

of his alma mater, California State University, Fresno.

Always dedicated to helping prevent hunger for Valley residents, Boren's volunteer advocacy on behalf of the Community Food Bank continues to aid those less fortunate. Additionally, his volunteer efforts on behalf of Children's Hospital of Central California, resulted in significant funds being raised for the annual Kids Day event, where he has raised tens of thousands of dollars for those seeking medical care at the valley's only children's hospital. Boren is a founding board member and remains active on the board of the Kenneth L. Maddy Institute at California State University, Fresno.

A proud father, Marissa Boren continues in her father's footsteps and is dedicated to education and the community. She has just completed her education at the University of California at San Diego.

Boren, in his current role as Editorial Page Editor/Vice President, continues to write a weekly column on politics and public policy in addition to his duties overseeing the Bee's opinion pages. He is also a member of the Operating Committee, which is the senior management group of the newspaper.

On behalf of all those who have read his words, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Jim Boren for 40 years of providing interesting informative stories, columns and opinions to Fresno Bee readers everywhere.

THE TRUE IMPORTANCE OF
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to encourage all citizens to take a moment during the upcoming Independence Day weekend to reflect on what the United States and the ideals of our Republic mean to them.

America's experiment with democracy represents the origins of a new outlook and new system of governance. Our founders dared to challenge history. The principles of personal liberty and collective justice—exercised daily across our country—were once little more than the lofty goals of our ancestors. Today, we have come a long way. We have struggled and continue to struggle, to achieve the true spirit of freedom for every American and every citizen of humanity.

When I reflect on the ideals of our nation and consider the significance of our shining example of freedom to the world, I think not only of our deep-rooted principle of self-determination but the basic liberties set forth by the Declaration of Independence and our Bill of Rights. These two great doctrines lay a foundation for all free nations.

But I believe freedom is more than words.

Freedom is a society in which all have an equal opportunity to succeed.

A free society is one in which citizens are not burdened by a perpetual cycle of poverty that breeds crime, violence and chronic disease.

A free society is one in which the people are not crushed into bankruptcy by the weight

of growing medical costs that seem without bounds.

Citizens of a free society need not choose between buying food and affording care.

A free society educates all of its children and provides vast opportunity for betterment beyond the classroom.

A free society ought not be bound by the shackles of oppression, be it physical restraints or the restraints imposed by a dependence on foreign assets.

A free society puts its stock in innovation, tapping into its own financial and human capital to grow a smarter economy and a safer future that doesn't poison our air, water and land or tie self determination to the foreign resources of another land's oppressor.

In our still pioneering young republic, we refuse to cede the initiative to innovate.

In our pursuit of freedom we agree to forgo some of our individual interests and intemperance to allow the space for open dialogue, debate and discussion.

Our society and all free societies must be open to compromise without bias to age, color or creed.

So as I stand here on the eve of our 233rd Independence Day, I am grateful for our founding fathers and their quest for democracy. While I value the vast distances we have traveled since Philadelphia, I remain mindful of the long journey yet to perfection.

On this Independence Day, I urge my fellow Arizonans and all Americans to endeavor to renew and revive the spirit of liberty that launched this great nation, and strive to seek a more perfect Union.

CONGRATULATING THE SOCORRO
BULLDOGS BASEBALL TEAM

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Socorro High School baseball team for winning the 2009 Texas 5A State Baseball Championship. The Socorro High Bulldogs ended their championship season with an impressive record, becoming the second team in El Paso history to bring home the coveted state title.

The team was tested by fierce competitors from across the great State of Texas, one of the most competitive states in the entire nation for high school baseball. As the post-season progressed, the Bulldogs fended off tough challengers and finished with an impressive 35-4 record.

On Saturday, June 20th, the Bulldogs had their toughest test this year when they faced the Lufkin Panthers in the state championship game at the Dell Diamond in Round Rock, Texas, and were down 2-0 in the game's early innings. The talented young men on the Socorro Bulldog team never wavered and forged an impressive come-from-behind victory.

I am extremely proud of the dedication, determination, sportsmanship, and discipline of this talented baseball team and their Coach Chris Forbes. The members of this champion-

ship team are to be commended for their drive and perseverance. The 2009 team members include: Tavi Amparan, Chuy Diaz, Cory Falvey, Roger Favela, Chris Guzman, Eric Herrera, Bobby Mares, Sergio Mendoza, Marcus Molina, Armando Muniz, Jessirey Navarrete, Aaron Olivas, Josh Rodriguez, Rene Rodriguez, Oscar Sandate, Ivan Sigala, Angel Soria, George Stoltz, and Luis Yanez.

Head Coach Chris Forbes and his great team of assistant coaches, Joe Alvarez, Adrian Garcia, Federico Contreras, and Herbert Reyes, were the masterminds behind the team's success. Coach Forbes, in particular, instilled a sense of hard work and discipline that kept the players motivated throughout the regular season and post-season. As part of his 25-year career in coaching, the former Austin High School baseball player has taken Socorro to 20 playoff appearances. Coach Forbes also boasts the most wins (576) of any varsity baseball coach in El Paso.

The Bulldogs' championship title energized El Paso sports fans, as over a thousand parents and members of the community made the long journey to Round Rock to cheer the team to victory. This team will forever be remembered for its historic victory that brought the State Championship Trophy to El Paso, 60 years after the storied Bowie Bears baseball team achieved the same feat in 1949. I am proud to join my constituents from the 16th District of Texas in commending the Socorro Bulldogs baseball team for a job well done.

RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT
AND TRANSMISSION
ISSUES

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I greatly appreciate the sentiments expressed in the attached letter from Carl Zichella, and I intend to work with these groups to achieve strong environmental protections in areas affected by transmission line siting.

SIERRA CLUB,

Sacramento, CA, June 26, 2009.

Hon. JAY INSLEE,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE INSLEE: I write to thank you for your leadership on renewable energy development and transmission issues. The Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society and NRDC have concerns about the presidential override provision of the manager's transmission amendment. We recognize that it was not the intention of the amendment's author to, in any way, undermine environmental protection. We would like to work with Congressman Inslee and the Energy and Commerce Committee to help ensure that public land protection measures in transmission policy reforms are as strong as possible, as reflected in HR 2211 and to clarify the role of public stakeholders in the planning process the amendment establishes.

We are at your service in the coming days and weeks to address these issues.

Sincerely,

CARL ZICHELLA,
Western Renewable
Projects Director.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE BUDGET
REFORM AND TRANSPARENCY
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker. I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1016, "Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009." I would like to thank my colleague, Congressman BOB FILLNER, for introducing this bill, and providing leadership on this important issue.

Today I will defer to Thomas Jefferson who so auspiciously stated, "The care of human life and happiness and not their destruction is the first and only legitimate object of good government." We must call attention as both the House and Senate discuss health care reform. Today, in the midst of two wars and an economic crisis, I know in this 111th Congress and with the 44th President of the United States, our government is now in the position of necessity where we must work to ensure comprehensive health care reform to all citizens.

The Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009 will ensure that one community who gave the ultimate measure for their country will have a quality health care system. I urge members of Congress to put away the partisan bickering and come together to support those who have given their lives for the country they love. There should be no reason why our veterans should not receive the adequate health care they deserve.

For 19 out of the past 22 fiscal years, appropriated funds for medical care were not provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs before the commencement of its new fiscal year, causing the Department great challenges in planning and managing care for enrolled veterans. Appropriation levels for health care programs in the Department have too often proven insufficient over the past decade, requiring the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ration health care and Congress to approve supplemental appropriations. Medical technology available on the battlefields and in U.S. medical facilities are saving the lives of a high percentage of severely wounded soldiers, but they then often face long-term recovery and rehabilitation challenges.

By providing sufficient, timely and predictable funding we would ensure that we meet the vital obligation to provide health care to all veterans. Congress must take action in ensuring our veterans who return home sick, injured, or even healthy will receive the quality health care they deserve. As Congress begins to swiftly act in an unprecedented time, I urge my colleagues to put away partisan bickering and act as a single non-partisan government to ensure our citizens' happiness in a quality health care system.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

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

marks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, the Fiscal Year 2010 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBERT E. LATTA

Bill Number: H.R. 2996, Fiscal Year 2010 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act

Account: EPA; STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Village of Tiro, Ohio

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 31, Tiro, OH 44887

Description of Request: \$500,000 for the Village of Tiro Water Distribution System. This project consists of purchasing treated water from the City of Shelby and transporting it to Tiro via 32,500 ft. of water main. 10,700 ft. of water main will be constructed in the Village for distribution of water. A booster pumping station, storage tower, and fire hydrants will be included. The Village of Tiro currently has no municipal water system. Water is collected or hauled into shallow wells or cisterns. The Village has tried for several years to secure a source of water and funding. The current project is the closest this village has come for a safe water supply. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

TRIBUTE TO FRANCISCO "PACO"
SALDANA

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker. I rise today to congratulate one of my constituents Francisco "Paco" Saldana who as the Director of Guest Services, The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island is the winner of the "Faces of Travel" award granted on an annual basis by the U.S. Travel Association to an employee in the travel business who exemplifies the travel industry and what makes it a unique employment opportunity for 7.7 million Americans.

After months of searching and thousands of votes by industry members, Francisco "Paco" Saldana, a resident of Fernandina Beach, Florida, will be announced as the winner of the "Faces of Travel Contest."

As the winner of this award, Francisco "Paco" Saldana who is a proud employee at the Ritz-Carlton on Amelia Island will help communicate the critical role travel plays in the lives of working Americans across our great country.

Mr. Saldana is the embodiment of the American Dream and what is possible in this great land of opportunity, having emigrated to the United States in 1995 from Mexico City and rising up the ranks at The Ritz-Carlton. Mr. Saldana's dedication to hard work and his positive attitude over the last 14 years have propelled him to become the Director of Guest Services.

Mr. Saldana's work in the travel industry not only had a positive impact on his professional life, but also his personal life. Mr. Saldana met his wife, Christina, who also happened to work

at The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island. They were married in September 2002. Mr. and Mrs. Saldana have three children, Isabella Grace, Nikolas Valentino and Sophia Claire.

SUPPORT OF: H.R. 1511, THE "TORTURE VICTIMS RELIEF REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I support H.R. 1511, the "Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2009." This bill was sponsored by Representative CHRISTOPHER SMITH of New Jersey. The bill's purpose is to amend the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations for FY2010-FY2011 which will provide assistance for domestic and foreign programs and centers for the treatment of victims of torture. I support this bill and I urge my colleagues to support this bill as it provides needed rehabilitation treatment to those who have been impacted by the effects of torture.

H.R. 1511, the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2009, authorizes appropriations for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide grants to programs in the United States to cover the costs of services provided by domestic treatment centers in the rehabilitation of victims of torture (including treatment of the physical and psychological effects of torture). It will also allow the centers to provide social and legal services as well as research and training of health care providers outside of treatment centers or programs to enable them to provide such services. It authorizes the President to provide grants to treatment centers and programs in foreign countries that carry out projects and activities specifically designed to treat victims of torture for the physical and psychological effects of torture. In addition, it provides grants to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.

This bill is not only important, it is necessary. The Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal and the myriad of consequential allegations of prisoner abuse across both Iraq and Afghanistan have cast a heavy shadow over our role in Iraq and our country as a whole. Under the Bush Administration, evidence indicates that torture was conducted on prisoners which included methods such as: waterboarding, weeklong sleep deprivation, forced nudity, use of painful positions, bellyslap and the exploitation of prisoner's fears of animals or insects. President Obama has since denounced these inhumane integration practices and has vowed that the United States does not condone torture. H.R. 1511 supports the President's vow by providing treatment to victims which is designed to enable the victim to step back from the trauma, learn to identify and accept it and gradually become reintegrated into society and/or the working world. This treatment will also serve a social purpose in that it will enable the victim to restore ties that were severed by an array of clinical symptoms caused by being tortured.

In the wake of the Abu Ghraib scandal, the U.S. has gone to great pains to persuade the world that U.S. policy does not condone torture. If Congress enacts this legislation, it