

of drinking water. The study concluded that the injection of hydraulic fracturing fluids poses "little or no threat" to humans or the environment (EPA). The EPA did not find a single incident of the contamination of drinking water wells by hydraulic fracturing fluid injection.

The subject of hydraulic fracturing is adequately regulated by the states and needs no federal intervention. Hydraulic fracturing is a vital and safe technology that helps drive the United States towards energy security and independence. Congress should not restrict a technology that plays such an integral part of our nation's energy strategy.

H. RES. 543, DESIGNATING JUNE
AS HOME SAFETY MONTH

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I am proud to be a cosponsor of this of this legislation, which recognizes June as Home Safety Month.

I would like to thank Congresswoman HALVORSON for her leadership in introducing this resolution and her commitment to the safety of America's homeowners.

At a time when we are encouraging homeowners to stay in their homes and increasing our efforts to spur new homeownership, we must also recognize the importance of ensuring the safety of homeowners within their homes.

Each year, 20,000 deaths and an average of 21 million medical visits result from unintentional injuries in the home, according to the Home Safety Council. The top five causes of unintentional home injury deaths include, falls, poisoning, fires or burns, choking or suffocation, and drowning. Such home injuries can cost employers up to \$38 billion dollars a year.

Many of these deaths and injuries could have been prevented if homeowners were equipped with the knowledge of simple and inexpensive steps to reduce the injury of risk in each area of the home.

Furthermore, children and older adults have increased rates of unintentional home injury. We must encourage adults, parents, caregivers to take greater actions to reduce unintentional injuries to protect the most vulnerable family members.

H. Res. 543 encourages manufacturers to develop innovative safety products and features to help lessen home injuries and accidents and encourages all levels of government to support funding for critical home safety education programs to reduce the risks from home injuries.

I strongly support H. Res. 543 and cannot stress enough how home safety education and awareness can help saves lives and money.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important resolution.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
COLONEL KIRK W. HYMES

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Colonel Kirk W. Hymes, U.S.M.C., the director of the Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate. After 26 years of honorable and distinguished service to our great nation, Colonel Hymes will be retiring.

Colonel Hymes is a native of Altoona, Pennsylvania and graduated from the United States Naval Academy. After attending the Basic School, he trained at the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He also attended the Amphibious Warfare School in Quantico, Virginia and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Colonel Hymes served in a number of different places and in a variety of capacities, including the Recruiting Station in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania where he served as the Operations Officer and Executive Officer and Twentynine Palms, California where he served with the 5th Battalion, 11th Marines. He also carried out a Unit Deployment to Okinawa, Japan and deployed with the 31st MEU (SOC). Following his return he became the Director of the 11th Marines Artillery Training School.

Subsequently, Colonel Hymes became the Fire Support Operational Test Project Officer at the Marine Corps Operational Test and Evaluation Activity, Quantico, Virginia. After transferring to the 2d Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina he served with the 10th Marine Regiment where he was the Operations Officer and Executive Officer for 2d Battalion, 10th Marines and then the Regimental Operations Officer.

After reporting to Okinawa for duty with III Marine Expeditionary Force, he served in the G-3 Exercise Branch as the South East Asia Exercise Branch Head and Tandem Thrust Exercise Planner. He then returned to Twentynine Palms, California for duty as the Commanding Officer, 3d Battalion, 11th Marines where he deployed the battalion to support Operation Enduring Freedom and then Operation Iraqi Freedom. Colonel Hymes was later assigned to the Expeditionary Force Development Center at the Marine Corps Combat Development Center as the Integration Branch Head and Deputy Director for Operations.

Madam Speaker, throughout his career, Colonel Hymes received many personal awards including the Bronze Star with Combat "V", the Meritorious Service Medal with four Gold Stars, the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon. Upon his retirement, I commend him for his outstanding service and wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on ear-

marks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996—the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010:

H.R. 2996 includes \$500,000 for a State and Tribal Assistance Grant to the City of Rose Hill, Kansas, for improvements to the city drainage system. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Rose Hill, 125 W. Rosewood, PO Box 185, Rose Hill, Kansas 67133.

This funding will facilitate the installation of a 48-inch drainage pipe, which will allow the area to handle up to a 10-year storm event, protecting homes in the area.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

The House Is Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2647) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense; to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. SCHRADER. Madam Speaker, I want to take a moment and thank Chairman SKELTON and Ranking Member MCHUGH for their tireless work on behalf of the men and women of our Armed Services. I would also like to congratulate Congressman MCHUGH and wish him luck as he transitions to his new post as Secretary of the Army.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Skelton en bloc amendment which includes legislation I introduced requiring the Department of Defense to notify any member of the Armed Forces who is exposed to a potentially harmful material or contaminant and inform them of the health risks associated with that exposure. In the case the exposed soldier is a member of a reserve component, the Secretary of Defense will be required to notify the State military department.

Back in March I spoke with one of my constituents, Larry Roberta, a member of the Oregon National Guard who is suffering the health effects of being exposed to toxic chemicals on the battlefield. In 2003, while serving in Iraq, Oregon National Guard Members like Larry were unknowingly exposed to Hexavalent Chromium while assigned to protect contractors rebuilding a water treatment facility near Iraqi oil fields. The problem with chemicals like Hexavalent Chromium is they can cause severe illnesses that may not appear until months or years after the exposure.

Their exposure to this cancerous agent was withheld from them while they were in the theater, and many of our soldiers are still unaware the symptoms they are experiencing may be related to a toxic exposure. Fast forward six years and the Oregon Guard is still having a difficult time tracking down all the soldiers they feel may have been exposed.

The estimated number of exposed Oregon soldiers is in the hundreds—many of these soldiers are still unaware they may have been exposed to toxic substances that are impacting their health. Had there been a notification