

of Lufkin, P.O. Drawer 190, Lufkin, Texas 75902, \$400,000 to help the city purchase the water production and transmission facilities owned by a local, but long-idle and deteriorating paper mill in danger of becoming an environmental hazard with long-term national implications. The funding will be used to develop infrastructure for the storage and treatment of 17 million gallons of water per day from the Angelina River and Kurth Lake, helping meet the increasing residential, commercial and industrial demands for potable water in a growing region of the state, which is relied on repeatedly by evacuating hurricane victims.

**CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2009**

SPEECH OF

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 5, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2868) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to extend, modify, and recodify the authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security to enhance security and protect against acts of terrorism against chemical facilities, and for other purposes:

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chair, as the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, I study national security issues a great deal and fully understand the risks posed by terrorism.

Terrorists from home and abroad have killed innocent Americans, which is why we in Congress have an obligation to diminish the likelihood of these kinds of terrorist attacks by strengthening our military, by giving law enforcement additional tools, and by authorizing common sense homeland security regulations. But, in writing laws to protect the American people, we must carefully consider how new regulations might impact citizens and businesses.

In 2006, Congress directed the Department of Homeland Security to establish risk-based security performance standards for chemical facilities that use or store chemicals that can be attractive to terrorists. The Department issued its final chemical security regulations—the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards—in 2007, and, since then, businesses have been working in a collaborative manner with the Department to implement them.

For agriculture, the Department has acknowledged the unique nature of farming with respect to chemical regulations and has indefinitely exempted from regulation all end-users of chemicals used in agriculture, including farms, ranches, and other crop, feed, or livestock facilities.

In October 2009, the authority for the Department of Homeland Security to regulate chemical facilities expired. It was recently extended for one year through the fiscal year 2010 Homeland Security appropriations bill. In an effort to more permanently extend the Department's authority to regulate chemical facilities and to expand federal regulations to drinking water and waste water facilities, the House of Representatives considered H.R. 2868, the Chemical and Water Security Act of 2009.

To be sure, improving the security around these entities is an important national security objective, and the House Homeland Security Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee deserve a great deal of praise for gluing together H.R. 2868.

However, as a Congressman from rural Missouri, I examined H.R. 2868 through the lens of the farmers I represent. Some in the agricultural community do not support portions of this legislation relating to so-called Inherently Safer Technology requirements. They believe these new requirements could force makers of their fertilizers to change to more expensive or less effective products, eventually adding to producers' input costs.

I realize that the Committees of jurisdiction over H.R. 2868 worked hard to reach out to the agricultural community and that the bill was improved in Committee by Congressman MIKE ROSS (D-AR) and Congressman ZACH SPACE (D-OH) who added technical assistance grants for agricultural wholesalers. I also fully appreciate that the Department has exempted farms from its regulations for an indefinite period of time.

But, after careful consideration and review, it seems more work remains to assuage agriculture's concerns about the Inherently Safer Technology requirements. As H.R. 2868 was presented in the House, I could not lend my support to it based on the concerns of my farmers and Missouri's agricultural retailers.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. TOM COLE**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2009*

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, on Monday, November 16, 2009, I missed the last vote in a series of three votes. I missed rollcall vote No. 891. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: rollcall vote No. 891: "aye" (On agreeing to H.R. 3767).

**RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SLE LUPUS FOUNDATION AND THE LUPUS COOPERATIVES OF NY FOR BEING LEADERS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST LUPUS**

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2009*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the SLE Lupus Foundation and the Lupus Cooperatives of New York for their contributions to help people with lupus and for fighting gender and racial disparities in the treatment of lupus for almost 40 years.

Systemic lupus erythematosus, SLE, commonly called lupus, is a chronic and potentially fatal autoimmune disorder. It is one of the Nation's least recognized major diseases, and it disproportionately affects women, particularly women of color. In lupus, the body's immune system forms antibodies that can attack virtually any healthy organ or tissue, from the

kidneys to the brain, heart, lungs, skin, joints and blood. Lupus is a leading cause of cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, and stroke in young women. No major new treatments for lupus have been approved in 50 years.

The SLE Lupus Foundation, headquartered in New York City with a West Coast division in Los Angeles, was founded in 1970. It is a nonprofit organization that provides direct patient services, education, public awareness, and funding for novel lupus research on the national level. The Foundation deals with the predominance and severity of such lupus complications as kidney and cardiac disease in Blacks, Hispanics, Asians and people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Madam Speaker, in 1998, the SLE Lupus Foundation opened the first Lupus Cooperative of New York in East Harlem. The Lupus Cooperative programs ensure that people of lupus receive the medical treatment, emotional care and practical assistance needed to live with this chronic disease, no matter their gender, or ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. Over the past decade, the Lupus Cooperatives have focused on communities characterized by high poverty rates, large numbers of uninsured residents, numerous single-parent families and a population at high risk for lupus. They have worked actively to address gender and racial health disparities by demonstrating a collaborative model for the management of chronic illness among young, inner-city minority women.

The SLE Lupus Foundation is a member organization of the Lupus Research Institute National Coalition, which has affiliate organizations nationwide. Through the Lupus Research Institute National Coalition, the SLE Lupus Foundation has created visibility for the needs of underserved populations through awareness-building, advocacy and direct education programs on a national, state and local level.

Highlights of accomplishments include:

"Invisible No More" forum on race and lupus at the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference in 2004;

Educational panel on heart disease and lupus presented at the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference in 2005;

Spanish language public awareness campaign to alert Hispanic women to the dangers of lupus in 2005;

Congressional briefing on racial disparity in lupus to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus in 2006;

Five-City series on the increased risk of heart disease in people with lupus, particularly young women and African-American women. That was presented in conjunction with the Association of Black Cardiologists in 2007. The series was held in New York City, San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Detroit;

National Lupus Health Education for Physicians and Health Care Providers—in partnership with the Office of Minority Health and Human Services.

Madam Speaker, the SLE Lupus Foundation has accomplished and will continue to accomplish great things for people with lupus. I am grateful to the SLE Foundation and the Lupus Cooperative of New York for the work that they do to help people with lupus nationwide.

HONORING SHIRLEY COELHO AND  
CHERYL NIMIROSKI

**HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2009*

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate New Hope Board Members Shirley Coelho and Cheryl Nimiroski for their many years of dedicated service to this inspiring organization. New Hope is a non-profit agency serving communities in Central and Southeastern Massachusetts that is committed to ending domestic violence by helping people live safer lives.

Ms. Coelho and Ms. Nimiroski have worked tirelessly over the past 20 and 15 years respectively to provide individuals and families with the resources they need to identify, overcome and prevent domestic violence. Not only have their efforts improved the lives of those they have worked with directly, but they have also made the lives of countless individuals in their greater communities safer.

At New Hope's annual meeting on October 29, 2009, Shirley and Cheryl were specially honored with the creation of the "Coelho-Nimiroski Volunteer of the Year Award" which will be awarded to an outstanding volunteer who embodies the values of and shows dedication to the mission of New Hope. The creation of this award ensures that Shirley and Cheryl's work will continue to inspire future volunteers for years to come.

Madam Speaker, domestic violence affects us all and sadly, it still exists in communities across the United States. The care, compassion and commitment to ending domestic violence shown by devoted individuals like Shirley Coelho and Cheryl Nimiroski is truly exemplary. We should all be inspired by their invaluable work.

I respectfully ask the entire U.S. House of Representatives to join me in commending Shirley Coelho and Cheryl Nimiroski for their years of service to New Hope and for their dedication to ending domestic violence.

HONORING MEL AUST OF LAKE  
COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2009*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friend Mel Aust, General Manager of the Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District in Lake County, California. Mel is being honored this evening on the occasion of his 20th anniversary with the district.

Mel's contributions to the people of Lake County and California over the years are immeasurable. Mel was the driving force behind the water reclamation treatment plant and wastewater treatment plant to sustain build-out of the Hidden Valley Lake community. In 2001, his Community Services District helped build a ballpark at Coyote Valley Elementary School. He also secured \$250,000 in labor grants to clean up Coyote Creek, Gallagher Creek and drainage ditches throughout the Hidden Valley Lake subdivision. He played a

key role in crafting a letter that secured essential federal funding for the training and technical assistance HVLCSO offers to water and wastewater systems all over California.

The list of boards and commissions on which Mel has served is equally impressive. Locally, he serves on the Lake County Business Outreach Team, the Board of Directors of the South Lake County Fire District and the Board of Directors of the Toys for Kids program. Statewide, he served on the Association of California Water Agencies Federal Affairs committee and the California Department of Water Resources Drought Preparedness Committee. Mel also serves as California's representative at the National Rural Water Association and is on NRW's Asset Development, Legislative and Conference Committees.

Mel is known across the state for his immense knowledge of complex water issues and his public speaking ability. He frequently lobbies in Sacramento and on Capitol Hill for the Association of California Water Agencies, American Water Works Association, California Rural Water Association and National Rural Water Association. He is the go-to speaker for these organizations when needed, often speaking to audiences of thousands with ease.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to recognize Mel Aust for his many years of service to the people of California and to thank him for his many contributions on behalf of our country and our community. I am proud to call him a friend. I join his wife, Connie, and all of our colleagues in congratulating him on this milestone.

CONGRATULATING KATHLEEN  
HODGES OF GARLAND'S WALNUT  
GLEN ACADEMY

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2009*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, last week I visited Garland's Walnut Glen Academy to congratulate Kathleen Hodges for winning the Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award 2008–2009. The Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Awards recognize eleven exemplary K–12 humanities teachers in the Lone Star State. The exceptional Rowlett resident stands head and shoulders above her peers for her role as a terrific humanities teacher making a difference in the lives of young Texans.

Humanities Texas, formerly the Texas Council for the Humanities, is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Humanities Texas conducts and supports public programs in history, literature, philosophy, and other humanities disciplines.

I wish my colleagues could have seen the heartwarming patriotic celebration that coincided with this wonderful announcement heralding Kathleen's accolade. On Veterans' Day, Walnut Glen Academy rolled out the red carpet for patriots young and old. The faculty and students at Walnut Glen Academy went to great lengths to stress the importance of service before self—and pointed a shining example of that—Kathleen's tireless work on behalf of young people. It was truly inspiring. Most important, Kathleen received the special rec-

ognition and her time in the sun for her tremendous achievement she so truly deserves.

After spending the day at her school, it is easy to see why Kathleen considers her proudest accomplishment the art program she has helped establish at Walnut Glen Academy. Congratulations are in order for Kathleen Hodges and the students and faculty at Walnut Glen Academy. God bless you and I salute you.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. LOUIE GOHMERT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2009*

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding funding received in my district as part of H.R. 2996, the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Lanana Creek Water Initiative. STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project, the City of Nacogdoches, P.O. Box 635030, Nacogdoches, Texas 75963, \$500,000 for regional detention ponds to complete a storm water mitigation initiative at Lanana Creek, Nacogdoches, Texas, which will prevent submergence of a number of bridges by keeping Lanana Creek at a low water level. This will allow for full access of emergency personnel to areas south of the North Loop 224 bridge at all times, and dealing with untenable wetland issues.

HONORING THE COAST GUARD  
AND MARINE CORPS AIRCRAFT  
PILOTS LOST IN CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 17, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 891, "Expressing the gratitude of the House of Representatives for the service to our Nation of the Coast Guard and Marine Corps aircraft pilots and crewmembers lost off the coast of California on October 29, 2009, and for other purposes." The safety of American citizens lies in the hands of our service men and women on a daily basis. With honor and respect our service men and women devote their lives to their duty and time and time again they prove to be faithful servants. We in the Gulf Coast region will never forget their bravery in saving 22,000+ lives during Hurricane Katrina.

On the evening of October 29, 2009, a Coast Guard C-130 aircraft with two pilots and five crewmembers on board was involved in a search and rescue mission off the coast of California. Unfortunately at the same time, a Marine Corps AH-1W Super Cobra carrying two pilots was involved in a military escort mission nearby. The two aircraft are suspected to have collided while traveling east of San Clemente Island, California. The following crew members of the Coast Guard C-130 are