

Committee. During this time, he devoted countless extra hours to coordinating the committee and assisting my office with academy nominations. Whether we were calling Frank to ask a question or to follow up on issues my office was working on with the base, Frank was always professional, courteous and helpful. His volunteer service to my office will always be remembered.

It is so fitting that the President of the United States has presented Commander Franklin Mellott with the Meritorious Service Medal for his outstanding leadership as Executive Officer of NASL. I ask that excerpts from the Citation be printed.

"For outstanding meritorious service as Executive Officer, Naval Air Station Lemoore, California, from June 2006 to June 2009. Commander Mellott displayed extraordinary leadership and exceptional insight in supporting half the fleet's tactical air combat power at the Navy's largest and busiest master jet base. Brilliantly assisting the Commanding Officer in every facet of business and operations, he provided superior support to Commander Strike Fighter Wing Pacific, four operational air wings, 16 squadrons, and a work force of more than 10,000 military and civilian personnel through mishap-free control of more than 700,000 operational and training sorties. Under his leadership, the installation opened more than 2,500 cubic miles of new training airspace to the fleet, the largest new training airspace the Navy has developed in more than 25 years, completed several large military construction projects valued at over \$150 million, provided support to 16 helicopters fighting wild fires in Northern California, and provided award winning services to a community of more than 25,000 constituents. Additionally, he helped orchestrate and align Navy efforts to preserve the strategic value of Naval Air Station Lemoore in the future with an exceptionally diplomatic strategy to influence current land-use decisions by local governments and to develop productive forums for perpetual engagement. Singularly responsible for good order and discipline aboard the installation, he balanced justice with mercy in the effective handling of countless delicate and emergent law enforcement and operational matters during his tour. His actions culminate a 23 year career of distinguished service to the Navy and the Nation. Commander Mellott's decisive, principled, and visionary leadership and inspiring devotion to duty reflected great credit upon him and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Commander Mellott has always been available to myself and my staff and we are sad to say goodbye. He is a man of outstanding character and we will remain grateful for his unwavering dedication and exceptional insight.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I wish to express my sincere thanks for his hard work, selfless service, and dedication to the United States Navy.

I want to personally wish Frank continued success and my best wishes go out to his wife, Sheri, and his children; sons, Alex and Nathaniel and daughter, Francesca as they embark on their new endeavors in Pennsylvania.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 16, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2847) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 2847, the Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations bill. The bill provides \$18.2 billion, \$421 million above FY 2009 levels, for NASA, an agency which is critical to our nation's economy, competitiveness, and environment. It provides protection for the most important reason for NASA's historic and ongoing success: its workers. This bill extends a ban on involuntary layoffs until at least September, 2010, a provision for which I organized support among several Members of the Ohio delegation.

In Ohio, NASA Glenn is an economic anchor and a source of well paying jobs. In FY 07, the year for which we have the most recent data, the economic output of NASA Glenn alone in Ohio was \$1.2 billion per year. It was responsible for over 8,000 jobs, and household earnings amounted to \$402 million. NASA Glenn's expertise in renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies will be critical to Ohio's new green economy.

While the bill provided significantly less than the needed funding for space exploration, the administration is expected to submit a supplemental request for NASA exploration funds when president Obama's blue ribbon panel designed to review U.S. human space flight activities is complete.

The bill also contains a 13 percent increase in funding for the Legal Services Corporation. The American legal system is increasingly inaccessible for low and moderate income citizens. The costs and specialized knowledge associated with pursuing justice have left thousands on the outside looking in, unable to obtain even an opportunity to tell their side of the story. LSC provides funding to organizations that provide free and low-cost legal assistance to individuals and families who otherwise would not have the resources to pursue justice. I also commend the Committee for including language that begins to undo some of the restrictions that have been placed on LSC grantees in previous appropriations bills. This will allow LSC grantees to serve more clients and maximize their resources.

I am proud, therefore, to support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN ROBERT A.  
SHAFAER

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 19, 2009*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual from my Congressional District who has dedicated his life to defending the people of this country and preserving the basic freedoms and liberties that we hold dear. Commanding Officer Captain Robert A. Shafer of the United States Navy is a true American hero and today I thank him for his 28 years of naval service. On Monday, January 22, 2009, Captain Shafer will be honored at his retirement and Change of Command Ceremony at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Corona, California.

Captain Robert A. Shafer graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1981. He was commissioned an Ensign and immediately began training as a Surface Warfare Officer in Coronado, California.

During his career, Captain Shafer's assignments included Combat Information Center Officer aboard the USS *O'Brien* (DD-975); Weapons Officer and Combat Systems Officer aboard the USS *Antietam* (CG-54); Executive Officer of the USS *San Jacinto* (CG-56); and Commanding Officer of the USS *Vincennes* (CG-49). Captain Shafer also completed seven deployments, primarily to the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean and the Arabian Gulf during this time.

Following his Division Officer tour, Captain Shafer attended the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. There he earned a Master of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering and completed the requirements for a Weapons Systems Engineering specialty. Additionally, he is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College as well as the Naval War College.

Subsequent shore tours include duty as Executive Assistant and Instructor in the Department of Weapons and Systems Engineering, United States Naval Academy; and as Fleet Liaison for the Technical Director, Aegis Combat Systems.

His previous shore tour included assignment as Chief Staff Officer for PEO Theater Surface Combatants, Aegis Combat Systems Engineer, Director, Battle Force Systems Engineering, and duties as Military Deputy for the Director of Integrated Combat Systems for PEO Integrated Warfare Systems.

Captain Shafer's awards include the Meritorious Service medal with 3 Gold Stars, the Navy Commendation Medal with Gold Star, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with 3 Gold Stars, as well as various unit and campaign ribbons which include five Battle "E" awards.

Captain Shafer will retire from naval service with more than just his experience, decorated career and remarkable accomplishments; his enduring legacy will serve as a shining example and constant reminder of what it means to be an American.