

In one troubling example, last month, The Wall Street Journal reported on a Space Act Agreement between Ames and Google's executives to use taxpayer-subsidized airplane fuel intended for military aircraft for personal travel by Google's leadership. A dubious scientific data collection scheme appears to have been developed as an excuse for this preferential treatment for these executives.

According to the article, "The main jets in the fleet—a Boeing 767, Boeing 757 and four Gulfstream V's—have departed from Moffett a total of 710 times since 2007, FAA records show. The most frequent destinations were Los Angeles and New York, but the planes also flew 20 times to the Caribbean island of Tortola; 17 to Hawaii; 16 to Nantucket, Mass.; and 15 to Tahiti." It would be difficult for anyone to make the case that these taxpayer-subsidized trips provided any credible scientific value to NASA.

The article continued: "In total, [the Google aircraft holding company] has bought 2.3 million gallons of jet fuel since early 2009, according to Pentagon records viewed by The Wall Street Journal, paying an average \$3.19 per gallon. 'I don't see how in the hell anybody can buy it that cheap,' said Fred Fitts, president of the Corporate Aircraft Association, a nonprofit that negotiates discounted jet-fuel prices for 1,600 corporate flight departments at airports around the U.S. Mr. Fitts provided figures showing that CAA members paid an average of \$4.35 a gallon across the U.S. over that period."

Although the article noted that this arrangement was recently terminated, the fact that Ames leadership approved this sweetheart deal for the Google executives and allowed it to continue for six years knowing that there was no serious scientific merit is unacceptable.

In addition to this troubling relationship, I also have been outspoken about my concerns that a number of Ames staff were investigated for a number of years by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the NASA Office of the Inspector General and other law enforcement agencies relating to the alleged illegal transfer of ITAR-controlled technology by individuals at the NASA Ames Research Center. It is my understanding that this illegal technology transfer may have involved classified Defense Department weapons system technology to foreign countries.

According to whistleblowers that contacted Congress, large numbers of foreign nationals were invited to work at NASA Ames over the last six years and that federal information and physical security safeguards may not have been used or may have explicitly been ignored on multiple occasions. Additionally, my colleagues and I were informed that Ames staff may have traveled to foreign conferences and disseminated information about ITAR-controlled technologies in public forums, with Chinese and other foreign officials present.

In correspondence that I have seen, the FBI believed it had a solid case that was ready for prosecution and referred it to the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of California. However, after a series of unexplained delays and the removal of at least one assistant U.S. attorney working the case, the charges ran up against the statute of limitations, and the first charge expired on December 15, 2012. The case was ultimately declined by the Justice Department for reasons that have never been explained to the Congress or federal law enforcement. I believe these inexplicable delays and ultimate declination was a product of politicization within the Justice Department, and I have included language in the FY 2014 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations bill further addressing this matter.

Nonetheless, it appears that federal law enforcement felt there was a solid case against

certain Ames staff members involving export violations. Yet there has been no accountability at Ames for these alleged criminal violations. This is inexcusable.

Again, I hope you quickly correct the record and take appropriate action to inform the conference participants of NASA's actual policy regarding foreign visitors. I look forward to your prompt response.

Best wishes,  
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,  
*Member of Congress.*

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF DEAN AND JEAN NICHOLSON

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 10, 2013*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dean and Jean Nicholson for their years of dedication and service to their community. Sanger, California is a better place today because of the Nicholsons' positive influence and compassion.

Dean and Jean met at Nebraska State Teachers College in Kearney, Nebraska. Dean was raised in Superior, and Jean grew up in Fairbury. In 1941, Dean joined the United States Military, and served in the Army for two years. After Dean completed his service, the Nicholsons moved to Sanger.

Dean was hired at Sanger High School, and taught algebra, geometry, and trigonometry for 38 years. Students and faculty admired Dean and his ability to teach, and for 20 years he served as Chairman for the Math Department. When Dean was not in the classroom, he could be found on the court. He was the head varsity basketball coach for 23 years. For five of those years, he led his teams to the championship. Dean also coached varsity golf and tennis. In addition to his notable career at Sanger High School, Dean also taught advanced algebra and trigonometry for 42 years at Fresno City College. Coach Nicholson had thousands of students in his classroom during his long career as a teacher and he had a profound influence on all of them.

Dean and Jean raised three children: Bob, Cindy, and Tom; and they have six grandchildren. Jean was a stay-at-home mom with three children, but most would agree that she was a mother to countless individuals throughout the community. Her kind and loving character makes it easy for people to go to her when they need to hear caring words or sound advice. Family and friends who are close to the couple often say that, "you can hardly say Dean without Jean." They are an amazing team who exemplify the meaning of true love.

Teaching and coaching have always been important aspects of Dean and Jean's lives but above everything else is their faith. Since 1954, they have been members of the Presbyterian Church of Sanger. For 20 years, Dean and Jean played a prominent role in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and for the last several decades they have both taught Sunday school. Dean and Jean have positively impacted the lives of hundreds of students with their guidance and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dean and Jean Nicholson for their years of service to the community that they love so dearly.

RECOGNIZING THE POSITIVE COMMUNITY IMPACT OF PADS LAKE COUNTY AND WISHING CONGRATULATIONS ON THE OPENING OF ITS NEW FAMILY CENTER

#### HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 10, 2013*

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate PADS Lake County on the grand opening of its new Family Center and to recognize the incredible impact PADS has on our local community.

PADS has been battling homelessness in Lake County, Illinois for more than 25 years, and in that time, they have offered a hand up and a path forward to countless individuals and families who fell on hard times. PADS' mission can be summed up simply by their guiding phrase: "Helping the Homeless Find a Way."

Through a broad variety of services, including those specifically for veterans, families and children, PADS Lake County not only offers temporary support and shelter, but helps guide their clients to a long-term, positive path forward.

With the opening of this new Family Center, PADS will be able to reach even more people who are suffering from homelessness, particularly important just a few years removed from one of this country's most severe economic meltdowns. Just last year, PADS saw a 20 percent increase in the services it was able to offer.

Those numbers translate to real families and real lives touched—improved. Since 2009, PADS increased the number of individuals served by 96 percent. There are people who need the assistance PADS offers, and through the heroic work of its staff, the commitment of its volunteers and the generosity of its supporters, PADS can reach further than ever.

This new Family Center will expand PADS' reach in the area and create a refuge for even more struggling families in the community.

PADS stands for Providing Advocacy, Dignity and Shelter. Through their hard work, they have achieved these aims, and through their example, they have inspired the community.

I congratulate PADS Lake County on this ribbon cutting, and I thank them, the entire community thanks them, for the work they have done and will do.

#### HONORING SENATOR ROD GRAMS

#### HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 10, 2013*

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and colleague, long time Minnesota Senator Rod Grams, who passed away Tuesday night losing his fight against colon cancer.

Rod Grams and I came to Washington at roughly the same time. He served on the Banking and Finance committees while I served on the Agriculture and Government Operations committees.

Everyone knew Senator Grams as being a conservative member of the Republican Party.