

In 1978, Méndez made history as the first Puerto Rican woman elected to a state legislative office in the United States. Her victory in representing Puerto Ricans and a district the state neglected should have landed the wide respect of her colleagues. Instead, Méndez, one of only a few women then in the state senate, found herself wrestling with the boys' club politics of New York.

Méndez was brash, bold and aggressive because she had to be. She cut her teeth in the Senate and became a battle-ready politician. And she balanced what few politicians were able to do well—an on-the-ground constituency services with the ability to achieve critical legislative negotiations. This, in a Senate that was controlled by Republicans during the entire 26 years she served.

Despite all of the disadvantages, Méndez successfully fought for an increase in the state's minimum wage, ushered in legislation that provided basic rights to migrant farm workers, and secured funding for senior citizen centers. She also fought for resources for early childhood development and gained bipartisan support for affordable housing and economic development initiatives in her district.

Méndez provoked many criticisms, some valid. She opposed abortion rights and was accused of making homophobic statements about a political opponent. Controversies like her party switch contributed to her eventual political demise.

In 2002, she registered as a Republican in a bid to bring resources to her district, a maneuver that today seems to be acceptable depending on who is making the move. Méndez complained that Democrats were taking Latinos for granted and saw herself as handling the business of her district.

For her faults, the legendary senator, who was widowed early and had no children, sacrificed a family life for the political commitment she made. She used her rich background in education, her political experience, and above all, her passion for her community to help many people.

Méndez never minced her words. Anyone who came into contact with her was left with a lasting impression. But it would be a mistake to remember Méndez as simply a colorful personality instead of who she truly was—a fierce politician who did not back away from a bare-knuckled fight.

**HONORING THE DEATH OF MATTHEW GLOMB, A RESIDENT OF GREATER PRINCE WILLIAM, VA**

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the lifelong commitment to public service of Matthew Glomb, a devoted father and husband, a loyal friend to his colleagues, and an admired member of greater Prince William, VA.

Mr. Glomb pursued a career in the U.S. Coast Guard's Corps of the Judge Advocate General, serving at one point as a Military Judge. Following his tenure with the Coast Guard, Mr. Glomb continued his service to our Nation in the Aviation-Admiralty Office of the U.S. Department of Justice, where he specialized in maritime law.

Tragically, Mr. Glomb was fatally struck by lightning on Monday, July 27, 2009, at the age of 49. He was jogging along the beach of Southern Shores, NC, in the Outer Banks

while vacationing with his son at their family beach house. He died instantly, leaving behind his wife and two children.

Mr. Glomb is remembered by those closest to him as a man of deep faith who immediately cared about everyone he met, and he will forever be revered as having an unparalleled sense of humor, and an unwavering commitment to serving others.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of this dedicated public servant and in expressing our condolences to the entire Glomb family.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2009*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on the following legislative measures on July 27, 2009. If I were present for rollcall votes, I would have voted yea on each of the following:

Roll 647, July 27, 2009: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended: H. Res. 593, Recognizing and celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the entry of Hawaii into the Union as the 50th State

Roll 648, July 27, 2009: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended: H.R. 1376, Waco Mammoth National Monument Establishment Act of 2009

Roll 649, July 27, 2009: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended: H.R. 1121, Blue Ridge Parkway and Town of Blowing Rock Land Exchange Act of 2009

**EARMARK DECLARATION**

**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2009*

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the February 2008 New Republican Earmark Standards Guidance, I submit the following in regards to H.R. 3293, the Fiscal Year 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act:

Department of Education (DOE)—Arkansas City Public Schools

H.R. 3293, the Fiscal Year 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act contains \$250,000 for Arkansas City Public Schools, Arkansas City, KS, for technology upgrades, professional development, and development training/technical assistance in the Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE) Account. The entity to receive funding for this project is Arkansas City Schools, Unified School District 470, at 2545 Greenway, Arkansas City, KS 67005.

This funding will allow for the purchase of additional technology to be used by both students and teachers, provide for professional development and teacher training in the use of this technology, and technical assistance.

No matching funds are required for this Department of Education project.

Department of Education (DOE)—Augusta Public Schools

H.R. 3293, the Fiscal Year 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education

Appropriations Act contains \$250,000 for USD 402, Augusta, KS Public Schools for technology upgrades in the Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE) Account. The entity to receive funding for this project is USD 402, Augusta Public Schools, 2345 Greyhound Drive, Augusta, KS 67010.

This funding will allow for the purchase of additional technology to be used in classrooms across the district.

No matching funds are required for this Department of Education project.

Department of Education (DOE)—Independence Public Schools

H.R. 3293, the Fiscal Year 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act contains \$250,000 for Independence Public Schools, Independence, KS, for technology upgrades and teacher training in the Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE) Account. The entity to receive funding for this project is Independence Unified School District 446, at P.O. Drawer 487, 517 N 101h, Independence, KS 67301.

This funding will allow for the purchase of technology to be used in math and science curriculum across the district, and provide for teacher training in the use of the technology.

No matching funds are required for this Department of Education project.

Department of Education (DOE)—Newton Public Schools

H.R. 3293, the Fiscal Year 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act contains \$250,000 for USD 373, Newton, KS, Public Schools for technology upgrades in the Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE) Account. The entity to receive funding for this project is USD 373, Newton, Kansas Public Schools, at 308 East 1st Street, Newton, KS 67114.

This funding will allow for the purchase of technology to be used in the district's Distance Learning Lab, and high school library.

No matching funds are required for this Department of Education project.

Department of Education (DOE)—Wellington Public Schools

H.R. 3293, the Fiscal Year 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act contains \$250,000 for USD 353, Wellington, KS Public Schools for technology upgrades and teacher training in the Improvement of Education (FIE) Account. The entity to receive funding for this project is USD 353 Wellington, at 221 S. Washington, Wellington, KS 67152.

This funding will allow for the purchase of in-classroom technology and teacher training and technical assistance in the use of that technology.

No matching funds are required for this Department of Education project.

Department of Education (DOE)—Butler County Public Schools

H.R. 3293, the Fiscal Year 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act contains \$250,000 for USD 490, Butler County, KS, for technology upgrades and teacher training at the El Dorado, KS school system in the Improvement of Education (FIE) Account. The entity to receive funding for this project is USD 490, Butler County, KS, at 124 West Central, El Dorado, KS 67042.

This funding will allow for the purchase of technology to be used in conjunction with the establishment of a student technology program at the district middle school, and related teacher training.