

furnish written documentation that they had "boots on the ground" in-country, making it virtually impossible for countless United States Navy and United States Air Force veterans to pursue their claims for benefits; many who had landed on Vietnamese soil could not produce proof due to incomplete or missing military records; moreover, personnel who had served on ships in the "Blue Water Navy" in Vietnamese territorial waters were, in fact, exposed to dangerous airborne toxins, which not only drifted offshore but also washed into streams and rivers draining into the South China Sea; and

Whereas, Warships positioned off the Vietnamese shore routinely distilled seawater to obtain potable water; a 2002 Australian study found that the distillation process, rather than removing toxins, in fact concentrated dioxin in water used for drinking, cooking, and washing; this study was conducted by the Australian Department of Veterans' Affairs after it found that Vietnam veterans of the Royal Australian Navy had a higher rate of mortality from Agent Orange-associated diseases than did Vietnam veterans from other branches of the military; when the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention studied specific cancers among Vietnam veterans, it found a higher risk of cancer among United States Navy veterans; and

Whereas, Agent Orange did not discriminate between soldiers on the ground and sailors on ships offshore, and legislation to recognize this tragic fact and restore eligibility for compensation and medical care to United States Navy and United States Air Force veterans who sacrificed their health for their country is critical; and

Whereas, When the Agent Orange Act passed in 1991 with no dissenting votes, congressional leaders stressed the importance of responding to the health concerns of Vietnam veterans and ending the bitterness and anxiety that had surrounded the issue of herbicide exposure; the United States Congress should reaffirm the nation's commitment to the well-being of all of its veterans and direct the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to administer the Agent Orange Act under the presumption that herbicide exposure in the Republic of Vietnam includes the country's inland waterways, offshore waters, and airspace; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to restore the presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure to United States Navy and United States Air Force veterans who served on the inland waterways, in the territorial waters, and in the airspace of the Republic of Vietnam; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

DAVID DEWHURST,
President of the Senate.

JOE STRAUS,
Speaker of the House.

PATSY SPAW,
Secretary of the Senate.

ROBERT HANEY,
Chief Clerk of the House.

Approved: Rick Perry, *Governor.*

HONORING JULIE REICHERT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to recognize Julie Reichert. On July 16, 2009, Julie received a Gold Medal while competing at the National Family, Career and Community Leaders of America National Leadership Conference. This is the highest award in the Nation for her FCCLA event.

She has been very active with her local chapter and has contributed greatly to her area through her service. Not only has she distinguished herself through her involvement, she has earned the respect of her family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Julie Reichert for her accomplishments with the National Family, Career and Community Leaders of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction in the National Leadership Conference competition.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3183, the FY 2010 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN CULBERSON

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Construction General account

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Harris County Flood Control District at 9900 Northwest Freeway, Suite 220, Houston, TX 77092.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$11,018,000 to the Harris County Flood Control District. It is my understanding that the funding would be used for construction of a flood damage reduction project along Brays Bayou in Harris County, Texas.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN CULBERSON

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Investigations account

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Harris County Flood Control District at 9900 Northwest Freeway, Suite 220, Houston, TX 77092.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$100,000 to the Harris County Flood Control District. It is my understanding that the funding would be used for construction of a flood damage reduction project along White Oak Bayou in Harris County, Texas.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN CULBERSON

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Investigations account

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Harris County Flood Control District at 9900 Northwest Freeway, Suite 220, Houston, TX 77092.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$100,000 for the Harris County Flood Control District. It is my understanding that the funding would be used for oversight of a flood damage reduction project aimed at reducing the loss of life, injury, and property destruction in the Buffalo Bayou in Harris County, Texas.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN CULBERSON

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Construction General account

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Port Authority of Houston, P.O. Box 2562, Houston, TX 77252.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$500,000 for the Port Authority of Houston. It is my understanding that the funding would be used to add capacity for dredged material disposal sites along the Channel.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN CULBERSON

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Operations and Maintenance account

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Port Authority of Houston, P.O. Box 2562, Houston, TX 77252.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$15,063,000 for the Port Authority of Houston. It is my understanding that the funding would be used for operations and maintenance of the Channels, including dredging activities.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF JOSEPH W. TESTA AS AUDITOR OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Joseph W. Testa for his service to the people of Franklin County, Ohio.

Joe Testa has been a tireless advocate for good government, first serving as Franklin County Recorder from 1985 to 1992, and since then, as Franklin County Auditor. Throughout his career as an elected official, Joe acted as a resounding voice of fiscal responsibility.

Joe's career also showcased the finest level of professionalism. For more than 17 years, he ran one of the most effective and innovative county offices in the State of Ohio, and was consistently recognized as such by the County Auditor's Association of Ohio. As an early advocate of the potential of the internet and its benefits to local government, Joe's vision helped Franklin County government to become an example for other metropolitan areas in the region in how to maximize technology for public use.

In addition to his work with the county as an elected official, Joe made a lasting impression on the greater Central Ohio community. Driven by his deep faith, he has made service a priority throughout his life. Serving as an adjunct professor at The Ohio State University, and a

founder of a local charter school, Joe spent much of his free time helping provide a quality education for area students. Joe also founded a local non-profit which helps to locate, renovate and restore veteran gravesites going back to the Revolutionary War, ensuring that all veterans are remembered for their sacrifice.

This sense of service and level of commitment has made Joe a highly-respected figure in our community. While the Auditor's office and the taxpayers of Franklin County will certainly miss his principled leadership, I know he will continue to assist many in Central Ohio through his service as a private citizen.

For his years of service to Franklin County and consistent hard work toward the betterment of Central Ohio, I commend Joe Testa upon his retirement.

NAACP CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the NAACP on their 100th anniversary. As the nation's oldest and largest grassroots civil rights organization, I commend the NAACP for their landmark accomplishments as well as their ongoing efforts to remove all barriers of racial discrimination in our nation.

Founded on February 12, 1909, the NAACP was established by a diverse and determined small group of brave men and women whose stated goal was to secure for all people the rights guaranteed by the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Over the span of 100 years, the NAACP's trailblazing work with federal and state legislators as well as in courthouses across the country transformed the organization into an instrumental force in the movement for political, educational and economic equality. As we begin the 21st century, the NAACP continues to pursue these important goals while remaining focused on promoting voter empowerment initiatives as well as closing the economic and educational disparities that continue to plague minority communities.

In my hometown of El Paso, Texas, the local NAACP branch has a distinguished and rich history of civic participation, as this branch is the oldest in the State of Texas. Established in 1915, the El Paso Branch was led by one of its pioneer charter members, Dr. Lawrence Aaron Nixon. Dr. Nixon worked tirelessly for nearly 20 years to remove the legal barriers that prevented African Americans from participating in Democratic primary elections in Texas. Dr. Nixon was the lead plaintiff in two lawsuits in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in his favor by declaring Texas' discriminatory laws to be unconstitutional. In recent times, the El Paso branch continues to serve our community through economic development programs and initiatives to assist our troops and veterans. I am proud of this history as well as the ongoing efforts that the local branch continues to spearhead in El Paso.

While much progress has been made in our nation over the past 100 years, there is unquestionably a lot of work that remains to be done. It is my belief that the NAACP will remain in the forefront in creating positive

change and that through the combined efforts of all people, the promise of America can be reality for all.

IN MEMORY OF LOMPOC MAYOR DICK DEWEES

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of Lompoc, California, Mayor Dick DeWees, who passed away last night from complications related to a prior medical condition.

Dick DeWees was more than a legislative colleague. He was an ally and personal friend. The relationship we built over the years greatly benefited our mutual constituencies.

I will miss his leadership and friendship.

Dick and his wife of more than 30 years, Jane, moved to Santa Barbara in 1974 and to Lompoc in 1987, where Dick quickly became involved in the community. In addition to serving as mayor, Dick served on the Santa Barbara County Local Agency Formation Commission and is its past chairman, and was the City of Lompoc's representative on the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments. Dick also served on numerous local non-profit organization boards.

As owner of a local advertising agency, DeWees & Company Media Services, which specializes in electronic media, Dick was the recipient of the Sam Walton Business Leader Award. In addition, he taught a public speaking course at the Lompoc Valley Center of Alan Hancock College.

Jane and Dick met while they were performing Summer Stock Theater together in Michigan. Their two married children, Nathan and Anna, also live in Lompoc, as does their first grandchild, Emma Chastain.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in sending our condolences to Jane, their children, their grandchild, and all their family and friends.

Godspeed, Dick.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL BALLOU HOFER, JR.

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Ontario, California were exceptional. Today I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember an incredible man and American patriot, Paul Ballou Hofer, Jr. Paul was a dear friend of mine and I was deeply saddened by his passing on July 8, 2009.

Paul was born to Paul Ballou Hofer and Frances Morgan Hofer on January 23, 1921 at the family ranch in Ontario, California. He attended Mountain View Elementary School, Chaffey High School and the University of Southern California. A natural athlete, at Chaffey he played varsity basketball for four

years and was a halfback on the football team, receiving dual scholarships to USC for both sports.

During World War II Paul served in the U.S. Navy, commissioned as a Naval Aviator, with several thousand hours of flight time. In 1944 Paul married his high school sweetheart, Laura Jean Belcher, who preceded him in death. They had three sons, Paul III, John and Brett who grew up in the same house in which their father was born. Along with his brothers Morgan, also deceased, and Phillip, Paul was a fourth generation vineyard farmer at Hofer Ranch which was founded by his family in 1882. Paul always believed that the lessons learned from lifetimes of farming, hard work and determination, coupled with the deeply held and abiding belief that land is what endures, have been the anchor that has guided the family through seven generations on the ranch.

In addition to ranching, Paul was a man of many interests. He had a great love of the outdoors, with a passion for fly fishing and wing shooting. Paul was a member of the Masons, and also of the Republican Party. He collected antique farm and winery equipment, proudly adding to the collection at Hofer Ranch. In addition to his three sons, Paul is survived by his brother, Phillip, and his family; his grandchildren, Jason Hofer (Christina), Jacklyn Hofer Winton (Jeremy), Morgan Hofer and Laura Hofer; his great-granddaughter, Elizabeth; and other family members.

Paul's passion for his ranch, his family, and his community has contributed immensely to the betterment of the Ontario, California. I was proud to call Paul a fellow community member, American and good friend. I hope his family knows that their father, brother, and grandfather, and the goodness he brought to this world, will always be remembered.

COMMEMORATING THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, as we enter into the month of August, I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate the anniversary of The Voting Rights Act of 1965. On August 6, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law. The date marks a pivotal moment in our country's progress in extending equal membership in the political processes to every American. The right to vote is a fundamental principle of all democracies. Yet, in our great nation whose founding fathers and documents boasted of its creation to promote equality, there was a substantial period of history during which minority men and women were barred from that very right. The Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution guarantees the right to vote for every citizen, but the discriminatory practices of Jim Crow in the antebellum south used taxes, literacy tests, gerrymandering, and language discrimination to prevent Blacks from voting and taking part in the government. Without the right to vote, many African-Americans were subject to intolerable injustices and appalling prejudice.

The Voting Rights Act represents a culmination of the great efforts of civil rights organizations and activists to inform the nation of the