

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3288,
CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, this week, as world leaders convene in Copenhagen, Denmark, for the United Nations Climate Change Conference, the House of Representatives has taken an important, if incremental, step to improve our Nation's ability to strategically respond and adapt to an unpredictable climate by authorizing a study which advances the idea of creating a Federal National Climate Service.

H.R. 3288, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010, directs the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, to enter into a contract with the National Academy of Public Administration to investigate the effectiveness and efficiency of alternative organizational frameworks for the establishment of a National Climate Service within NOAA.

I would like to commend my colleague from Wisconsin and the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Congressman DAVID OBEY, and the rest of the conferees, for their recognition that the establishment of a National Climate Service within NOAA is absolutely critical at this time. The American public will need climate information, products and services in order to plan for and adapt to climate variability, and it is essential that the Federal Government have in place an organizational architecture that is science-based, reliable, and responsive to address this need.

Most important, this study will provide another opportunity to comparatively evaluate and assess the merits of a public-private approach for a National Climate Service. Last June, I introduced H.R. 2685, the Climate and Ocean Research and Coordination Act of 2009, to establish, in part, a National Climate Enterprise comprised of federal and non-federal partners which would have NOAA function as the operational lead. This framework, which would build from and strengthen existing Federal climate research and science capacities within NOAA, NASA, the U.S. Geological Survey, National Science Foundation, and other agencies, would also incorporate the significant contributions of non-Federal climate scientists, researchers and stakeholders to provide to end users on the ground climate information, products and services at variable scales that are credible, reliable and usable.

As NOAA and the National Academy of Public Administration consider alternative frameworks for a National Climate Service, I respectfully urge consideration of the public/private concepts within H.R. 2685, which have been enthusiastically endorsed by the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, UCAR, the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, and the Coastal States Organization. All

Americans, from the District of Columbia to my congressional district in Guam, should have at their disposal an effective and accessible National Climate Service, and I again commend Chairman OBEY for advancing this idea.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives markets, and for other purposes:

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Chair, I would like to speak about a provision I authored that was included in the manager's amendment. The provision provides that a Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization shall be liable if it is grossly negligent in determining a credit rating. My intention in drafting this provision was only to impose potential liability on ratings provided pursuant to a contract with the issuer of the debt. Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations that provide ratings solely for the purpose of journalism, without being paid by the issuer, do not face potential liability under this provision.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF COLONEL VENETIA E. BROWN, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Colonel Venetia E. Brown for 30 years of exceptional service and dedication to the United States Air Force and enduring contributions to our great Nation. She will retire from active duty on March 31, 2010.

Colonel Brown grew up in Niceville, Florida and entered the United States Air Force in 1980 as a graduate of the distinguished Officers' Training School at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. She has served in a variety of personnel assignments at the unit and headquarters level both stateside and overseas, and has excelled in all leadership positions throughout her career. Her unique leadership and managerial talents were evident early in her career, affirmed by her selection as a captain to organize and direct the wing survival and recovery center, a function normally performed by a colonel. As a testament to her leadership skills, Colonel Brown has been the

commander of a military personnel flight, mission support squadron, and deputy commander of a large support group and has produced outstanding results during inspections as well as motivated her subordinates to achieve their dreams. Additionally, she is a distinguished alumnus of Legislative Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, directing manpower and personnel legislative matters.

Prior to her current assignment, Colonel Brown served as the Chief, Compensation and Legislation Division, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Headquarters United States Air Force. She developed the first-ever Air Force Bonus Review Board resulting in \$125M savings during fiscal year 2006 and \$1B in out-years. Additionally, Colonel Brown secured \$20.7M from the Air Force Board for compensation legislative initiatives and ramrodded Transformation legislation on civilian pay/hiring flexibility. A powerhouse crusader and remarkable leader, Colonel Brown was consistently given the tough issues and never failed the men and women of the Air Force.

In her most recent assignment, Colonel Brown served as the Director of the Secretary of the Air Force Personnel Council, Air Force Review Boards Agency, Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland. Over the past 5 and half years Colonel Brown guided the Secretary of the Air Force's Personnel Council through over 10,000 Board actions. Her excellent decisions ensured due process, equity, consistency, and fairness. Colonel Brown has the distinct honor of being consistently ranked as the number one of five directors in the Air Force Review Boards Agency. She has always upheld the highest standards of professional conduct and her warrior ethos has ensured complete success at every juncture and will be truly missed. I ask my Colleagues to join me in expressing our sincere thanks to Venetia, her spouse Michael, and their son Damone for their unwavering support of our country and the freedom we hold so dear. We congratulate Colonel Brown on the completion of an exemplary active-duty career and wish her well in the next phase of her life.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Project Name: Buses and Bus Facility Improvement, Baldwin County, AL

Requesting Member: Congressman JO BONNER

Bill: Department of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Account: Buses & Bus Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Baldwin County Commission

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Address of Requesting Entity: 312 Court-house Square, Suite 12, Bay Minette, AL 36507

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$275,000 to provide additional buses and security fencing for the Baldwin Rural Area Transportation System (BRATS). Two additional buses will help meet the growing demand of BRATS that currently provides public transit services in Alabama's largest county covering 1,500 square miles. The high cost of living in Baldwin County has also increased the demand for BRATS as area workforce is moving further away from tourist attracting coastal areas. Baldwin County is currently the 65th fastest growing county in the country (U.S. Census Bureau). Approximately, \$200,000 [or 73%] will be used to acquire two new buses; \$50,000 [or 18%] will be used for security fencing; and \$25,000 [or 9%] will be used to provide bike racks for buses. The Baldwin County Commission will provide the required matching funds.

RECOGNIZING THE EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC SERVICE OF VICKIE WALLING

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and our colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Vickie Walling for her years of distinguished work on Capitol Hill. Vickie is retiring at the end of this year after 35 years of public service to the 8th District of Tennessee and to our country.

Vickie and I are from the same hometown, Union City, though she is fortunate to be a number of years younger. She attended Union City High School and the University of Tennessee-Martin, where, incidentally, she was roommates with another woman many of us greatly respect, UT Lady Vols Head Coach Pat Summitt.

Vickie came to work in the House of Representatives in 1974 and soon after joined the staff of Congressman Ed Jones, my predecessor in representing the 8th District in this chamber. She immediately began to distinguish herself as a dedicated staff member and a leader among her peers on Capitol Hill.

Fortunately, Vickie and other members of Mr. Jones' superb staff agreed to continue their service to the 8th District when Betty Ann and I were honored to come to DC in 1989 following Mr. Jones' retirement. In fact, many of Mr. Jones' former staff members—Kathy Becker, Margaret Black, Betty Hardin, Doug Thompson and Vickie—still serve alongside us to assist and represent West and Middle Tennesseans.

Over the years, Vickie has become a true leader not just within our office but across Capitol Hill. Her dedication, tireless work ethic and keen understanding of legislative issues such as health care, bipartisan welfare reform and strategic demobilization have put her in a class all her own. Vickie has also been instrumental in helping us form and develop the Blue Dog Coalition, having been there when we first began meeting almost 15 years ago. Since then, with Vickie's help, we have been able to grow the Coalition to more than 50

Members, and the Coalition has become an important voice in representing millions of Americans.

Many of us in this chamber and others have sought Vickie's guidance and counsel over the years. Her insight and honesty are invaluable.

I often tell our constituents that serving in elected office is similar to a turtle finding itself on top of a fence post; one simply cannot get there alone. Vickie and the others serving in the 8th District offices are dedicated public servants whose work is crucial to ensuring our constituents are well-represented. Though they may not know her as well as we do, Tennesseans have been very well served by Vickie's many efforts on their behalf.

Madam Speaker, please join Betty Ann, our staff, our colleagues and me in expressing gratitude to Vickie Walling for her commitment to service and helping enact effective public policy. We wish Vickie all the best in her retirement and know her daily presence here will be greatly missed.

STATEMENT ON IRANIAN DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT ACT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Iranian Digital Empowerment Act.

In the aftermath of Iran's disputed 2009 presidential elections, millions of Iranians flooded the streets to stand-up to their government and make their voices heard. Empowered by communication services like Twitter and Facebook, Iranians were able to organize and communicate freely outside of the watchful eye of their government in what has become the first popular democratic uprising of the social media age.

The Iranian people are among the most pro-Western people in the Middle East, and despite suffering under a totalitarian regime, their struggle to create a freer and democratic Iran continues to this day. This weekend marked the 6-month anniversary of fraudulent presidential elections. Once again, the Iranian people took to the streets in non-violent protest. The government of Iran has sought to counter the peaceful efforts of the Iranian people, launching unprecedented efforts to block access to Internet technology, infiltrate electronic social networks, and restrict Iranians from communicating freely. Unfortunately, due to outdated language in provisions regarding information services, U.S. sanctions have had the unintended consequence of denying the Iranian people the tools necessary to communicate freely and circumvent government monitors online.

In an effort to assist the Iranian people fighting for a change in leadership, I am introducing the Iranian Digital Empowerment Act. This legislation will clarify that U.S. laws are not intended to prohibit the export of software that would enable the Iranian people to communicate freely by circumventing their government's censorship efforts. U.S. sanctions intended to change the behavior of the Iranian government must not have the effect of stamping out the voice of the Iranian people.

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA TWARKINS

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Martha Twarkins, a Legis Congressional Fellow from the Brookings Institute, a specialist with the United States Forest Service and, for the past year, a dedicated and invaluable member of my staff.

Throughout the year, Ms. Twarkins has contributed her considerable expertise and ability to legislative responsibilities in my office, and I could not be more grateful for or appreciative of her hard work.

Throughout her tenure in my office, Ms. Twarkins has worked diligently to mitigate the effects of the bark beetle epidemic on communities in Colorado and across the western United States. She has also provided oversight and direction to many of my legislative priorities concerning the Forest Service, including securing an additional \$40 million to help with the emergency bark beetle crisis.

She was an important resource on grazing and water rights, and a key advisor in the consideration and proposal of many new wilderness designations to forever protect our most beautiful public lands.

Additionally, Ms. Twarkins was my key liaison to the House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming. Ms. Twarkins advised me on the committee's work on issues from fighting climate change in developing countries to creating a roadmap to Copenhagen. I truly appreciate her guidance on this committee.

Ms. Twarkins will always have a special place in my heart. My entire staff joins me in wishing her the best of luck as she resumes her position with the Forest Service, and with all her future endeavors.

BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, during the period November 8–16, 2009, I led a bipartisan House delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) meetings in Edinburgh, Scotland, and to additional bilateral meetings in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The delegation also conducted bilateral meetings in Edinburgh. Joining me as Ranking Member of the NATO PA delegation was the Hon. JOHN SHIMKUS. The delegation included Representatives JOHN BOOZMAN, JO ANN EMERSON, BARON HILL, CAROLYN MCCARTHY, JEFF MILLER, DENNIS MOORE, MIKE ROSS, DAVID SCOTT, ALBIO SIRE, MIKE TURNER and staff. The NATO PA delegation had a highly successful trip that examined a wide range of political, economic and security issues on NATO's agenda, as well as issues involving U.S. relations with Northern Ireland and Scotland.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly consists of parliamentarians from all 28 NATO member states. The NATO PA meets twice yearly in

plenary session in a member state and provides a unique forum for elected officials to analyze and debate challenging issues facing the Alliance. The NATO PA, through its deliberations, also provides guidance to the NATO leadership in Brussels. In addition to the 28 member states, parliamentarians from countries such as Russia, Georgia, Afghanistan, and others participate in the sessions as associate states or observers. Through these sessions, delegates have the opportunity to learn first-hand the views and concerns that other countries have over the key security issues of the day. An invaluable aspect of the meetings is the chance to meet and come to know members of parliaments who play important roles in their own countries in shaping the security agenda that their governments pursue at NATO. These contacts endure, and can provide an invaluable private avenue to Congress and the Administration for insights into each ally's particular approaches to an issue.

The key issues on the agenda of the NATO Alliance as well as on the NATO PA agenda include the conflict in Afghanistan, the future of NATO and the writing of its new strategic concept, as well as more specific issues including relations with Russia, energy security, missile defense, and emerging challenges such as piracy and cyber security. Each of these issues was vigorously debated by the parliamentarians. Relations with Russia and the new strategy towards Afghanistan and Pakistan were two of the issues that dominated the session. Many members of the Alliance continue to question whether Russia is intent on pursuing an increasingly assertive security policy including efforts to intimidate neighboring states, through the threat of force. There was also concern expressed that Russia would continue to use its energy supplies as a political lever to influence European policy. It was clear from our meetings that not only the United States and NATO, but the European Union as well, are concerned about Moscow's posture on a variety of issues. And, while there were differences of opinion over how to structure future relations between NATO, the NATO PA and the Russian delegates to the Assembly, most felt that dialogue between NATO, the NATO PA, and Russia was important and should continue. Many delegates referenced the U.S. commitment to a new, constructive relationship with Moscow and expressed hope that through those promising relations, Russia's attitude toward NATO could become more positive.

On Afghanistan, there was continued support for the ISAF mission among the allies and a willingness to provide the additional civilian and financial support necessary for the reconstruction effort there. However, there was great interest in knowing how the Obama Administration will re-adjust U.S. and NATO strategy and how many additional U.S. military forces will be committed to the conflict. Our delegation was clear that this was not a U.S. war and that NATO's role in Afghanistan continues to be a critical factor.

Before the opening sessions of the Assembly's plenary the U.S. delegation received a detailed briefing from our Deputy U.S. Ambassador to NATO, John Heffern, who addressed several of the issues that would be debated during the NATO PA sessions, particularly regarding Russia and NATO's ongoing role in Afghanistan. Mr. Heffern also reviewed the recent Administration decision on European mis-

sile defense and the alternative plans being discussed with our allies.

Over two days of the NATO PA session, extensive meetings of the Assembly's committees took place. There are five NATO PA committees. In each, parliamentarians presented reports on issues before the Alliance. The reports were debated by all members of the committee who often made counter-arguments or suggestions for amending a report. Members of the U.S. delegation were present and active in each committee meeting.

The Political Committee heard three very interesting presentations. Former German General Klaus Naumann focused on the future relevancy of transatlantic security relations. A second presentation on the recent elections in Iran and their implications generated some interesting questions and debate. The third presentation addressed the challenge of international terrorism. Our colleague Rep. CAROLYN MCCARTHY asked if the al-Qaeda terrorist organization was developing new training and planning bases outside of the Afghanistan/Pakistan region that the west should be watching. The Committee received presentations on three reports including one from our colleague, Rep. MIKE ROSS, a committee rapporteur, who discussed possible transatlantic cooperation with Pakistan. Mr. ROSS's presentation was well received by the Committee. Other reports debated included "Resetting Relations with Russia" that featured several interesting comments from the Russian delegates, and "NATO's relationship with Georgia" that included a discussion on the current situation in Georgia and where relations between Georgia and NATO now stands. There were still differences of opinion on who was responsible for starting the war in Georgia and how to deal with Georgia's aspirations for eventual membership in NATO.

The Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security is currently chaired by our colleague, Rep. JO ANN EMERSON. This committee discussed reports prepared by committee rapporteurs addressing security challenges and cooperation in Central Asia, and Moldova's internal challenges and prospects for Euro-Atlantic integration. The Committee also heard a presentation on lessons learned in the U.K. from the London terrorist bombing and an address from Georgian Vice Prime Minister Baramidze. The focus of the committee's work in this session was on the growing challenge of piracy off the coast of Somalia, which included a formal report on the subject. The Committee also approved a resolution recognizing this challenge and calling for a more coordinated international approach.

The Defense and Security Committee discussed three reports which reexamined NATO's ongoing operations in Afghanistan, addressed NATO's territorial defense capabilities, and covered the issue of cyber security. The Committee also conducted a joint session on the threat of piracy with the Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security. The Defense Committee adopted a resolution on Afghanistan, which among other things urged NATO governments and parliaments to: reaffirm their commitment to assisting the Afghan government to provide a secure and stable environment; to endorse the resource and approach advocated by the ISAF Commander; and to supply, as a matter of absolute priority, the personnel, equipment, and funding necessary to speed the development of the Afghan Na-

tional Security forces, in order to promote a transition to Afghan leadership. Our colleague Rep. JOHN SHIMKUS urged more commitment by NATO members to the mission in Afghanistan and stressed the need to reassure Eastern European allies about their security. Our colleague Rep. MIKE TURNER stressed the need to move forward with an all-NATO missile defense program.

The Economics and Security Committee debated three reports focused on food prices and their implications for security, on energy production in Central Asia and its potential contribution to transatlantic energy security, and a long discussion on the global financial crisis and its impact on member nations. In that third discussion, a number of members suggested that it would be useful to explore how the financial crisis was impinging on national defense budgets in allied countries. The Committee also heard presentations on the security aspects of food-related crises, global energy market trends, and managing defense budgets in times of global recession.

Finally, the Science and Technology Committee discussed three extremely timely reports. One interesting report addressed climate change and its relationship to national security. This was followed by a presentation on the Arctic by the British Ambassador to Norway. Another report addressed the current efforts being used to combat the spread of weapons of mass destruction. This was preceded by a presentation on Iran's nuclear ambitions by Professor Ali Ansari from the University of St. Andrews. A third report provided a look at the resurgence of nuclear power as a source of clean energy and was accompanied by a presentation on the role of nuclear energy in the U.K.'s energy strategy.

On Tuesday, the final day of the plenary, the general assembly had the opportunity to hear a presentation from NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen in his first formal address to the Assembly as Secretary General. Rasmussen urged the Parliamentarians to help re-build understanding between NATO and the publics of each member state especially with respect to the NATO mission in Afghanistan and the relevance of NATO itself. The Assembly also heard from Admiral James Stavridis, Supreme Allied Commander in Europe who asked NATO Parliamentarians to help the Alliance deal with the pace and complexity of the challenges the Alliance faces from a dynamic and constantly changing international environment. The SACEUR urged the NATOPA to help provide political input and guidance to NATO as the Alliance re-writes the strategic concept that will define NATO's future roles and missions. We also heard from the Honorable David Miliband, the UK's Foreign Minister who reaffirmed that the commitment of European military forces to Afghanistan, now under intense questioning throughout Europe, need not be an endless exercise as long as the international community and the Afghan government step up and provide the necessary resources and political will to develop a stable, reliable government in Kabul that can rid itself of corruption and provide the necessary security and public services that its citizens demand. Finally, the delegates heard from Lord Robertson, former Secretary General of NATO and the current President of Chatham House.

Finally, Madam Speaker I am pleased to report that Rep. JO ANN EMERSON was re-elected Chairperson of the Committee on the Civil

Dimension of Security along with DENNIS MOORE, JOHN SHIMKUS, JEFF MILLER, JOHN BOOZMAN, BEN CHANDLER, and CAROLYN MCCARTHY who were all re-elected as Vice-Chairpersons of their respective Committees. Our colleague MIKE ROSS was also re-elected as the Rapporteur for the Political Committee's subcommittee on Transatlantic Relations. Our newest additions to the officer list include MIKE TURNER who was elected Vice-Chairperson of the Science and Technology Committee and DAVID SCOTT who was elected as a Rapporteur also on the Science and Technology Committee.

In sum, Madam Speaker, the fall session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Edinburgh was a success and as President of the Assembly, I took pride in the deliberations and participation of the delegates from all 28 member nations and our associate and observer members. For Members of the House or Senate interested in reading the Committee reports or presentations mentioned in this statement, they are all available on the NPA web site at www.nato-pa.int. I also want to take this opportunity to thank Dana Linnet, and Don Pena and all of the fine men and women of our embassy in London and Consulate in Edinburgh for the wonderful job they did assisting the delegation.

BELFAST

Prior to the NATO PA plenary, the U.S. delegation traveled to Belfast, Northern Ireland. The delegation received a country briefing, which included a general overview of the history and the current political and economic situation in North Ireland, from our Consul General Kamala Lakhdir and Deputy Consul General Kevin Roland. One of the main issues discussed was the need to resolve remaining challenges related to policing and justice. The briefers expressed the hope that more progress will be made on those fronts in the next few months. The delegation held bilateral meetings in Belfast in order to demonstrate support for the fragile peace process and assess growing economic development opportunities. At the Northern Ireland Policing Board, the delegation spoke with senior officials, police officers, and politicians regarding its work overseeing the Police Service of Northern Ireland. We discussed the increasing participation of Catholic police officers, efforts to improve community policing as a means of building trust within all neighborhoods, and remaining challenges regarding the contentious issue of devolving policing and justice issues from London to Belfast.

The delegation spent several hours at the Stormont Assembly holding discussions with First Minister Peter Robinson, Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness, and Speaker William Hay. These political leaders were frank about the challenges still facing Northern Ireland, particularly as regards policing matters. However, they also stressed the importance of economic development, jobs and infrastructure for enabling future progress. The delegation then observed a plenary debate in the Assembly.

Members saw first-hand efforts to stimulate economic development, including the attraction of foreign direct investment, in Northern Ireland. They visited Titanic Quarter, the largest commercial development site in Europe. The 186 acres will be developed as a blue-chip technology district, including apartments, a film studio, an entertainment section, and an

exhibition of the ship's history. The delegation also spoke with officials at the Northern Ireland Science Park who are working to bring together venture capitalists and entrepreneurs.

In addition, the delegation observed a community event which included a basketball game between Catholic and Protestant teenage girls organized by an American NGO called Peace Players. Sponsored by the Belfast Lord Mayor on the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the event was held at the Peace Walls that still divide the communities of Belfast. The Members also visited a cultural center in West Belfast (Catholic/Nationalist area), where Gerry Adams (MP-Sinn Fein party) stopped by and made brief remarks. Normandy

Madam Speaker, as has been a tradition with the U.S. delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly when we travel to Europe over either Veteran's Day or Memorial Day, the delegation makes an effort to visit a U.S. cemetery to pay our respects to our service men and women. On this occasion, we visited Normandy, holding a solemn commemorative ceremony and laying a wreath at the memorial in the American Cemetery. These visits are perhaps the most memorable and poignant moments of the delegation's trip. As our colleagues know, the critical WWII European campaign was launched on the bloody beaches of Normandy and eventually resulted in the defeat of the Nazi regime. The delegation visited the resting place of almost 9,400 U.S. soldiers, sailors, and airman who died in the liberation of France, and Europe, on Omaha and Utah beaches. The beautiful cemetery and visitors' facility overlooking Omaha Beach and the Ranger monument at Pointe du Hoc are managed by the U.S. American Battle Monuments Commission. We were deeply honored to visit the cemetery and want to thank Mr. Dan Neese, the Cemetery Superintendent, for his hospitality and the fine job he and his staff do to preserve the memory of those U.S. servicemen who gave their lives in such a noble cause. We also wish to recognize and thank Anaëlle Ferrand, our Control Officer, and Walter Frankland, Deputy Chief of Staff, European region of the American Battle Monuments Commission for their fine assistance during our brief stay.

SCOTLAND

The delegation was pleased to receive a briefing by U.S. Consul General Dana Linnet (Principal Officer). Linnet gave a brief overview of some of the economic and political issues relating to Scotland, including the issue of devolution. The delegation also held several bilateral meetings in Edinburgh. We met with Scottish Justice Minister Kenny MacAskill to discuss his decision to grant compassionate release to Abdel Basset al-Megrahi, the convicted bomber of Pan Am flight 103 that exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland. We expressed our deep disappointment regarding the Minister's decision, raising numerous issues regarding his handling of the case. We discussed U.S.-Scottish trade and cultural links with officials from the Scottish government, and we spoke about current political developments with the Scottish Parliament's Presiding Officer Alex Fergusson. The delegation was particularly interested to learn about the legislation that called for a referendum on Scotland's independence from the U.K. In addition, the delegation met senior Scottish military officials to discuss challenges facing the

NATO alliance in Afghanistan including public support for the mission in Afghanistan which is low in the U.K. and for which more must be done to strengthen public support for the efforts there.

Madam Speaker, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly provides a unique opportunity for Members of Congress to engage in serious discussions on critical issues with our colleagues from other NATO member states, associate and observer states. I believe our delegation, and thus this Congress, benefits greatly from the information we exchange and the personalities we meet during these meetings. I look forward to our next NATO PA session in February in Brussels, Belgium.

In conclusion, I would like to again acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our Consular staffs in both Belfast and Edinburgh, for their hard work and dedication. I especially want to thank our entire military escort group from the United States Air Force, and Air Force Reserves, including our very fine pilots. Our diplomatic corps and military personnel provide a quiet but invaluable service in ensuring our safety and the success of our delegation business. This group of diplomats, service men and women was no exception. I thank them for their hard work and their dedication to duty.

REMEMBERING JODI ESQUIVEL

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, on Friday October 30, 2009 Jodi Esquivel passed away after a two-year long battle with kidney cancer.

Jodi, a middle school English teacher in Nederland, Texas touched many lives in her short 27 years of life. Her smile was infectious and her unwavering strength and endless faith touched all those she met.

In 2007, after suffering months of back pain, Jodi was diagnosed with kidney cancer. She was in the early stages of her second pregnancy when results of an MRI showed a cancerous tumor in her kidney that had spread to her spine in three places.

Jodi leaves behind husband Justin and three year old daughter Hallie. Her family and friends celebrate Jodi for the love she shared with them and the lessons she taught them throughout her life.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF ADA MARIE HAGAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Ada Marie Hagan, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend, whose lived her life with grace, wit, love and passionate commitment to family, community and social justice issues.

The matriarch of her family, Mrs. Hagan grew up in Youngstown, Ohio, the daughter of

Italian immigrants. Her parents instilled in her a strong sense of faith, family, hard work and community. She met and married the love of her life, State Representative and comedian, the late Robert Emmet Hagan, also from the Youngstown area. Together, they raised four-teen children, teaching them the values of hard work, dedication to family and giving to others—all by example.

Ahead of her time, Mrs. Hagan became a champion on behalf of social justice issues early on, and involved herself and her children in several activist movements, including the civil rights movement and worker's rights movement. Inspired by the Catholic worker's movement, Mrs. Hagan volunteered on behalf of unions and became involved in many social causes. She regularly marched with her young children down the main streets of Youngstown in support of fair housing, civil rights, peace and other causes. In addition, she volunteered her time and talents on behalf of those seeking public office, including her children. Her dedication to community service was life-long; at the age of 80, Mrs. Hagan led a group of friends and family in Washington, DC, in the Million Mom March to protest against guns.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mrs. Ada Marie Hagan, whose joyous life, framed by devotion to family, friends and service to community, will always be celebrated and remembered. I extend my deepest condolences to her children: Katie, Maggie, Jim, Tim, Bill, Bob, Jack, Chris, Anne, Elaine, Monica, Susan, Mary Therese and Jeff; to her 28 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; and also to her extended family members and many friends. Mrs. Hagan's youthful spirit, great sense of humor, boundless energy and strong convictions inspired countless people of all ages and backgrounds, promoted positive change, and helped to lift our community and our nation into the light of human rights and social justice—and she will never be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. LUJÁN. Madam Speaker, due to scheduling conflicts, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes Nos. 889, 890, and 891. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all three votes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, on the afternoon of December 11, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and failed to record my vote on rollcall vote 966. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on the Bachus substitute amendment to H.R. 4173.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
IDELL "SCOTTY" MILLER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of the beloved Idell "Scotty" Miller, devoted wife of the late John Miller; loving mother of John Jr. (deceased), Frank, Tyrone, Stanley, Czerny, and Linda; cherished grandmother of 17, devoted great-grandmother of 44, and loving great-great-grandmother of 18; loving aunt and dear friend to many.

Mrs. Miller devoted her life to her faith. Her family was the foundation and joy of her life. She and Mr. Miller created a loving home to raise their children. She never missed the special events in the lives of her children and grandchildren and she would prepare wonderful family dinners for them. Mrs. Miller, also known for her wonderful laugh, great sense of humor and generous heart, lived life with great joy and love. She was a true matriarch within her family.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Mrs. Idell Miller, whose joyous spirit and love for others will exist forever within the hearts and memories of those who knew her best—her family and friends. I extend my deepest condolences to her family.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
RUTHE B. COWL REHABILITA-
TION CENTER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the Ruthe B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center serving Laredo, Texas, Webb County, and surrounding areas. This center is nationally renowned and serves a wide range of comprehensive services including physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech pathology, ideological assessment, counseling, and social services.

The late Mrs. Ruthe B. Cowl founded the Center in 1958 with a mission to establish a treatment center for people with disabilities of all kinds. Formerly known as the Laredo Rehabilitation Center, the Ruthe B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center assists to the needs of disabled, physically challenged and handicapped individuals through a series of treatments and services. This grand initiative started on modest means of two small rooms of an old Health Department in 1959. Since 1966, the Center has continued to expand. The Center was re-named by Board Resolution to the Ruthe B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center in 1970 to honor Mrs. Cowl for her tireless efforts for disabled services. Today, the Center stands as a beautiful, modern facility of nearly 33,000 square feet.

The Ruthe B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center has been acclaimed at the State and National levels for being a pacesetter in the services provided in the area of rehabilitation. The Center is responsible for bringing many firsts to the Laredo and surrounding areas. The Center

plays a unique role in the community for achieving its mission to provide specialized services to those with birth defects, strokes, brain injuries, amputations, emotional problems and other physical conditions that impact quality of life. For 50 years, the Center has ensured that the certified, dedicated staff equipped with the best equipment and services are able to serve the community. The Center is a nonprofit organization which serves an average of 135 patients per day. It has provided millions of therapy visits to all in need regardless of the patient's ability to pay. The dedication, passion, and commitment that the Ruthe B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center has provided for the past 50 years have been a great service to the community.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Ruthe B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center. The Center is celebrating 50 years of service and continuing its mission to assist all disabled, handicapped and physically challenged individuals who deserve quality life and treatment. I thank you for this time.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding an earmark I received as part of H.R. 3288, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman JERRY MORAN

Bill Number: H.R. 3288

Account: Military Construction/VA, Department of Defense, Army

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fort Riley, Kansas

Address of Requesting Entity: 500 Huebner Road, Fort Riley, KS 66442

Description of Request: Provide \$7,100,000 to upgrade the Estes Road access control point at Fort Riley, KS to a primary use gate, to include new guard booths for new entry and exit lanes, perimeter fencing, visitor's center, gatehouse with over-watch position, and additional road extensions for the intersections of Victory Drive, Armistead Road, and Kitty Drive.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
STEPHEN JOHN KOVACIK III

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Stephen John Kovacik III, beloved son, brother, uncle and friend. He lived with great joy and a passionate commitment to the arts, to his family and friends, and to issues of social justice.

Mr. Kovacik had an engaging personality. He was extremely well-read and could spark an interest and a smile from everyone he met. He followed politics, and he was a long-time supporter of progressive candidates and

issues. He had a special interest in issues related to unions and the rights of workers. Mr. Kovacik was known for his compassionate heart and could always be counted on to lend a helping hand.

I extend my deepest condolences to his mother, Landa; to his sister, Lisa; to his brothers, David and Robert; to his niece and nephews, Elizabeth, Walker and Thomas; to his brother-in-law David and sister-in-law Magaly; and to his extended family members and many friends.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mr. Stephen John Kovacik III. Stephen John Kovacik's love for life, generous heart and kind demeanor lifted the lives of others. His soulful spirit will live on forever in the hearts and memories of his family and friends.

TRIBUTE TO HARRISON HIGH
SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Harrison High School marching band for being selected to participate in this year's Macys' Thanksgiving Day Parade. The Hoyas were one of 8 high school marching bands chosen nationwide to participate in this once in a lifetime experience.

Being awarded this prestigious distinction for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is recognition of being one of the very best high school bands in the country. The Hoyas' selection is a testament to their dedication, devotion and hard work. The parade was a perfect opportunity for them to showcase their skills and countless hours of practice, and anyone who saw the parade on TV on Thanksgiving Day knows they did us proud.

I'd also like to commend the parents, faculty, and entire community who worked to make this possible by supporting the 193-member band.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of all my constituents, I am proud to congratulate the Hoyas on their selection and for their success at the parade.

IN HONOR OF MAYOR CHARLES E.
MOYER

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Charles E. Moyer, the mayor of Ebensburg, Pennsylvania. He is retiring after 16 years as mayor. His hard work and dedication have had an immense impact on his community.

Mr. Moyer was born and raised in Ebensburg, where he attended Holy Name Grade School and Central Cambria High School before taking classes at Saint Francis University. He lives with his loving wife, Rose, and together they raised their daughter Denise and their late son David.

Mr. Moyer began serving Ebensburg in 1963 as a member of the Dauntless Fire Company and was its captain from 1973 to 1983. He first joined the Ebensburg Borough Council in 1974 and became council president in 1984, an office he held until he became mayor in 1994.

Mr. Moyer has been an officer of the Cambria County Boroughs Association since 1986, is a member of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Board of Trustees and Directors, and represents the association on the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's New Product Evaluation Committee. Since 1997, Mr. Moyer has served on the Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority, working to develop recreational resources, including playgrounds and trail projects, in Cambria County. For the past 5 years, Mr. Moyer has also been a member of the Cambria County Airport Authority and has served on the board of directors for the Cambria Somerset Council of Governments for 15 years, including 2 years as the president.

Madam Speaker, during his distinguished career, Mr. Moyer received the Thomas F. Chrostwaite Award in 1993, the Distinguished Service Award in 2002, the Board of Directors Award in 2003, and the A.C. Scales Award from the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs in 2007 for exceptionally outstanding service.

As mayor and councilman, Mr. Moyer has been instrumental in the many improvements in Ebensburg. Most recently, the borough enacted a \$1.3 million Streetscape program to revitalize the downtown, which has allowed for the construction of Penn Eben Park with a gazebo-style band shell, new sidewalks, street lights, benches and trees as well as renovations of many buildings. New businesses have nearly filled all the storefronts in downtown Ebensburg.

Madam Speaker, I conclude my remarks by commending Charles E. Moyer for his service to his community. Through his years as a volunteer fireman, a councilman and finally as mayor, he has continually worked to make Ebensburg Borough a better place. His retirement closes a chapter on a long and fruitful career and the people of Ebensburg, along with those of us who have worked with Charlie, will surely miss him.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
JEAN ELSNER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Jean Elsner, age 90, whose youthful spirit and lifelong quest for learning is being recognized at Cleveland State University's fall commencement ceremony, where she will be awarded the coveted President's Medal.

Mrs. Elsner grew up in Cleveland's Buckeye neighborhood during the Great Depression. Her parents were hardworking and resourceful, despite the harsh economic times. Even when they lost their home to foreclosure, and during a time when young women were not encouraged to further their education, her par-

ents always stuck to their plan for her to go to college. In 1941, she graduated magna cum laude with bachelor's degrees in English and Sociology from Ohio University, and her quest for learning, sparked early on by her parents, never diminished.

In 1982, Mrs. Elsner and a friend signed up to take a class at Cleveland State University, and she has been enrolled ever since. For nearly thirty years, she has taken two to three classes every semester. She holds the record for the most classes taken by any one student at Cleveland State—more than 100. Whether rain, sleet or snow, Mrs. Elsner walks to the bus stop every day she has a class and takes the bus downtown from her home in South Euclid. Mrs. Elsner's positive attitude and boundless energy continue to inspire. Her love of life and devotion to family and friends continues to frame each day. Together, she and her beloved husband, the late Sidney Elsner, raised three sons and instilled within them the same values of hard work and the significance of a solid college education.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Jean Elsner, whose exuberance for life, quick smile, caring heart and love for learning continues to enrich and inspire students, professors, friends and family. We wish her continued health, peace and happiness in all the years to come.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, consistent with the House Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, to the best of my knowledge the requests I have detailed below are (1) not directed to an entity or program that will be named after a sitting Member of Congress; and (2) not intended to be used by an entity to secure funds for other entities unless the use of funding is consistent with the specified purpose of the earmark. As required by earmark standards adopted by the House Republican Conference, I submit the following information on projects I requested and that were included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010, H.R. 3288.

Account: Transportation & Community & System Preservation

Project Name: 5th and 6th Street Reconstruction, OR

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: City of Redmond, 716 SW., Evergreen Avenue, Redmond, Oregon 97756

Project Location: Madras, Oregon

Description of Project: H.R. 3288 appropriates \$779,200 for the 5th and 6th Street Reconstruction project located in Redmond, Oregon. According to the requesting entity, funding would be used to remove and replace existing pavement surfacing and sub-grade material and restore the street section to minor arterial standard. According to the City of Redmond, this is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it will encourage local use and the 5th/6th Street Couplet cannot be properly maintained without reconstruction, as the existing condition cannot accommodate additional maintenance treatments.

Account: Surface Transportation Priorities

Project Name: U.S. Highway 97 and J Street Intersection Project, OR

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: City of Madras, 71 SE "D" Street, Madras, Oregon, 97741

Project Location: Madras, Oregon

Description of Project: H.R. 3288 appropriates \$681,800 for the U.S. Highway 97 and J Street Intersection Project located in Madras, Oregon. According to the requestor, funds would be used to modernize and realign the intersection of J Street where it bisects U.S. Highways 26 and 97 within the city limits of Madras, Oregon. According to the City of Madras, this is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it will improve transportation safety and efficiency, create and preserve jobs, and enable further economic development.

Account: Surface Transportation Priorities

Project Name: Brett Way Extension, OR

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: City of Klamath Falls, 500 Klamath Avenue, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Project Location: Klamath Falls, Oregon

Description of Project: H.R. 3288 appropriates \$292,200 for the Brett Way Extension, OR Project located in Klamath Falls, Oregon. According to the requestor, funds would go towards closure of an unsafe intersection located at Summers Lane and the South Side Bypass and the extension of Brett Way from Summers Lane to Homedale Road, as well as installation of water line and sanitary sewer, construction of a bridge over an existing canal, and elimination of an uncontrolled rail crossing on Summers Lane. According to the City of Klamath Falls, this is a valuable use of taxpayer dollars because it would open access to the underutilized airport industrial park area as well as provide much needed alternate access to the airport.

Account: Economic Development Initiatives

Project Name: For the reconstruction and construction needs of facilities which are critical to the local economy

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Pendleton Round-Up, 1114 SW Court Avenue, Pendleton, OR, 97801

Project Location: Pendleton, Oregon

Description of Project: H.R. 3288 appropriates \$487,000 for the Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon Facilities Improvements located in Pendleton, Oregon. According to the requestor, funds would be used to construct the Centennial Grandstand facility to replace an aging structure that has outlived its useful life and to complete the reconstruction of the four-phase project at Happy Canyon. According to the Pendleton Round-Up, this is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because this project would preserve a world renowned rodeo and Native American cultural event.

RECOGNIZING THE VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES' 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Village of Hoffman Estates, a town in my district that is celebrating a milestone anniversary this year. This community has made a

unique contribution to the district I represent, and to the State of Illinois.

The Village of Hoffman Estates is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Located in Cook County, Hoffman Estates was established in 1954 when a local farmer sold his 160 acre farm to Sam and Jack Hoffman, owners of the Father and Son Construction Company. The Hoffmans built a development and in 1959, the residents of the subdivision voted to incorporate as the village of Hoffman Estates. In the following decades, Hoffman Estates continued to annex surrounding areas and developments. Business also came to Hoffman Estates including the Sears, Roebuck and Company in 1992.

Madam Speaker, the Village of Hoffman Estates is unique in its history and adds greatly to the vibrant community of the Eighth District of Illinois. I thank all the past leaders of the Village of Hoffman Estates for their dedication to public service; their community would not have reached this milestone without their hard work and commitment. I congratulate Hoffman Estates for reaching their 50th anniversary and I wish them continued success in the future.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,081,709,382,532.35.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,443,283,636,238.55 so far this year.

According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the forecast deficit for this year is \$1.6 trillion. That means that so far this year, we borrowed and spent an average \$4.4 billion a day more than we have collected, passing that debt and its interest payments to our children and all future Americans.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives markets, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4173, the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which will rebuild our economy and crack down on Wall Street to prevent another economic collapse caused by institutions that are "too big to fail."

Over the past year, I, like many Rhode Islanders, have been angered by the greed exhibited by Wall Street and other companies that took advantage of their investors, preyed on our constituents, and rewarded executives with outrageous pay packages. With this bill, consumer protection will come first, and irresponsible companies will be held accountable for their actions.

H.R. 4173 establishes the Consumer Financial Protection Agency, which will protect families and small businesses by ensuring that bank loans, mortgages, credit cards and other financial products are fair, affordable and transparent. Merchants will be excluded from the oversight of the CFPB, and small banks and credit unions will not be subject to undue regulatory burdens. However, the CFPB will play a backup role if the primary regulators fail in their oversight responsibilities.

This measure also establishes an orderly process for dismantling large, failing financial institutions like AIG or Lehman Brothers, which will protect taxpayers and prevent collapse throughout the rest of the financial system. These large institutions will pay into a fund that will be tapped if a company faces dissolution. There will be no more taxpayer bailouts for these "too big to fail" institutions.

Additionally, H.R. 4173 responds to the failure to detect frauds like the Madoff scheme by ordering a study of the entire securities industry. This measure will also increase investor protections by strengthening the Securities and Exchange Commission and boosting its funding level. For the first time ever, the over-the-counter derivatives marketplace will be regulated under this bill and hedge funds will have to register with the SEC. It also takes steps to reduce market reliance on the credit rating agencies and impose a liability standard on the agencies.

I would like to thank the committees for their work on this bill, and especially want to thank Chairman FRANK for his leadership on this strong reform measure. I encourage all my colleagues to vote for this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF BEACH PARK

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the village of Beach Park, a town in my district celebrating a milestone anniversary this year. Each of these communities has made a unique contribution to district I represent, and to the State of Illinois.

The village of Beach Park is celebrating its 20-year anniversary. Located on Lake Michigan, Beach Park was a stop on the Chicago-Milwaukee Electric Railroad named "Beach Depot" in the early 1900s. In 1928, F.H. Bartlett Co. of Chicago purchased land near the rail station and sold parcels of land to city residents looking to escape to the country. In 1949, the community adopted the name of Beach Park and put a school district and fire department in place. But it was not until 1989 that the village of Beach Park was incorporated.

Madam Speaker, the village of Beach Park is unique in its history and adds to the vibrant

community of the Eighth District of Illinois. I thank all the past leaders of the village of Beach Park for their dedication to public service; their community would not have reached this milestone without their hard work and commitment. I congratulate Beach Park reaching their 20th anniversary and I wish them continued success in the future.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3288,
CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill.

Too many of our fellow citizens are suffering as a result of the biggest economic downturn in 75 years. In light of the number of Americans who continue to be unemployed or under-employed, it is essential that we focus our efforts on helping Americans find jobs. H.R. 3288 is responsible legislation which will help employ Americans, assist communities suffering from decreases in tax payments, and provide more stability to our economy.

H.R. 3288 would put an estimated 1.5 million Americans back to work by investing \$41.8 billion in improving our transportation infrastructure. The bill also provides 4.5 billion for commuter and passenger rail projects to help reduce congestion and provide more environmentally-friendly ways for Americans to get to work and travel. I am pleased that my colleague from Pennsylvania PATRICK MURPHY and I were able to get language removed from this bill preventing Amtrak from being able to offer discounted fares to commuters on the Northeast Corridor. Since it was first included in the 2006 Fiscal Year, this language prevented Amtrak from being able to offer a more than 50 percent discount off peak fares to commuters on any of its lines. This resulted in a 20 percent fare increase to my constituents. The removal of this provision recognizes the need to make public transportation more affordable and more accessible, and I expect it will result in discounted Amtrak ticket rates.

Our economy nearly collapsed last year because of the combination of reckless and abusive financial services and mortgage-industry practices, and astounding regulatory failures. To help re-establish real oversight and control over our financial markets, the bill provides \$1.111 billion to strengthen and enforce rules that govern investments and financial markets and to detect and prosecute fraudulent schemes, and allow the hiring of another 420 investigators, lawyers and analysts to support the mission of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The bill also provides \$292 million to strengthen the Federal Trade Commission's capacity to protect consumers and combat anti-competitive behavior. Additionally, the bill allocates \$118 million for the Consumer Product Safety Commission to continue implementing bipartisan consumer protection legislation enacted in 2008 in response to massive toxic product scandals, including children's toys from China.

The bill also provides \$1.4 billion for training and support services to workers affected by

mass layoffs and plant closures, and \$125 million for competitive grants to community colleges and partnership with local adult education providers to prepare workers for careers in high-demand and emerging industries. To assist affected parents in ensuring that their children get good meals and quality health care, the bill provides \$7.2 billion for Head Start, an investment that will help nearly 1 million children from low-income families.

To help America's students pay for a college education, this bill maintains the discretionary portion of the maximum Pell Grant at \$4,860, which, combined with a mandatory supplement of \$690, will support a \$5,550 maximum Pell Grant in FY 2010. Since January 2007, the maximum Pell Grant has been increased by \$1,500 or 37 percent—from \$4,050 to \$5,550. In FY 2010, more than 8 million college students will receive Pell Grants.

This bill maintains investments in math and science education by providing \$180 million toward the Department of Education's Mathematics and Science Partnerships. The program is the only national teacher development program available to teachers across the U.S.

It is widely understood that early language education is the key to language proficiency later on. In order to start addressing the pressing needs for skilled linguists and other language professionals that currently exist, this bill maintains investments in the Foreign Language Assistance Program at \$27 million, which is currently the only federal program that supports foreign language education at the elementary and secondary school level.

This bill also contains provision and funding for programs to protect Americans' access to health care coverage until national health care reform is enacted. To that end, the bill provides \$2.2 billion to provide primary health care to 17 million patients, of whom 40 percent are uninsured, in 7,500 service delivery sites. These centers provide high quality care in both urban and rural underserved areas across the country. The bill also seeks to increase the number of health care professionals by providing \$498 million to support the training of health professionals in fields where there are shortages, such as nursing. And to help find cures for the diseases afflicting Americans, the bill provides \$31 billion for NIH-funded biomedical research to improve health and reduce health care expenditures.

At a time when the recession has created a fiscal crisis for state and local governments, requiring them to let go of key law enforcement and related personnel, federal support for state and local law enforcement programs has never been more important. To help keep police on the beat, the bill provides \$792 million to support local law enforcement agencies with hiring, technology, training, body armor, and sex-offender enforcement management grants. This includes \$298 million specifically for COPS Hiring Grants to hire or retain approximately 1,400 police officers. The bill also provides \$519 million for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program, which helps local law enforcement agencies engage in a broad range of activities to better fight and prevent crime. I'm pleased that this year several municipalities in my district will receive funding for projects under this program, including the Borough of Jamesburg (to modernize communications), the city of Trenton (for an anti-gang program), and the township of North Brunswick (for a video surveillance system).

Meeting our obligations to America's veterans is a national trust. The bill provides over \$109 billion for the operation of the Department of Veterans Affairs, with \$45.1 billion allocated for medical care. In a breakthrough long sought by veterans, the bill also provides advance appropriations for the VA to ensure a stable and uninterrupted source of funding for medical care for veterans, providing \$48.2 billion for FY 2011.

I am very pleased that this bill reflects a strong commitment by this Congress to provide robust, secure funding for science. The bill keeps the U.S. on track to double the funding for basic research by providing over \$31 billion for the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. An additional \$31 billion will support biomedical research through the National Institutes of Health. These investments in our science and innovation infrastructure will help create jobs immediately while stimulating the discoveries and investments that will ensure sustained economic growth in the future.

I am also pleased that this bill includes \$17.4 million in disability access funding under the Help America Vote Act, including \$12.1 million to help ensure that polling places are accessible and \$5.3 million for protection and advocacy funding. The bill also includes \$70 million in funding to help States meet the voting system requirements of the Help America Vote Act, and better protect and preserve the integrity of elections. This sum is much less than I requested, and it is less than the \$100 million passed in the House, but it will go a long way in helping States improve the administration of elections—the foundation of our Democracy.

Finally, this bill makes much needed investments in our foreign affairs institutions, including funding increases that will allow the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development to hire additional foreign service personnel to address the neglected staffing needs of these agencies. Key initiatives continue to receive vigorous support, including efforts to combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases, agriculture and food security programs, basic education programs, microfinance and microcredit, and the Peace Corps. I am especially pleased that the final bill recognizes the important contributions that scientists and scientific engagement can make to our international relations.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this critical funding bill.

RECOGNIZING THE VILLAGE OF
FOX RIVER GROVE'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Village of Fox River Grove, a town in my district that is celebrating a milestone anniversary this year. This community has made a unique contribution to the district I represent, and to the State of Illinois.

The Village of Fox River Grove is celebrating its 90th anniversary. Located along the

Fox River in both Lake and McHenry Counties, Fox River Grove was the winter home of the Ojibwa Indians until the 1860s. In 1869, Frank Opatrny purchased 80 acres along the Fox River. In 1905, the Norge Ski Club purchased land in Fox River Grove and erected a ski jump and in the 1950s the site was host to America's first international ski-jumping contest. Today, the Norge Ski Club is the oldest, continuously open ski club in the United States. Since incorporation in 1919, Fox River Grove has grown from a ski destination to a year-round residential community.

Madam Speaker, the Village of Fox River Grove is unique in its history and adds to the vibrant community of the Eighth District of Illinois. I thank all the past leaders of the Village of Fox River Grove for their dedication to public service; their community would not have reached this milestone without their hard work and commitment. I congratulate Fox River Grove for reaching their 90th anniversary and I wish them continued success in the future.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives markets, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009 and the comprehensive approach it takes to reining in systemic risk, curbing excessive speculation and restoring transparency, accountability and oversight to our financial system.

In the wake of the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, the Democratic majority has launched a series of deliberate and wide-ranging initiatives to stem that crisis—and those initiatives are clearly working.

Our economy is no longer in free fall. Markets are sharply up. Foreclosures are starting to come down. The vicious spiral of job destruction we inherited from the past Administration is now slowing.

We know we are headed in the right direction—but we also know there is more work to do. We will not stop until our economy has fully recovered, there is a good-paying job for every American who wants one, and we have launched a new era of broadly shared American prosperity.

This legislation represents the next step on our nation's road back to recovery. To make sure we never have another AIG, this bill establishes a Financial Stability Council charged with the exclusive mission of identifying and regulating systemic risk. In the future, a Systemic Dissolution Fund will be able to safely wind down failing firms so that taxpayers aren't left holding the bag. To protect consumers, today's legislation creates a new Consumer Financial Protection Agency to police our markets for abusive financial products and

services. We are bringing transparency and oversight to our derivatives markets. Investors will get a better shake, credit rating agencies will face reforms and shareholders will get a "say on pay."

I want to commend Chairman FRANK, Chairman PETERSON and their staffs for their hard work on this legislation. I urge my colleagues' support.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I am submitting the following earmark disclosure information for project requests that I made and which were included within H.R. 3288, the "Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY2010."

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN DUNCAN

Account: OJP—Juvenile Justice

Project Amount: \$250,000

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Childhelp of East Tennessee, 2505 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919

Description of Request: The funding would assist Childhelp in expanding its services to more children in Knox County and the surrounding region who have suffered abuse. Specifically, the Children Center of East Tennessee will expand its forensic interview capacity and related services to more Knox County children who have, in the past, been turned away, as well as its community based forensic interview and medical examination services.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF LAKE BARRINGTON

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Village of Lake Barrington, a town in my district celebrating a milestone anniversary this year. This community has made a unique contribution to the district I represent, and to the State of Illinois.

The Village of Lake Barrington is celebrating its 50-year anniversary. Believed to be first populated by the Potowanami Indians, recent discovery of burial grounds suggest an established Native American presence in the Lake Barrington area. Lake Barrington remained rural and minimally populated until the 20th century when Chicago businessmen began turning the farms into estates. Incorporated in 1959, local residents voted Jorgen Hubschman as the first village president. Lake Barrington has grown over the past 50 years from a community of just 200 residents to a village of 5,000. Recently, the Village of Lake Barrington established a Tree Preservation Code and is currently recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a "Tree City U.S.A." community. Though the village has grown, Lake

Barrington has sought to preserve its scenic charm that continues to make the village an attractive place to live.

Madam Speaker, the Village of Lake Barrington is unique in its history and adds greatly to the vibrant community of the Eighth District of Illinois. I thank all the past leaders of the Village of Lake Barrington for their dedication to public service; their community would not have reached this milestone without their hard work and commitment. I congratulate Lake Barrington for reaching their 50th anniversary and I wish them continued success in the future.

NATIONAL PRADER-WILLI SYNDROME AWARENESS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr Speaker, I rise before you today in support of H. Res. 55, "Expressing support for the designation of a National Prader-Willi Syndrome Awareness Month to raise awareness of and promote research into this challenging disorder." I would like thank my colleague, Rep. EDWARD ROYCE, for introducing this act of solidarity, as well as the co-sponsors.

Prader-Willi syndrome is a complex genetic disorder that occurs in approximately 1 out of every 15,000 births, and is the most commonly known genetic cause of life-threatening obesity.

It affects males and females with equal frequency and affects all races and ethnicities, causing an extreme and insatiable appetite, often resulting in morbid obesity, which is the major cause of death for individuals with the syndrome. The syndrome also causes cognitive and learning disabilities, and behavioral difficulties, such as obsessive-compulsive disorder and difficulty controlling emotions.

The hunger, metabolic, and behavioral characteristics of Prader-Willi syndrome force affected individuals to require constant and life-long supervision in a controlled environment; Studies have shown that there is a high morbidity and mortality rate for individuals with Prader-Willi syndrome, and there is no known cure.

Early diagnosis allows families to access treatment, intervention services, and support from health professionals, advocacy organizations, and other families who are dealing with the syndrome. Recently discovered treatments, such as human growth hormone, are improving the quality of life for individuals with the syndrome and offer new hope to families, but many difficult symptoms associated with Prader-Willi syndrome remain untreated.

Increased research into this disease can lead to a better understanding of the disorder, more effective treatments, and an eventual cure for Prader-Willi syndrome, and is likely to improve our understanding of common public health concerns, including childhood obesity and mental health.

That is why I join this body in supporting raised awareness and educating the public about Prader-Willi syndrome. I also join in applauding the efforts of advocates and organizations that encourage awareness, promote

research, and provide education, support, and hope to those impacted by Prader-Willi syndrome.

This resolution does all this, as well as recognizing the commitment of parents, families, researchers, health professionals, and others dedicated to finding an effective treatment and eventual cure for Prader-Willi syndrome; supporting increased funding for research into the causes, treatment, and cure for Prader-Willi syndrome; and expressing support for the designation of a National Prader-Willi Syndrome Awareness Month.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I am submitting the following earmark disclosure information for project requests that I made and which were included within H.R. 3288, the "Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY2010."

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN DUNCAN

Account: Salaries and Expenses

Project Amount: \$750,000

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Alcoa, 223 Associates Boulevard, Alcoa, Tennessee 37701

Description of Request: The funding will be utilized to develop infrastructure servicing the new Pellissippi Research Center on the Oak Ridge Corridor.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF NORTH BARRINGTON

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Village of North Barrington, a town in my district celebrating a milestone anniversary this year. This community has made a unique contribution to the district I represent, and to the State of Illinois.

The Village of North Barrington is celebrating its 50-year anniversary. Located 35 miles northwest of Chicago, North Barrington's first settlers arrived in the 1830s. In 1854, the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad built its first station in the Village of Barrington, just south of the community. The first homes in North Barrington include Kimberly House, built in 1857, which was visited on several occasions by President Theodore Roosevelt, cousin of the Kimberly's daughter-in-law. North Barrington continued to develop and in 1959 area residents voted to incorporate as the Village of North Barrington.

Madam Speaker, the Village of North Barrington is unique in its history and adds greatly to the vibrant community of the Eighth District of Illinois. I thank all the past leaders of the Village of North Barrington for their dedication to public service; their community would not have reached this milestone without their hard

work and commitment. I congratulate North Barrington for reaching their 50th anniversary and I wish them continued success in the future.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives markets, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 4173, the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009, and to commend Chairman FRANK, Chairman PETERSON, and the broad coalition of Members who have worked to craft this financial services reform legislation.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was an important first step, but we are still in the throes of recovery from the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, which was caused in large part by more than a decade of regulatory failures. Reckless, abusive and irresponsible practices on the part of some in the mortgage issuance and financial services industries combined to create a perfect storm, resulting in a catastrophic economic collapse. The country had fallen into recession by the end of 2007, which exploded into an economic crisis as the subprime mortgage crisis unwound, Lehman Brothers filed for bankruptcy and AIG collapsed.

The impact on the American people has been profound. Household net worth dropped by more than \$14 trillion from 2007 to mid-2009, the value of retirement assets dropped by 22 percent between 2006 and in mid-2008, total home equity dropped from \$13 trillion in 2006 to \$8.8 trillion by mid-2008, and as of today, almost one in four homeowners owes more on their mortgage than their home is worth. In addition, Americans in every income strata have simply not been protected from even the most egregious behavior. The Securities and Exchange Commission utterly failed to discover and prevent the collapse of a \$65 billion Ponzi scheme, as well as several others which also resulted in billions in losses to investors. Meanwhile, millions of Americans who live paycheck to paycheck and rely on payday loans are being charged annual interest rates of 400 percent or more, totaling nearly \$5 billion per year.

The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act is an aggressive and comprehensive response to the broad spectrum of problems the recent economic crisis brought to light. It creates a new Consumer Financial Protection Agency to ensure that bank loans, mortgages, payday loans, overdraft fees and credit card policies are fair, affordable, understandable, and transparent. It establishes a new Financial Services Oversight Council to monitor and respond to systemic risk, to prevent the sort of tidal wave of catastrophic

interconnected developments that brought down the economy in 2008. It puts measures in place to ensure that there will never again be a company deemed "too big to fail," and it establishes an industry-funded dissolution fund to ensure that taxpayers will not be asked to bail out any such company if it goes into collapse. The bill also includes legislation passed in the House earlier in the year, to regulate the type of incentive-based executive compensation that provoked some of the riskiest and most reckless behavior in the financial services markets, and to prohibit the sorts of fraudulent and abusive mortgage issuance practices that caused the subprime mortgage crisis.

I am also pleased that the bill includes several strengthening amendments I offered, and I thank Chairman FRANK again for his support of those amendments and for including them in the Manager's Amendment. My amendments would clarify that the newly-created Financial Services Oversight Council, rather than one dominant member thereof (the Federal Reserve Board), is the systemic risk regulator empowered under the Act. The amendments would also ensure that the Council is a broad-minded think tank staffed equitably by all of its Voting Members, rather than predominantly by one (the Department of the Treasury). The staff would remain on the payrolls of the detailing agency, pre-empting a budgetary problem for the Council.

In addition, the bill includes two good government amendments I offered, which clarify that financial companies cannot be compelled by the systemic risk regulator to waive any privilege (such as attorney-client privilege) when providing data at the request of the systemic risk regulator, and that the same protection against compelled waiver of privilege applies to private funds, investment advisors and others. In times of crisis and crisis response, we must exercise heightened diligence in protecting and preserving our foundational rights and principles.

The Committee has taken bold steps to confront the failures of our financial services regulatory system, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I am submitting the following earmark disclosure information for project requests that I made and which were included within H.R. 3288, the "Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY2010."

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN DUNCAN

Account: COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Project Amount: \$750,000

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Maryville, 404 W. Broadway Avenue, Maryville, Tennessee 37801

Description of Request: The Blount County Communications System will provide interoperable communications of all departments in Blount County; interoperable communications

with surrounding counties; an increase in range covering parts of Blount County that is currently deficient; portable radio coverage within buildings; and, reduced maintenance costs by operating one instead of many independent systems.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF OLD MILL CREEK

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Old Mill Creek, a town in my district that is celebrating a milestone anniversary this year. This community has made a unique contribution to district I represent, and to the State of Illinois.

The town of Old Mill Creek is celebrating its 50-year anniversary. Located five miles south of the Wisconsin border, Old Mill Creek was first settled by Scottish immigrants as a small agricultural community in the 1830s. One immigrant, Jacob Miller, built a sawmill along the Des Plaines River naming it Millburn, "burn" being the Scottish word for creek. The village of Old Mill Creek was incorporated in 1959. Old Mill Creek remains a rural community with a population of 251.

Madam Speaker, Old Mill Creek is unique in its history and adds greatly to the vibrant community of the Eighth District of Illinois. I thank all the past leaders of the town of Old Mill Creek for their dedication to public service; their community would not have reached this milestone without their hard work and commitment. I congratulate Old Mill Creek for reaching their 50th anniversary and I wish them continued success in the future.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3288, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3288, the Consolidated Appropriations for FY 2010. Our commitment to a strategy of aggression rather than a strategy of dialogue is evident in the State and Foreign Operations portion of this legislation that includes billions of dollars in military aid, sanctions and funds for policies in the Middle East that undermine the Administration's call for a commitment to diplomacy. There are many laudable provisions in this bill but I cannot support legislation that includes funding for programs and support for the failed policies of aggression and disregard for international human rights.

I oppose the inclusion of the Export-Import Bank provision regarding Iran. This section calls on the President to implement the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 and encourages all foreign governments to require state-owned and private entities to cease all investment in Iran's energy sector. In June of this year, I joined the House of Representatives in voting

to express support for the people of Iran who embrace the values of freedom, civil liberties and human rights. Sanctions are meant to destabilize economies and have disastrous effects on the citizens at the receiving end. This provision will not harm the leadership in Iran; it will harm the people of Iran we claim to support.

I oppose the inclusion of \$239 million in foreign military financing for Pakistan. More unmanned drone attacks have been authorized in the first few months of this Administration than in the last year of the Bush Administration. Hundreds of innocent civilians have been killed by these predator drones that contravene international law and cement anti-American sentiment. Military operations in the region will only serve to further destabilize a faltering Pakistan and undermine our national security.

This legislation includes provisions that further undermine the image of the United States in the Middle East as an honest broker. It includes language that places conditions on aid to the West Bank and Gaza that cannot be satisfied in the immediate future. At the same time, the bill provides military aid to Israel without investigating credible accusations that Israel is using weapons provided by the U.S. in an offensive posture in contravention of U.S. law and international law. The perception of the U.S. as an honest broker is necessary for good-faith negotiations.

I support many provisions in this bill, such as the \$4.8 billion investment in transportation infrastructure and \$1.4 billion allocated for dislocated worker programs. I fully support the \$2.2 billion authorized for Community Health Centers that provide primary health care to almost 17 million patients, forty-percent of whom are uninsured. The \$14.5 billion appropriated for Title 1 grants for 20 million disadvantaged children in school districts across the country and high-quality early learning programs are to be supported.

Regrettably, these essential services were folded into a continuing resolution with programs that I cannot support. We cannot claim to travel the path toward peace when funding for a strengthened diplomatic core is paralleled by funding for policies of isolation and aggression.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I am submitting the following earmark disclosure information for project requests that I made and which were included within H.R. 3288, the "Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY2010."

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN DUNCAN

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSAA)—Health Facilities and Services

Project Amount: \$1,350,000

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: UT Medical Center, 1924 Alcoa Highway, Knoxville, TN 37920

Description of Request: The funding would be used for renovation and expansion of the

Family Medicine Building and Clinic at the UT Medical Center.

RECOGNIZING THE VILLAGE OF ROUND LAKE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Round Lake, a village in my district celebrating a milestone anniversary this year. This community has made a unique contribution to district I represent, and to the State of Illinois.

The Village of Round Lake is celebrating its 100th anniversary. In the 1890s, when officials of the Chicago, Milwaukee, & St. Paul Railroad announced an extension of the Milwaukee-Chicago line, landowners near Hainesville, IL knew a railroad station would increase property values. One such resident, Amarias White, offered the railroad free land in exchange for a station. White succeeded and Round Lake, named after the nearby lake, became the area station. In 1909, the village incorporated with White as the first village president. Through the beginning of the 20th Century, Round Lake's population remained predominately agricultural and the lake acted as a summer retreat for Chicago residents. Today, Round Lake continues to develop as a suburban community.

Madam Speaker, the Village of Round Lake is unique in its history and adds to the vibrant community of the Eighth District of Illinois. I thank all the past leaders of the Village of Round Lake for their dedication to public service; their community would not have reached this milestone without their hard work and commitment. I congratulate Round Lake for reaching their 100th anniversary and I wish them continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, on December 11, 2009, I was not able to be present for votes on four amendments to H.R. 4173, the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" rollcall vote 963 and rollcall vote 964, and I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 965 and rollcall vote 966.

HONORING TONY PINI

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor Tony Pini, a popular leader and a family man, who served as Fire Chief in Santa Rosa, California, for 18 years. Tony passed away December 8, 2009, at the age of 62.

Born in San Francisco and raised in that city and in South San Francisco, Tony joined the Navy after high school. He served aboard the destroyer USS *Radford* off Vietnam, and while still in the service, met his future wife Elaine in Honolulu where she was vacationing.

He returned to the Bay Area and, in 1970, became a firefighter in South San Francisco. He was soon promoted to captain, moved on to a division chief position in Campbell, CA, and became fire chief in Santa Cruz in 1981 at the age of 34.

During this time, Tony married Elaine; they had 2 daughters; and Tony earned degrees at the College of San Mateo, the University of San Francisco, and San Jose State University (Masters of Public Administration). Despite his hectic schedule, he made sure he had time for traveling and camping with his family.

In 1985, Tony was hired as Santa Rosa Fire Chief, a job he loved. He worked hard to develop solid relationships with union firefighters, upgrade the engines and equipment, and promote diversity in the department. His friendly, outgoing style suited the city, and he stayed till he retired at the age of 55.

After retirement, Tony continued to enjoy time with family, which grew to include 5 grandchildren. He was a man of wide ranging interests and active disposition who learned languages, played guitar, and studied art through both books and visits to museums.

He is survived by his mother Florene and his brother Rick, as well as his wife, 2 daughters and 5 grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Tony Pini's passing has left an empty space in the Santa Rosa community, and for his wide circle of friends and his family. We thank Tony for his years of inspirational leadership and appreciate all he has given.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH BARRINGTON

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Village of South Barrington, a town in my district celebrating a milestone anniversary this year. This community has made a unique contribution to the district I represent, and to the State of Illinois.

The Village of South Barrington is celebrating its 50-year anniversary. Into the late 1950s, the area was still largely agricultural. In 1959, a group of property owners saw the need for a local government and came together to form a village. Following incorporation, South Barrington continued to build and develop. A parcel of land was donated to the Audubon Society of Chicago by Alex Stillman in 1976, creating the 80-acre Stillman Nature Center.

Madam Speaker, the Village of South Barrington is unique in its history and adds greatly to the vibrant community of the Eighth District of Illinois. I thank all the past leaders of the Village of South Barrington for their dedication to public service; their community would not have reached this milestone without their hard work and commitment. I congratulate South Barrington for reaching their 50th anniversary

and I wish them continued success in the future.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I am submitting the following earmark disclosure information for project requests that I made and which were included within H.R. 3288, the "Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY2010."

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN DUNCAN

Account: Buses & Bus Facilities

Project Amount: \$500,000

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee, Post Office Box 51650, Knoxville, TN 37950

Description of Request: The funding would be used to purchase transit vehicles in order to provide reliable transportation to the residents of Knox County.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, as per the requirements of the Republican Conference Rules on earmarks, I secured the following earmark in H.R. 3288.

Requesting Member: Rep. TOM COLE (OK-4)

Bill Number: H.R. 3288

Account: Air Force, Military Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Vance AFB

Address of Requesting Entity: Vance, AFB, OK

Description of Request: Construct an air traffic control tower for \$10.4 million. The current control tower at Vance AFB was constructed in 1972. The tower is in need of critical upgrades to remain effectively operational and to comply with base architectural standards. New upgrades will allow Vance AFB to continue safe and efficient aerial military operations. The current control tower at Vance AFB was constructed in 1972. The tower is in need of critical upgrades to remain effectively operational and to comply with base architectural standards. New upgrades will allow Vance AFB to continue safe and efficient aerial military operations.

RECOGNIZING THE VILLAGE OF THIRD LAKE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Village of Third Lake, a town in my district celebrating a milestone anniversary this

year. This community has made a unique contribution to the district I represent, and to the State of Illinois.

The Village of Third Lake is celebrating its 50-year anniversary. The area of Third Lake first saw growth with the development of Sunshine Subdivision in the late 1920s. In 1959, residents of the subdivision incorporated to control the pollution of the lake. Development emerged once again in the 1980s and continues today as Third Lake has grown into a suburban community. Uniquely, Third Lake is also home to the North American headquarters for the Free Serbian Orthodox Church.

Madam Speaker, the Village of Third Lake is unique in its history and adds greatly to the vibrant community of the Eighth District of Illinois. I thank all the past leaders of the Village of Third Lake for their dedication to public service; their community would not have reached this milestone without their hard work and commitment. I congratulate Third Lake for reaching their 50th anniversary and I wish them continued success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MS. LYNDA DIXON

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to Lynda Dixon. Her successes are many, but it is her outstanding service to our beloved state that truly sets her apart. I am proud to honor Lynda Dixon for her lifetime of service to her community, our state and our country.

Lynda Dixon was born in Tulare, California and her family moved to Atkins, Arkansas when she was two years old. She is the youngest of four children. She attended Atkins Public Schools and graduated in 1961.

Dixon is retiring from her current position as the Director of Special Services at the Clinton Presidential Library Foundation. Throughout her career, Lynda has been involved in politics. She began her political career in 1976 in Russellville, Arkansas, working for a Prosecuting Attorney. In 1983, she left to serve as personal secretary to Governor Bill Clinton. In 1992 when Governor Clinton was elected President of the United States, she managed his Arkansas office and served as travel companion to his mother, the late Virginia Kelley. Lynda began working for the Clinton Presidential Foundation in 2001.

Dixon remains active with the Arkansas Democratic Party and is a lifetime member of the Arkansas Democratic Women and Senior Democrats of Arkansas. She is also a past-member of the Board of Directors of United Cerebral Palsy; volunteers with the Arkansas Foodbank Network; is a member of Volunteers in Public Schools; served on the Partners in Education Committee sponsored by the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce; mentors at Clinton Elementary Magnet School and is often fundraising for political and charitable organizations she supports. She is a member of Second Baptist Church and McKinney/Maloch Sunday School Class.

Lynda Dixon embodies the values of service, leadership and commitment to community that has made our state and our nation the

great place it is today. She has dedicated her life to serving people and we are grateful for the impact she has made. On behalf of the United States Congress I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and honoring the lifetime and career achievements of Lynda Dixon.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I am submitting the following earmark disclosure information for project requests that I made and which were included within H.R. 3288, the "Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY2010."

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN DUNCAN

Account: Buses & Bus Facilities

Project Amount: \$750,000

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Blount County, 341 Court Street, Maryville, TN 37804

Description of Request: The project seeks to improve 2.23 miles of Morganton Road by widening the road to 12 foot wide travel lanes with 3 feet wide improved shoulders on either side, to make intersection improvements at certain roads to enhance sight distance and to facilitate turning movements, to add acceleration and turn lanes at specific intersections, to make needed drainage improvements, and to improve rideability and safety by restructuring.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 963 on H.R. 4173, I mistakenly recorded my vote as "nay" when I should have voted "aye." I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the record immediately following rollcall vote No. 963.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF WAUKEGAN'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Waukegan, a city in my district that is celebrating a milestone anniversary this year. This community has made a unique contribution to the district I represent, and to the State of Illinois.

The City of Waukegan is celebrating its 150 year anniversary. Located 36 miles north of Chicago, Waukegan was first established in 1725 as a trading post known as Little Fort. In 1849, residents approved the name of Waukegan, the Potawatomi equivalent of Little Fort and incorporated in 1859. Waukegan continued to grow through the 19th century as a

center of industry—Waukegan harbor was one of the busiest on the Great Lakes and several major railroads traveled through the city. These railroads became indispensable to the larger industries which appeared in Waukegan in the later part of the century. Today, Waukegan is largely a residential community, though has continued its tradition of industry with companies such as Abbott Laboratories, Baxter International, and National Gypsum.

Madam Speaker, this city is unique in its history and adds to the vibrant community of the Eighth District of Illinois. I thank all the past leaders of the City of Waukegan for their dedication to public service; their community would not have reached this milestone without their hard work and commitment. I congratulate Waukegan for reaching their 150th anniversary and I wish them continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING A. PHILIP RANDOLPH, A LEADER IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize A. Philip Randolph for his great life's work, demonstrating an unyielding struggle for human rights that impacted all marginalized groups in society during his time. He was an influential leader who had a hand in the civil rights and labor movements.

A. Philip Randolph firmly believed that workers' rights and civil rights went hand in hand. He was influential in speaking out for African American rights during the 1930s and 1940s, focused particularly on labor and employment issues, and he was the leading force behind the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Not only did he lead a 10-year campaign to organize the Pullman Porters and served as the organization's first president, but Randolph directed the March on Washington movement to end employment discrimination. He was also elected a vice president of the newly merged AFL-CIO in 1955. Mr. Randolph was instrumental in changing the way Black Americans were treated in the workplace, and workers today are still benefiting from his efforts. A. Phillip Randolph realized the importance of organizing Black workers and used this position to advocate for desegregation and respect for civil rights inside the labor movement.

It is only fitting that we recognize Randolph for his contributions as a founding father of the early civil rights movement. A. Philip Randolph struggled for social, political, and economic justice for all working Americans, and recognizing him in Congress is a long overdue honor that Randolph's legacy deserves.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I

am submitting the following earmark disclosure information for project requests that I made and which were included within H.R. 3288, the "Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY2010."

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN DUNCAN

Account: Higher Education (includes FIPSE)

Project Amount: \$300,000

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Maryville College, 502 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway, Maryville, TN 37804

Description of Request: Maryville College proposes to develop an innovative, experiential-based program in science education that will benefit undergraduate students, faculty, pre-secondary/secondary students and their teachers throughout the Southern Appalachian region. Through initiatives that range from tightly focused out-reach programming to summer research-based opportunities for students and teachers, the college will significantly expand involvement in basic research, the education of undergraduate scientists, and the education of younger students and their teachers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, last week I was unavoidably absent due to the health condition of a family member in California. Had I been present I would have voted:

Thursday, December 10, 2009: rollcall No. 952 "yea"; rollcall No. 953 "yea"; rollcall No. 954 "no"; rollcall No. 955 "yea"; rollcall No. 956 "no"; rollcall No. 957 "yea"; rollcall No. 958 "yea"; rollcall No. 959 "yea."

Friday, December 11, 2009: rollcall No. 960 "yea"; rollcall No. 961 "no"; rollcall No. 962 "yea"; rollcall No. 963 "yea"; rollcall No. 964 "yea"; rollcall No. 965 "no"; rollcall No. 966 "no"; rollcall No. 967 "no"; rollcall No. 968 "yea."

CAMP ASHRAF DISPLACEMENT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, on December 10, 2009 the Iraqi government announced that it is going to forcibly displace thousands of Iranian dissidents living in Camp Ashraf to a remote prison in the Iraqi desert. The Iraqi government knows the world recognizes Camp Ashraf as a refuge for those who stand tall for freedom and democracy, so it is demolishing their homes they have lived in for over 20 years and moving them to southern Iraq, where the Iraqi government thinks it can do whatever it wants to them and the world won't notice.

The families in Camp Ashraf's biggest crime is that they love freedom and oppose the oppressive Iranian regime. Tehran has for months now pressured the Iraqi government to hand over Camp Ashraf residents so it can imprison and torture them just like they do to all

who dare speak out against the regime. This is no secret: Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani explicitly asked Iraqi lawmakers in early November to expel these dissidents from Iraqi soil.

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki, wanting to better relations with Iran, sent Iraqi government forces to brutally attack Camp Ashraf residents in July. It was a humanitarian catastrophe leaving 11 unarmed residents dead, 500 wounded, and 36 abducted.

We cannot ignore any perpetrator, whether friend or foe, who seeks to violently and brutally oppress innocent people. America cannot forget the people of Camp Ashraf.

Prime Minister Al-Maliki should stand by repeated and written assurances he has given to the United States and the United Nations to respect the fundamental rights of the residents of Ashraf. These are "protected persons" under the Fourth Geneva Convention. President Obama should honor the U.S. government's repeated promises to protect these people.

The President and Secretary Clinton should undertake whatever steps necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of the residents of Camp Ashraf. The increasingly vulnerable regime in Tehran must not be allowed to extend its repressive tentacles beyond Iran's border and crack down on its principal opposition. Someone must stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves.

It's bad enough that Iran brutalizes Iranian dissidents in Iran; the world cannot ignore Iran's intent to brutalize its own people in Camp Ashraf in the foreign country of Iraq as well.

And that's just the way it is.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I

am submitting the following earmark disclosure information for project requests that I made and which were included within H.R. 3288, the "Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY2010."

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN DUNCAN

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSAA)—Health Facilities and Services

Project Amount: \$200,000

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Clinics of Hope, USA, 1064 Hayslope Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919

Description of Request: The funding would be used to develop three free medical clinics in the Knoxville, Tennessee area. The clinics would serve those who are under two-times the federal poverty level. The requested funds will be used for initial start-up of the three clinics and for the first year of operation.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, December 15, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 16

Time to be announced

Veterans' Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Robert A. Petzel, of Minnesota, to be Under Secretary for Health, and Raul Perea-Henze, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning, both of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Room to be announced

10 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 1102, to provide benefits to domestic partners of Federal employees, S. 1830, to establish the Chief Conservation Officers Council to improve the energy efficiencies of Federal agencies, S. 2868, to provide increased access to the General Services Administration's Schedules Program by the American Red Cross and State and local governments, H.R. 2711, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the transportation of the dependents, remains, and effects of certain Federal employees who die while performing official duties or as a result of the performance of official duties, S. 2865, to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 801 et seq.), S. 2872, to reauthorize appropriations for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission through fiscal year 2014, H.R. 1345, to amend title 5, United States Code, to eliminate the discriminatory treatment of the District of Columbia under the provisions of law commonly referred to as the "Hatch Act", H.R. 2877, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 76 Brookside Avenue in Chester, New York, as the "1st Lieutenant Louis Allen Post Office", H.R. 3667, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16555 Springs Street in White Springs, Florida, as the "Clyde L. Hillhouse Post Office Building", H.R. 3788, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3900 Darrow Road in Stow, Ohio, as the "Corporal Joseph A. Tomci Post Office Building", H.R. 1817,

to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 116 North West Street in Somerville, Tennessee, as the "John S. Wilder Post Office Building", H.R. 3072, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9810 Halls Ferry Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Coach Jodie Bailey Post Office Building", H.R. 3319, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 440 South Gullwing Street in Portola, California, as the "Army Specialist Jeremiah Paul McCleery Post Office Building", H.R. 3539, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 427 Harrison Avenue in Harrison, New Jersey, as the "Patricia D. McGinty-Juhl Post Office Building", H.R. 3767, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 170 North Main Street in Smithfield, Utah, as the "W. Hazen Hillyard Post Office Building", and the nominations of Grayling Grant Williams, of Maryland, to be Director of the Office of Counternarcotics Enforcement, and Elizabeth M. Harman, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, both of the Department of Homeland Security.

SD-342

10:30 a.m.

Judiciary

Human Rights and the Law Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine United States implementation of human rights treaties.

SD-226

11:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-366

1:30 p.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the assessment by the Joint Estimating Team of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program.

SDG-50

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine tools to combat deficits and waste, focusing on enhanced rescission authority.

SD-342

3 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of James A. Wynn, Jr., of North Carolina, and Albert Diaz, of North Carolina, both to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

SD-226

DECEMBER 17

Time to be announced

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Business meeting to consider S. 2826, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the renewable production credit for wind and open-loop biomass facilities, and S. 2869, Small Business Job Creation and Access to Capital Act of 2009.

SR-485

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Douglas B. Wilson, of Arizona, to be Assistant Secretary for Public

Affairs, Malcolm Ross O'Neill, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, Mary Sally Matiella, of Arizona, to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller, Paul Luis Oostburg Sanz, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy, and Jackalyne Pfannenstiel, of California, to be Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment, all of the Department of Defense, and Donald L. Cook, of Washington, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy.

SD-G50

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Ben S. Bernanke, of New Jersey, to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Eric L. Hirschhorn, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration, Marisa Lago, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and Steven L. Jacques, of Kansas, to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

SD-538

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SR-253

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine prospects for our economic future and proposals to secure it.

SD-342

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 714, to establish the National Criminal Justice Commission, S. 1624, to amend title 11 of the United States Code, to provide protection for medical debt homeowners, to restore bankruptcy protections for individuals experiencing economic distress as caregivers to ill, injured, or disabled family members, and to exempt from means testing debtors whose financial problems were caused by serious medical problems, S. 1765, to amend the Hate Crime Statistics Act to include crimes against the homeless, S. 678, to reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, S. 1554, to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to prevent later delinquency and improve the health and well-being of maltreated infants and toddlers through the development of local Court Teams for Maltreated Infants and Toddlers and the creation of a National Court Teams Resource Center to assist such Court Teams, S. 1789, to restore fairness to Federal cocaine sentencing, S. 1376, to restore immunization and sibling age exemptions for children adopted by United States citizens under the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption to allow their admission to the United States, H.R. 1741, to require the Attorney General to make competitive grants to eligible State, tribal, and local governments to establish and maintain certain protection and witness assistance programs, and the nominations Barbara L. McQuade, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, Christopher A. Crofts, to be United States Attorney for the District of Wyoming, Michael W. Cotter, to be United States Attorney for the District of

Montana, Mark Anthony Martinez, to be United States Marshal for the District of Nebraska, and James L. Santelle, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, all of the Department of Justice, and O. Rogerie Thompson, of Rhode Island, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit.

SD-226

2 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Contracting Oversight Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine an overview of Afghanistan contracts.

SD-342

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To receive a briefing on Russia's Muslims.

1539, Longworth Building

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine the Cobell v. Salazar settlement agreement.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine carbon monoxide poisoning.

SR-253

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 1470, to sustain the economic development and recreational use of National Forest System land and other public land in the State of Montana, to add certain

land to the National Wilderness Preservation System, to release certain wilderness study areas, to designate new areas for recreation, S. 1719, to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of land to the town of Alta, Utah, S. 1787, to reauthorize the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act, H.R. 762, to validate final patent number 27-2005-0081, and H.R. 934, to convey certain submerged lands to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in order to give that territory the same benefits in its submerged lands as Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa have in their submerged lands.

SD-366

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to consider certain intelligence matters.

SH-219