Congress rely on and appreciate the Congressional Research Service, the Law Library, and other parts of the Library of Congress to support our legislative and representational duties.

I cannot say enough good things about how much I appreciate the leadership efforts of Jim Billington and his exemplary stewardship of that great institution—the Library of Congress. I am personally grateful for his friendship. We all owe him an immense debt of gratitude for his outstanding public service and I look forward to more years of his visionary leadership.

I wish Dr. Billington all the best on his 80th birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 287, I was unfortunately detained in a cab during rush hour traffic after visiting with constituents of the 5th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, causing me to miss the vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN FLEMING

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following request:

Bill Number: H.R. 915, “FAA Reauthorization Act of 2009”.

Provision: Section 811 “Pollock Municipal Airport, Louisiana”.

Address of requesting entity: Town of Pollock, Louisiana.

Description of request: Requires the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to approve a request from the Town of Pollock, Louisiana, to close the airport as a public airport; and release the town from any term, condition, reservation, or restriction contained in a surplus property conveyance or transfer document, and from any order or finding by the Department of Transportation on the use and repayment of airport revenue applicable to the airport, that would otherwise prevent the closure of the airport and redevelopment of the facilities to non-aeronautical uses. Upon the approval of the request to close the airport, the town of Pollock shall obtain fair market value for the sale of the airport property

and shall immediately upon receipt transfer all such proceeds from the sale of the airport property to the sponsor of a public airport designated by the Administrator to be used for the development or improvement of such airport.

IN RECOGNITION OF NAVAL AIR CREWMAN 1ST CLASS SAMUEL “GRANT” KERSLAKE

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated patriot and a true American hero. On May 19, 2009, our state and our nation lost a brave servicemember when Naval Air Crewman 1st Class Samuel “Grant” Kerslake died during training operations off the Pacific Ocean near San Diego, California. In all, the U.S. Navy lost six members of its Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron (HS) when its HH-60 Seahawk helicopter crashed.

Petty Officer Kerslake was a 1986 graduate of Lake Hamilton High School in Percy, Arkansas. Dedicating his life to his country, Petty Officer Kerslake had just completed 20 years of honorable service with the U.S. Armed Forces.

While his untimely and tragic death is a shock to all of us in Arkansas, we are left with the memories and inspiration Petty Officer Kerslake shared with all who met him. We admired Petty Officer Kerslake for his commitment to his family, community and country. His legacy of service, patriotism and honor will forever define what we remember about this brave sailor.

My deepest thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Christine; two sons, Samuel Ryan Kerslake and Justin Fields; his mother, JoAnne Kerslake of Hot Springs; his father, Samuel Kerslake of Florida; and the rest of his family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time.

Today, I ask all members of Congress to join me as we honor the life of Petty Officer Samuel “Grant” Kerslake and his legacy and all those men and women in our Armed Forces who give the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country.

OBAMA NOT SERIOUS ABOUT IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, thirteen million Americans are out of work, and yet eight million illegal immigrants hold jobs in the U.S. But the Obama administration’s proposed budget does little to help.

To its credit, the administration requested funds for the E-Verify system, which helps companies check to make sure they have hired legal workers.

But in this administration’s budget, the E-Verify request is the beginning and end of reducing illegal immigration.

The administration has no plans to build more of the border fence to keep illegal immigrants from coming here in the first place.

The administration has no plans to increase the size of detention facilities to hold illegal immigrants until their deportation.

And when it comes to immigration fugitives—those illegal immigrants who’ve ignored a deportation order—the administration intends to let them off the hook unless they have a criminal record in addition to being fugitives.

If the administration is serious about protecting lives and jobs, they need to enforce all immigration laws—not just a select few.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF BISHOP ROGER KAFFER

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Bishop Roger Kaffer, auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Joliet. The Most Reverend Bishop Kaffer passed away at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home in his hometown of Joliet on Thursday, May 28, 2009. He was 81 years old.

Bishop Kaffer was ordained to the priesthood in 1954 at the Cathedral of St. Raymond in Joliet, the same Cathedral in which he was baptized and confirmed and from which he eventually retired as auxiliary bishop.

He was the kind of person that inspired everyone he encountered. As principal for Providence Catholic High School in New Lenox, Illinois, he made a point to visit every family with a child enrolled in the school. Bishop Kaffer believed that young people are not the future of the church but the now of the church. For this reason, he attended each annual international World Youth Day, his last being in August of 2008 in Australia. Though his health was not good, it did not overshadow his commitment to the youth.

Bishop Kaffer led a spiritually rich life with a deep dedication to prayer and public service. Even in retirement, he continued to mentor priests and bishops and offer spiritual direction through retreats.

Not only has the Joliet community lost a devoted son in the passing of Bishop Kaffer, so has the world faith community. It is with reverent honor that I remember the life and legacy of Bishop Roger Kaffer of the Diocese of Joliet.