

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2009

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in enthusiastic support for H. Res. 194 a resolution supporting the goals of International Women's Day. For the last century March 8th has been a day for people to unite in their commitment to honor the women who courageously fight for gender equality and women's rights across the globe.

The course of women's history through the 20th and 21st centuries has been on an upward trajectory, and while we celebrate how far we have come, it is important to pause and reflect on the reality that women continue to face political and economic obstacles, discrimination, and violence all over the world.

While there are many who deserve our appreciation, I would like to recognize the women of Afghanistan who have begun to steadily chip at the steel grasp of patriarchy, and begun to fight for safety and justice.

Before 2003 the idea of a women's shelter in Afghanistan was unheard of, and domestic abuse victims who did seek protection from law enforcement were often thrown in jail or returned to their husbands, perpetuating a culture of silence around the practices of beating, torture, and forced marriage.

Now, shelters like the Women for Afghan Women in Kabul and the Afghan Women Skills Development Center provide protection, treatment, and legal services to women who might otherwise have resigned themselves to a life of quiet misery, or resorted to suicide.

These shelters, like others around the world, provide solace and safety for women with nowhere else to turn. They provide the basic hope of possibilities for those seeking a safe haven from abuse. Before these shelters existed many Afghan women could only dream of a life in their own control, and now they have hope.

I would like to thank my colleague Congresswoman SCHAKOWSKY for sponsoring this important resolution which allows us to stand and celebrate our common ideals with the 3 billion women across the globe in dignity and certitude that one day women will live free of discrimination and violence no matter where they were born.

IN HONOR OF FATHER JOHN J.
CREGAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Chaplain Father John J.

Cregan, as he is being honored by the Retired Irish Police Society with the "2009 James P Sweeney—Man of the Year Award." Father Cregan's service to police officers and firefighters who bravely serve our community continues to be an invaluable source of support, kindness and guidance for the women and men who bravely serve in the line of duty.

At a very young age, Father Cregan and his four sisters, Sister Theresine, Rita, Florence and the late Margaret were taught the importance of family, faith, heritage and service. Father Cregan's grandfather, born in Ireland, was a Cleveland police sergeant. His father, Joseph Cregan, served for many years as a Cleveland Police Lieutenant, and two of his nephews currently serve as Cleveland police officers. Father Cregan's mother, Florence Cregan, was a critical influence in shaping his wonderful sense of humor, his faith and his sense of compassion for others.

Father Cregan has served in parishes throughout our community, including Blessed Sacrament, St. Joseph's Church, St. Thomas More and Our Lady of Angels, where he was appointed Pastor in 1987 and where he continues to serve today. Moreover, Father Cregan continues to serve as the Chaplain for the Cleveland Police and Fire, Greater Cleveland Police and Fire, Holy Name Society, Cleveland Office of the FBI, the Greater Cleveland Police Emerald Society and the Anchor Club—roles he has held for more than forty years. He has also served as the Chaplain for the Retired Irish Police Society since 1988.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Chaplain Father John J. Cregan, as he is named the 2009 John P. Sweeney "Man of the Year" by the Retired Irish Police Society. Father Cregan's warmth, concern, support and guidance continues to impact the lives of police officers and firefighters throughout our community. As he has for forty years, Father Cregan has been there with our safety forces to celebrate the happiest of times, and most significantly, he has stood with them in the most trying of times, offering strength, hope and faith to officers and their loved ones. Father Cregan continues to lift the lives of countless individuals and families throughout Greater Cleveland and today, we stand in gratitude and honor.

TRIBUTE TO MS. LUCILLE HART

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the one-hundredth birthday of Ms. Lucille Hart of Le Roy, Illinois. Ms. Hart joins the rank of centenarians after a fulfilling career in education and with the postal service. For fifteen years, she taught in Delavan, Illinois. She then became the school treasurer, a position she held for thirty more years. After

brief positions held at Caterpillar and the local post office, she retired and became an avid gardener. She continues to tend to her flowers and plants indoors during Illinois' harsh winters. Today, she is joined by her closest friends and family to celebrate.

In the last one hundred years, Ms. Hart has seen women granted the right to vote. She witnessed the United States in World War II. She watched a man walk on the moon. She can recall the civil rights movement and Dr. Martin Luther King's speeches. She was born during the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt and has seen the White House change hands eighteen times. Ms. Hart knows what life was like before Blackberries, cell phones, the internet, computers, color television, microwaves, traffic lights, and bubble gum. In one hundred years, American life has changed drastically right before Ms. Hart's eyes.

Ms. Lucille Hart is an inspiration to us all. It is my honor to congratulate Ms. Hart's long life of achievement. May her health remain good and may she continue to inspire.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TEXAS PYTHIAN HOME

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the Texas Pythian Home. The Home, called the "Castle on the Hill," is located in my district in the city of Weatherford, Texas.

The Texas Pythian Home began on March 1, 1909, as a home for widows and orphans of Knights of Pythias members. The Pythians, a fraternal order, made the decision to build the home in Weatherford following a donation of three hundred acres of land.

The main building housed orphaned children on the second floor. The basement was divided into apartments for widows with children. There were soon so many boys that it became necessary to build a boys-only dorm. The boys moved into their new dorm in 1914. In 1925, a girls-only dorm was built. In the early 1970s, widows moved to the completed retirement home in Greenville, Texas.

The Pythian Home School was designated an independent school district on August 1, 1910 and continued until 1972. In 1937, the last high school graduating class walked across the Pythian auditorium stage. It had been decided to send grades 6–12 to Weatherford Independent School District. Grades 1–5 continued to have classes at the Pythian Home until 1972.

As part of its effort to be self-sufficient, the Home had a large dairy operation for many years. Animals were raised to provide meat.

• 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.

The Home also had its own garden and orchard. The staff and children kept busy maintaining all of the operations. A change in government regulations in 1972 limited these operations, so the dairy closed in 1976.

There were many changes through the years. The Texas Pythian Home is now the last one in existence. The Home, located on 164 acres, can house up to 62 children. The number of children in residence changes as the economy and family circumstances change.

The Pythian principles of friendship, charity, and benevolence continue to be the driving force behind the organization. The Home is here because it reaches out to those in need.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Texas Pythian Home on the 100th anniversary of its founding and to offer my sincere appreciation for the many contributions that its residents have made and continue to make to the city of Weatherford and the state of Texas.

REMEMBERING THE SLAUGHTER
IN IRAQI KURDISTAN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, Twenty one years ago, on March 16, 1988, the Saddam Hussein regime committed one of modern history's most horrific crimes. The indiscriminate use of chemical weapons to destroy the town of Halabja in Iraqi Kurdistan led to the brutal slaughter of thousands of innocent men, women, and children and permanently debilitated many more. More than two decades after the massacre, the people of Halabja still suffer from the effects of that barbaric attack. Long-term effects include cancers, birth defects, neurological problems, miscarriages, infertility, and congenital malformations in children—all of which are disproportionately prevalent in the Halabja area—as well as irreparable damage to the environment. These serious medical and environmental problems continue to hinder the well-being and overall progress of those living in Halabja and the surrounding area.

Tragically, Halabja was not the only instance in which the former Iraqi regime used chemical weapons. Rather, it was but one event in a deliberate, large-scale campaign called the Anfal to exterminate the predominantly Kurdish inhabitants of Iraqi Kurdistan. The 1988 Anfal campaign resulted in the deaths of as many as 180,000 people. Iraqi forces used chemical and biological weapons against over 250 population centers from April 1987 to August 1988. Studies indicate that more than half of current inhabitants of Halabja were exposed to toxic chemical agents at the time of the attack.

On December 30, 2006, Saddam Hussein was hanged for the murder of 148 Shiite Arab citizens of Dujail, which is located in south-central Iraq. That case was taken up before the Anfal case, and it resulted in a death sentence. Because Iraqi law requires that a death sentence be carried out nearly immediately, Saddam's other crimes, including the Anfal genocide, never came to trial. The swiftness of Saddam's execution was an injustice to those that were brutally killed, maimed, or otherwise

damaged in the Anfal; put simply, these victims were denied their day in court. Many Kurds now fear that the world will never hear of the true extent of the Halabja atrocities—widely considered the heaviest use of chemical weapons against civilians in modern times. It is therefore imperative that the Anfal campaign, and the massacre of Halabja, be documented and remembered—and internationally recognized as a crime of genocide against the Kurdish people. But we should also do more. On the tragic anniversary of Halabja 1988, the world must not only remember the individuals who perished but also provide help to those that continue to suffer today. That would be an appropriate way for the world to bear witness to crimes that are among the ugliest the world has seen.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANNUAL
WORLD GLAUCOMA DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to recognize the importance of World Glaucoma Day, a global initiative created by the World Glaucoma Association and the World Glaucoma Patient Association to underscore the importance of getting screened for glaucoma, one of the leading causes of blindness worldwide. The day will be marked by awareness and educational events organized by eye care institutions and local patient support groups around the world.

Glaucoma afflicts 3 million Americans and some 75 million people worldwide. Glaucoma can strike anyone of any age. It affects all age groups, including infants, children, and the elderly. Congenital glaucoma and childhood glaucoma are serious pediatric medical problems. With early diagnosis and treatment, 90 percent of the blindness from glaucoma could have been avoided. World Glaucoma Day encourages all individuals, especially those with a high risk for developing the disease, to get regular comprehensive eye examinations.

In my district, on March 11, 2009 Dr. Robert Ritch and a dozen eye specialists from the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary (NYEE) were at the United Nations (UN) headquarters building screening UN officials such as the Secretary General, as well as ambassadors and deputy ambassadors from over 192 countries for glaucoma. Hopefully, publicity from this effort will help to prompt people around the world to get screened for glaucoma.

Early diagnosis and proper treatment of glaucoma can help people keep the precious gift of sight. Glaucoma has no symptoms and is characterized by painless, progressive loss of vision, so that detection depends upon periodic eye examinations that include evaluation of the optic nerve and measurement of eye pressure. If undetected and untreated, glaucoma will gradually claim all peripheral vision and ultimately cause total blindness. While treatment can halt the progress of the disease, nothing can reverse damage that has been done, making early detection critical.

People at high risk for glaucoma should have their eyes examined for the disease at least every two years. High-risk individuals include people with a family history of glau-

coma, African Americans over the age of 40, people who are very nearsighted or farsighted and all persons over the age of 60.

The NYEE has been a driving force in combating glaucoma in increasing the number of New Yorkers who are screened. Founded in 1820, NYEE is the oldest specialty hospital in the Western Hemisphere. The NYEE has a long tradition of community outreach, medical education, and cutting-edge scientific research. It is home to many glaucoma specialists, including world-renowned glaucoma specialist Dr. Robert Ritch. Dr. Ritch is a co-founder of the World Glaucoma Patient Association, an umbrella organization which supports glaucoma associations and networks worldwide in their efforts to educate and support their members so that all people with glaucoma can understand and better manage their disease. Dr. Ritch is also a member of the World Glaucoma Day committee for the World Glaucoma Association.

I also ask my colleagues to recognize another World Glaucoma Day sponsor, the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus, a non-partisan organization whose purpose is to educate all communities about the risks of glaucoma and other blindness-causing eye diseases, and to provide diagnostic screening opportunities for high-risk population groups across the nations.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues rise to join me in recognizing World Glaucoma Day, and the urgent need to ensure that everyone is regularly screened for glaucoma.

EARMARK DECLARATIONS

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Project Name: Mobile Harbor Turning Basin.
Requesting Member: Congressman ROBERT ADERHOLT.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105.
Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Construction General Account.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Alabama State Port Authority.

Address of Requesting Entity: 250 North Water Street, Suite 300, Mobile, AL 36602.

Description of Request: Provide \$4.785 million to construct the Mobile Harbor Turning Basin project as authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (PL99-662 Ninety-ninth Congress, Second Session) under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Construction General Account. Initial project request anticipated expenditures of .04 percent will be used for land; .11 percent will be used for navigation aids; .11 percent for removal of existing concrete debris; 3.97 percent for mobilization, preparation and demobilization of a 26 CY Bucket Dredge; 4.20 percent for mobilization, preparation and demobilization of a 30 inch Pipeline Dredge; 67 percent for the removal of and placement in designated dredge disposal areas approx.

2,699,232 cubic yards of dredged material; 5.32 percent for planning, engineering and design work; 2.42 percent for construction management; 12.57 percent in project construction contingency; and 3.83 percent in project escalation. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted an Environmental Assessment in accordance with Engineer Regulation (ER) 200-2-2, Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Pts. 1500-1508) resulting in a FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI). Construction of the authorized turning basin has been evaluated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through the Corps General Reevaluation Report (GRR) to alleviate harbor delays and improve safety conditions, and reflects a benefit-to-cost ratio of 3.46 to 1. This project is permitted. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers General Construction account. The Alabama State Port Authority, the 10th largest port in the U.S., is the federally designated local sponsor for the Port of Mobile Harbor and will provide the 25 percent cost share for the Mobile Harbor Turning Basin project. The Alabama State Port Authority's 25 percent cost share funding is secured. Turning basin will help serve a new container terminal, coal terminal and two raw material terminals.

HONORING GARY SHEPHERD

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I would like the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Gary Shepherd as he retires after 33 years of service from General Motors and the UAW. A retirement party will be held in his honor on March 27th in Saginaw, Michigan.

A native of Saginaw County, Gary was hired by General Motors in 1976. He worked at the Saginaw Steering Gear facility and worked his way from the production line to journeyman status as a machine repairman. In 1985 he was elected an Alternate Committeeman at UAW Local 699. From this position he went on to serve as the District Committeeman on the Bargaining Committee, as Chairman of the Bargaining Unit for Local 699, and Top Negotiator of GM Sub-Council 5. Gary has also served on the CAP and Recreation Committee of the Local. Local 699 was featured in a 1999 Industry Week article entitled, "A Perfect Union," outlining the cooperative relationship between the UAW and the auto manufacturer. Gary continued his career with the UAW and in 1998 he was appointed as a Region 1-D International Representative and as the Skilled Trades Representative. He rounded out his career by serving on UAW President Ron Gettelfinger's staff as Coordinator for Michigan CAP in Region 1-D.

In addition to his work on behalf of UAW workers, Gary has worked extensively in the community. He is the president of the Saginaw Area Fireworks, served as co-chair of the Saginaw County Vision 20/20, and on the

Boards of Saginaw Future, Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works, and Saginaw County United Way. He received the Chamber of Commerce President's Award for his work. Gary also finds time to be a read volunteer and he is a lifelong member of Second Presbyterian Church.

Gary is the past Chairman of the Saginaw County Democratic Party, a member of the Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, was elected as a John Kerry delegate to the 2004 Democratic National Convention and was the 2008 Electoral College Delegate for the Michigan 4th Congressional District, casting his ballot for President Barack Obama. He has 3 daughters and 4 grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Gary Shepherd as he retires from the UAW and General Motors. I wish him the best as he starts this next phase of his life and continued success in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE SOUTHAMPTON
FIRE COMPANY #1

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Southampton Fire Company #1 for 100 years of distinguished service. Since their inception in 1909, Southampton Fire Company #1 has remained an all-volunteer fire department.

On December 10, 1909, the first meeting of the Southampton Fire Company was held, and four years later they were incorporated with 88 charter members. They utilized a variety of firefighting equipment through the years, such as a horse-drawn button hand pumper in 1913, a Ford Model T/Hale fire engine in 1921, and an 85-foot Hi-Ranger Snorkel elevated platform truck in 1965, the first of its kind in Bucks County.

A major renovation of the firehouse was dedicated in May 2000 to the "past, present, and future members of the Southampton Fire Company #1, in recognition of their unselfish service to the citizens of Upper Southampton Township." Now, on the Fire Company's 100th Anniversary, we also extend our greatest thanks and appreciation for their unwavering service.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing the Southampton Fire Company #1 for their 100 years of service to our families in Bucks County. I am honored to serve as their Congressman.

HONORING STEPHANIE C.
KOPELOUSOS

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker I rise today to honor a great leader from the State of Florida, Stephanie C. Kopelousos. She was appointed Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation in 2007 and since then has been working to ensure our safety on Florida's roads.

Secretary Kopelousos got her start in public service right here in the halls of Congress in 1993 as a Legislative Assistant to then Congresswoman Tillie K. Fowler of Florida's 4th District and Chair of the Transportation Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations and Emergency Management.

In 2001 she joined the Florida Department of Transportation as their primary federal liaison in Washington, D.C. focusing on transportation, emergency management and disaster relief, and housing. She was instrumental in negotiations during the reauthorization of the federal transportation bill. In 2005 she became the Department's Chief of Staff, and in early 2007 was appointed Interim Secretary.

Secretary Kopelousos carries with her more than a decade of professional experience in state and federal public policy, with a particular emphasis in transportation. As Secretary, she oversees more than 7,000 employees and an annual budget of \$8 billion, always keeping with the agency's mission of providing a safe transportation system that fuels economic growth and enhances quality of life for all Floridians.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, I ask you to join me in congratulating Secretary Stephanie C. Kopelousos for her commitment to ensuring a safe and efficient transportation system in Florida and her invaluable contributions in the field of public service.

HONORING TuCARE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources and Environment, incorporated upon the celebration of their 20th anniversary. The anniversary will be celebrated on Saturday, March 14, 2009 at the "Annual Dinner and Auction" in Sonora, California.

Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources and Environment, Inc, or TuCARE, was first organized in 1989 when a group of individuals came together to enlighten others in the wise use of natural resources in Tuolumne County. The organization has a history of commitment to ensuring the long-term viability of all of the natural resources through an ecosystem management approach toward the stewardship of the public lands. They are firm believers that man must play an active role to protect the forests from the destruction of wildfires. The multiple-use system that TuCARE promotes allows for everyone to benefit from the forest. Livestock owners use the pastures in the summer, miners are allowed to extract minerals, loggers can help thin the forest and everyone can enjoy the recreation the forest has to offer.

The organization ensures that the private and the public sector work together to protect property rights and to educate our future generations. TuCARE advocates awareness in schools and communities by sponsoring "Tours for Kids" for more than twelve hundred students each year and a Natural Resources Tour for invited guests from the State of California, Congress, local businesses, educators and various agencies. TuCARE is connected to schools in Tuolumne, Calaveras and

Stanislaus Counties and participates in the Tuolumne County Schools Forestry Institute for Teachers and presents to civic groups and organizations. They also sponsor various public forums on issues related to natural resources and is represented at the annual Alliance on American Fly-in for Freedom forum held in Washington, DC. The organization prepares press releases for all media outlets and meets with local, state and federal elected officials regarding issues of concern.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources and Environment, Inc. on twenty years of service. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing TuCARE many years of continued success.

HONORING GEORGE VUJNOVICH
FOR HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE
HALYARD MISSION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I am joined by the co-chairs of the Congressional Serbian Caucus, Representatives MELISSA BEAN of Illinois and DAN BURTON of Indiana, in honoring a treasured constituent of mine and one of the unsung heroes of World War II, retired Major George Vujnovich. Major Vujnovich, a proud Serbian-American, was instrumental in "Operation Halyard" and one of the last surviving members of that successful wartime mission.

In the summer of 1944, Americans and Allied airmen flew hundreds of sorties over Europe with the aim of disrupting the Ploesti oil complex, Adolf Hitler's most important oil pipeline. During their treacherous journey from Italian bases to the Romanian oil complex, 1,500 of our brave men were forced to bail out over Yugoslavia. Scores of American crewmen were trapped behind enemy lines and dependent on Serbian villagers to hide them from the Germans.

Although Yugoslavia was enemy territory at the time, much of the country's Serbian regions remained under the control of Yugoslav guerilla resistance leader General Draja Mihailovich and his Chetnik forces. General Mihailovich remained loyal to the Allies, and under his orders the Serbian people shielded these airmen and protected them from capture and imprisonment by German troops.

General Mihailovich passed information about the downed American airmen to the United States authorities. The Office of Strategic Services (OSS) put together Operation Halyard, a daring mission to save the men without drawing the attention of the Nazis. The mission entailed flying and landing C-47 cargo planes into enemy territory, picking up the downed airmen, and flying back to allied territory. Before the mission could go forward, however, the Allied forces cut ties with General Mihailovich and no longer had specific information about the location of the American airmen. Major George Vujnovich, the OSS operation chief stationed in Bari, Italy, discovered that Mihailovich was hiding the airmen near his headquarters in the city of Pranjani. He informed U.S. officials of their location and Operation Halyard progressed.

As the mission advanced, Major Vujnovich's experience and expertise were indispensable. Major Vujnovich was responsible for selecting members of the Halyard Mission, and orchestrating the initial parachute drop into the area. The rescue plans hinged on his direction and the ability of local Serbs to build an airstrip without any modern tools and without German detection.

Operation Halyard took place between August and December 1944 and was a complete success. Hundreds of men were rescued behind enemy lines and no lives were lost in the mission. The Halyard Mission was a success thanks to the brave men and women of the OSS and the courageous Serbian locals who risked their lives to safeguard American airmen. Thanks to a keen mind and tactical expertise, Major Vujnovich demonstrated the courage and selflessness that mark him as an American hero.

Major George Vujnovich was born to Serbian parents in 1915. In 1934 he received a scholarship from the Serb National Federation and left his home in New York to attend college in Belgrade. While living in Belgrade, Mr. Vujnovich met and married his wife, Mirjana. Their life was disrupted in 1941, when the German Luftwaffe bombed Belgrade in Operation Punishment. Mr. Vujnovich was a firsthand witness to the bombing, nearly losing his life when a falling bomb destroyed a nearby streetcar. After the bombing, Mr. and Mrs. Vujnovich fled Yugoslavia, and he accepted a job in Ghana as assistant airport manager while Mirjana moved to Washington, DC to work at the Yugoslav Embassy. When the US entered the war, Mr. Vujnovich received a commission as a second lieutenant and assumed command of an airbase in Nigeria. While working at the airbase, he was recruited by the OSS for the clandestine services, and was later sent to the OSS post in Bari, Italy. From this post he saved the lives of his fellow servicemen and earned the title of hero. I am honored to have this opportunity to acknowledge Major Vujnovich's contribution to the Halyard Mission.

IN CELEBRATION OF MARTIN J.
AND ELEANOR R. KEARNEY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I would like to acknowledge Martin J. and Eleanor R. Kearney for being named the Irish Couple of the Year by the John Boyle O'Reilly Club in Springfield, Massachusetts. They were awarded this deserved title on February 7, 2009 for their support and contributions to the club. The couple has been active with the club for over fifty years. Both have helped with fundraisers and dances. Eleanor is an avid baker for the club and Martin was a strong supporter of the new building fund. A reception dinner was held in their honor on March 1, 2009.

Martin was born in the Great Blasket Islands in Dingle, County Kerry, Ireland on December 31, 1926. Eleanor is a life-long Springfield resident who was born on December 17, 1932. Martin came to America in 1951 where he soon met Eleanor. In 1953, they were mar-

ried in Saint Thomas Aquinas Church in Springfield. Martin became a member of the John Boyle O'Reilly Club in 1953 and now both Martin and Eleanor are life members.

The John Boyle O'Reilly Club was founded in 1880. The club consists of dedicated Irish and Irish-Americans whose goal is to preserve and promote their Irish heritage. The club's motto is culture, family and tradition. Since March 1970, the club has been located on 33 Progress Avenue in Springfield, Massachusetts. Today, the club is very active in their community, awarding the John Boyle O'Reilly Scholarship every year to college-bound students.

HONORING RABBI JON E. CUTLER

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Jon E. Cutler—the only Jewish Chaplain currently serving in western Iraq. And as a former paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division who served in Baghdad 5 years ago and the first Iraq war veteran to serve in this great body, it fills me with tremendous pride to be Rabbi Cutler's Congressman. Rabbi Cutler has set an example for all of us—not just through his spiritual leadership—but through selfless service to our community and our nation.

In Iraq, Rabbi Cutler serves as the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Chaplain, and assists the entire Al Asad Marine Air Base. Prior to his service in Iraq, Rabbi Cutler served as the pulpit rabbi of Tiferes B'nai Israel in Warrington, Bucks County, Pennsylvania for the past 8 years.

As the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Chaplain, Rabbi Cutler supervises 20 Christian chaplains and chaplain assistants, and has worked to create a center for Jewish troops who are serving in Anbar Province. The congregants of Tiferes B'nai Israel even contributed to this effort, sending tiles and paste to be used for the chapel floor.

As the Rabbi for Tiferes B'nai Israel in Warrington, Rabbi Cutler worked tirelessly to unite his congregants, both old and new. He strived to make new members feel welcome while respecting the needs and wishes of long-standing members. Before he was deployed to Iraq, he also proudly received his Navy commander pins on the pulpit at Tiferes B'nai Israel.

Commander Cutler has been a chaplain in the U.S. Navy Reserve for 23 years. He was the only Jewish chaplain serving with the Marines in Desert Storm, and after 9/11, he was called to the Pentagon to counsel family members who lost loved ones during the tragic events of that terrible day.

When not serving our troops in Iraq or his congregants in Warrington, Rabbi Cutler has served as an instructor at Gratz College for Jewish education and a visiting professor at Philadelphia University. He received his B.A. and M.A. in religious studies from Temple University, and holds a Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Counseling from Hebrew Union College. Rabbi Cutler was ordained by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Wyncote, PA.

Rabbi Cutler has contributed enormously to the citizens of Bucks County and given so

much to so many servicemen and women serving abroad. He leads by example and is committed to service, spiritual leadership and education. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Rabbi Cutler for his outstanding work, and am extremely honored to serve as his Congressman.

HONORING REVEREND DR. F.O.
HOCKENHULL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Dr. F.O. Hockenhull as he celebrates 40 years as pastor of the First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church in my hometown of Flint, Michigan. A banquet in his honor was held last Friday in honor of this occasion.

Reverend Dr. Hockenhull was educated at Arkansas State AM&N College, Wayne State University and Detroit Bible College. He has received an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Arkansas Baptist College, an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Selma University and an Honorary Doctorate of Law from Selma University.

He worked as a Chaplain in the Wayne County Jail and as a contact representative for the W.J. Maxey Boys Training School. After spending 6 years as the pastor of the Jehovah Baptist Church in Detroit, Reverend Dr. Hockenhull became the pastor at First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church. He has remained in this position for the past 40 years.

Reverend Dr. Hockenhull is the past-President of the Great Lakes Baptist District Leadership and Educational Congress to the Great Lakes Baptist District Association; the Associate Director General of the National Congress of Christian Education-National Baptist Convention USA, Incorporated; past-Vice-President of the Wolverine State Congress of Christian Education; a member of the Board of Directors at the Montgomery Bible Institute and Theological Center; a former member of the National Baptist Convention USA, Incorporated Publishing Board; a former instructor at the National Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Congress-National Baptist Convention USA; past Supervisor of the Administrative Leaders Division-National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, National Baptist Convention USA, Incorporated; past Instructor with the Great Lakes Baptist District of Christian Education; a member of the Board of Directors of the National Baptist Convention, USA Incorporated; a member of the Stewardship Commission of the National Baptist Convention, USA Incorporated; a Trustee of the Retirement Commission of the National Baptist Convention, USA Incorporated; and a delegate to the World Christian Conference in Australia.

In addition to his work, Reverend Dr. Hockenhull is a world renowned lecturer, a member of the NAACP, and a member of Concerned Pastors for Social Action. His wife of over 50 years, Marian, is the National Director of the Young People's Department. They have one son, Franco, and two granddaughters, Vanessa and Victoria.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the

life and work of Reverend Dr. F.O. Hockenhull. He has spent his life in devotion to Our Lord, Jesus Christ, by fulfilling God's Great Commission. His compassion, patience and love for humanity are recognized throughout the Flint community. Through his example, he inspires passion, spirituality, and service in his congregation and he carries the message of God's love beyond the walls of the church building. I have known Reverend Dr. Hockenhull for many years and have always been touched by his wisdom, his zeal and his piety. I pray that he will continue to serve for many, many years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELIZABETH
BENHAM

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Elizabeth Benham, who is being honored this month in New York City by the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International) for her work as its President. Founded in 1930, BPW is an international organization of women business owners with links to more than 90 countries on five continents. BPW is a wonderful way for businesswomen to network and support one another.

After more than two decades of dedicated work on behalf of BPW, Ms. Benham became the organization's President last year. She is being honored at the annual Conference on the Status of Women that is being held this month at the United Nations, located in New York's 14th Congressional District that I am privileged to represent.

Elizabeth Benham is the twentieth president of BPW International and the first American to serve at its helm in 28 years. She demonstrated her commitment to BPW International as the chair of its Fundraising Taskforce from 2004–2008. In 2005, she served the organization as the Vice President, Membership Chair, Friends and Fellows Chair, and as a member of the International Planning Committee. In these roles she traveled extensively, meeting with members and chapters around the world, and developing a broad and deep understanding of the needs of the organization's diverse membership. Since 1998, Elizabeth Benham has also served as an alternate delegate to the United Nations on behalf of BPW International.

When she became BPW International President in 2008, Elizabeth Benham not only had extensive prior experience working with BPW International, but had also achieved notable success as a businesswoman. Before going into business, she was a certified nurse midwife in high risk obstetrics. Throughout her life, Elizabeth has demonstrated her compassion and motivation in her volunteer work as the Vice President of Toys of Hope Charity, a Board Member of Women Builders Council in New York, and a Board Member of the Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society.

Elizabeth Benham has worked tirelessly in her professional life and leadership roles to support the accomplishments of women throughout the world. In her role as President, she is working to form connections of im-

proved communication among all members and affiliates for a better flow of information. She has dedicated her efforts to expanding and improving training for future leaders of BPW International and for greater efficiencies in managing the vast organization. She has consistently demonstrated her commitment to the mission of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women in helping women in the workforce achieve their business and professional goals.

Madam Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Elizabeth Benham and the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, which under her able and inspired leadership continues to ensure that women gain equal participation and success in the workforce.

WATER QUALITY INVESTMENT
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1262):

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 1262, the Water Quality Investment Act.

I would like to first thank Chairman OBERSTAR and Ranking Member MICA for bringing to the floor this important legislation. I am also proud to have worked with Mr. PASCARELL on Title Three of this bill—which we have introduced previously.

Sewer maintenance is a serious problem in low-lying coastal areas such as Michigan. It is a sad fact that many of the sewer systems in Michigan and throughout the country date back to the Nineteenth Century.

These outdated systems often overflow with untreated human and industrial waste—releasing toxins and disease-causing organisms.

Inadequate maintenance, deteriorated pipes, rainfall and snow melts are too often cited as the cause of these overflows.

It is indisputable that sewer overflows pose a significant threat to public health and safety because they put raw sewage into rivers, streets, basements, and other areas of human exposure. They are also responsible for many beach closures, shellfish restrictions, and violations of water quality standards.

In Michigan alone there have been over 1,000 reported sewer overflows annually. These events have contributed over 20 billion gallons of sewage and wastewater onto the ground and into Michigan rivers, lakes and streams.

Even more staggering, the EPA has estimated that nearly 900 billion—let me repeat, 900 billion—gallons of untreated wastewater and storm water are released through combined sewer overflows and separate sewer overflows annually in the United States.

The Water Quality Investment Act goes a long way toward ending the public health and environmental crisis associated with sewer overflows by providing federal funds to repair and replace outdated systems. Local governments cannot simply fix this mess and meet their obligations under the Clean Water Act alone.

Also of critical importance in this bill are provisions to reauthorize the Great Lakes Legacy Act to tackle the problem of contamination in the Great Lakes Basin. It would provide the necessary funding to help clean up contaminated sediment in over 30 concerning areas.

My gratitude must also be extended to my esteemed colleague from Michigan, Mr. EHLERS, for his steadfast commitment to the Great Lakes and the passage of the Great Lakes Legacy Reauthorization Act.

I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 1262 today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, on March 12, 2009, I was absent for one Rollcall Vote. If I had been here, I would have voted "yes" on Rollcall Vote 124.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Friday, March 6, 2009, I missed rollcall vote 107 on approving the Journal. If present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING FRANCIS M. GORSKI

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Francis M. Gorski for his 50th year of active service to the Lingohocken Fire Company. He and his family have been extremely dedicated to serving Wrightstown Township and the community as a whole.

Lingohocken firefighters are able to become "Life Members" after twenty-five years of service and let others take over. That was an option for Mr. Gorski twenty-five years ago, but instead he has remained hard at work—as so many have come to expect.

Mr. Gorski is one of the most active members of the department, responding to 70–80% of their calls. He has responded to calls that many individuals his age would no longer respond to—including calls at 3 o'clock in the morning. He volunteers his time for Lingohocken on top of the time he spends running the family business with his two younger brothers.

He has served at almost every rank in the company including chief, and is currently serving as deputy chief. His dedication and work ethic are examples for our community and country to follow.

Those at the company—and in our entire community—are extremely proud of the accomplishments and outstanding level of serv-

ice Mr. Gorski provides to the people of Wrightstown Township and Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Mr. Francis Gorski for his exceptional services to his community and am extremely honored to serve as his Congressman.

IN RECOGNITION OF QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT HELEN MARSHALL

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, an outstanding public servant. First elected the Borough President of Queens in November 2001, Helen Marshall is the first African-American and just the second woman to assume the post of chief executive of Queens County, which has a population of more than 2.2 million people. She has been a leader of uncommon grace, energy, and dedication to the people she serves.

As the Queens Borough President, Helen Marshall has been a champion for public libraries and schools, job training programs, quality health care, senior citizens, the environment, and economic development, just as she has been throughout her remarkable career. She has allocated tens of millions of dollars for parks, playgrounds and libraries, and in 2005 was bestowed the statewide Daniel Casey Library Advocacy Award. She has helped fund the expansions of cultural institutions, organized a Borough President's "War Room" to ensure the timely construction of thirty new public schools with more than 17,800 seats, and marshaled support for important infrastructure projects like the Queens Plaza Roadway Rebuilding Project and Long Island City Links. Marshall also spearheaded the historic effort to bring CUNY to the Rockaway Peninsula, providing \$6 million in capital funding to convert a former courthouse.

A native New Yorker, Helen Marshall served for nearly two decades as a respected legislator in both the New York State Assembly and the New York City Council. In 1982, she was elected to the first of five terms in the New York State Assembly, where she chaired the Rules Committee and served on the Leland Commission.

When she won her seat on the City Council in 1991, she became the first female and first member of a minority elected to represent her City Council district, she worked to improve and unite an extraordinarily diverse community. On the City Council, she served as Chair of the Higher Education Committee and on the Committees on Housing and Buildings, Environmental Protection, and Women's Issues. She also served as Co-Chair of the Council's Black and Latino Caucus. As Chair of the City Council's Higher Education Committee, Marshall successfully fought against the privatization of the City University of New York, one of the largest public university systems in the world. She secured funds to restore the City's free dental clinics, led the fight to prevent the sale of Elmhurst and Queens Hospital Center and has fought for many years to protect Flushing Bay from the impact of LaGuardia Airport.

A proud graduate of the New York City public school system, she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Queens College of the City University of New York. For eight years prior to her election to the Assembly, Marshall was an early childhood teacher. In 1969 she became the first Director of the Langston Hughes Library, a post she held for five years. She also served as Director of the Elmcot Testing Assessment and Placement Program for eight years, where she helped hundreds of New Yorkers find gainful employment. In 1975, she served as a Member of the Democratic National Committee. She also served on Queens Community Board 3 for thirteen years, as a parent activist in the public schools for a decade and a half, was a founder of the Queens Overall Economic Development Corporation, and was elected in 1974 as a Democratic District Leader.

Helen Marshall remains devoted to her beloved husband, Donald, and to her children and grandchildren. She is universally regarded with affection by the people of Queens, a remarkable feat in the most diverse county in our nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me recognizing the enormous contributions to our civic and political life made by Borough President Marshall, who has worked tirelessly and diligently throughout her career on behalf of her constituents in Queens and all New Yorkers.

IN HONOR OF JOHN P. GALLAGHER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and of memory of my friend and mentor, John P. Gallagher, upon the official naming of the West Park Post Office, John P. Gallagher Building, and in recognition of his lifetime service to our community and to our country.

A lifelong resident of Cleveland, Mr. Gallagher was the son of Irish immigrants, from whom he learned the values of a strong work ethic and the importance of faith, family and service to community. During World War II, he served in the Army, First Engineer Special Brigade and in six combat campaigns, including missions in North Africa and the Normandy Invasion. Following the war, Mr. Gallagher worked in construction before taking a job with the City of Cleveland in 1954. He worked diligently for the City, until his retirement in 1987, which followed 22 years in the role of Superintendent of Sidewalks.

Throughout his adult life, Mr. Gallagher dedicated his time and talent to issues and projects focused on the improvement of our community. He was a staunch advocate of neighborhood safety, and also advocated for the welfare and rights of senior citizens. For many years, he served as a Democratic Party precinct committee chairman and volunteered countless hours in numerous local, state and national campaigns. He kept a close watch over his neighborhood park, and organized programs and projects for senior citizens at Cleveland's Gunning Recreation Center. His intelligence, kindness and good sense of humor quickly endeared people to him. Mr.

Gallagher's keen understanding of the soul of a neighborhood and his opinions on community issues were valued by everyone, from neighbors to national leaders.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and memory of John P. Gallagher, upon the official naming of the West Park Post Office building after John P. Gallagher. Mr. Gallagher's service to family, friends, community and country has greatly influenced the lives of everyone he has known, including my own. He will forever be remembered along the streets, in the meeting halls and throughout the parks of Cleveland's west side neighborhood.

PROCLAMATION: THE 50TH WINTER
PARK SIDEWALK ART FESTIVAL

HON. SUZANNE M. KOSMAS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Ms. KOSMAS. Madam Speaker,

Whereas, since its founding in 1960, the Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival, which is an all volunteer effort supported by the Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival Committee, the City of Winter Park and numerous volunteers, has grown to become one of the premier art festivals in the county; and

Whereas, every year hundreds of Winter Park citizens contribute thousands of hours to ensure that the 350,000 visitors to the Festival enjoy the best in fine art and that the 225 exhibiting artists enjoy the best in outdoor art venues; and

Whereas, exhibits by Orange County school students have been part of the Festival since its inception, and the more recent Children's Workshop Village has integrated local museums and art centers to provide exciting art experiences for children of all ages; and

Whereas, the Festival Emerging Artist Program gives promising and talents artists who are determining their career paths the opportunity to exhibit in their first outdoor art festival, all expenses paid; and

Whereas, The Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival Foundation provides scholarships to local colleges and universities for promising art students.

Now, therefore, I, Suzanne M. Kosmas, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Congresswoman, 24th District, Florida, do hereby proclaim March 20, 21 and 22, 2009 "The 50th Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival" and encourage all residents to recognize and show their appreciation for the many memories and contributions the Festival has made to our community over the years.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal to be affixed this 16th day of March, 2009.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF
DOLORIS COULTER COGAN

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Doloris Coulter

Cogan and the publication of her book, *We Fought the Navy and Won: Guam's Quest for Democracy*. Ms. Cogan is a 1946 graduate of the Columbia University School of Journalism in New York. *We Fought the Navy and Won* is a personal recollection of Guam's transition from a Naval Administration to a civilian government after World War II. Ms. Cogan at the time was editor of the *Guam Echo* under the Institute of Ethnic Affairs, and her writings chronicle the stories of Guam's leaders, their allies in Washington, D.C., and their efforts in bringing a civilian government to Guam.

From 1898 to 1950, Guam was administered under the Secretary of the Navy, and while legislation for Guam's self-governance had been introduced before this Congress none were reported out of committee. It was not until the signing of the Guam Organic Act of 1950 by President Harry S. Truman, that Guam was allowed to govern itself with a civilian government. The Guam Organic Act transferred administration of Guam from the Secretary of the Navy to the Secretary of the Interior and established executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government on Guam. Since that time, Congress has passed legislation that changed the Governor of Guam from a Presidential appointment position to a locally elected position. Further, Congress passed legislation granting Guam a non-voting Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

As Guam's representative to the U.S. Congress, I commend Ms. Cogan for her work as editor of the *Guam Echo* and for the publishing of *I Fought the Navy and Won: Guam's Quest for Democracy*. Through her writings we are to reflect and appreciate the efforts undertaken to bring self-governance to Guam and we can have a deeper appreciation of the historical roots of the Organic Act of Guam.

RECOGNIZING DANNA CHATWELL
AS THE 2008-2009 HURLBURT AFA
CHAPTER MIDDLE SCHOOL
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Danna Chatwell, recipient of the Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398 Middle School Teacher of the Year Award for the 2008-2009 school year. Her success as an educator is a testament to the power of our country's teachers, and I am proud to honor Ms. Chatwell on this distinguished occasion.

Ms. Chatwell serves as a seventh grade science teacher at Woodlawn Beach Middle School in Gulf Breeze, Florida. In 2007, she earned the Holley-Navarre Intermediate Teacher of the Year, and this recent AFA award highlights her continued achievements. By merging technology and modern trends with proven teaching practices, Ms. Chatwell gives every student the ability to be successful. Her energy and passion for teaching infuse a desire for knowledge in her students that lives on long after they have graduated from her classroom.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to thank Ms. Chatwell for her service to the students of

Woodlawn Beach and to the community of Northwest Florida. Vicki and I wish her and her family best wishes for continued success.

HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR
HOMES ACT OF 2009

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009 (H.R. 1106) and to congratulate Chairman FRANK, Chairman CONYERS, and Speaker PELOSI for their quick action to help American families.

The last eight years of disinvestment in American families have pushed the economy into a deep recession. Unemployment is rising and home values are falling while the costs of health care and food continue to rise. Thousands of my constituents have been laid off and can no longer afford to meet the basic needs of their families or pay their mortgages.

The dream of homeownership has become a nightmare for too many. Many home buyers are falling behind on their payments because of dropping home values and the financial crisis through no fault of their own. Many could make their mortgage payments until they lost their jobs or their incomes dropped. Others were victims of predatory lending by unscrupulous mortgage brokers and are now struggling with unaffordable subprime loans. An estimated 14 million homeowners owe more than their home is worth, and many cannot refinance into an affordable mortgage. As a result, a record number of Americans are losing their homes to foreclosure every month. Foreclosures hurt everyone—including our families, neighborhoods, and communities—resulting in lost tax revenue for local governments, reduced property values for neighbors, and often abandoned properties require an increased police presence in our neighborhoods.

The Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009 is a comprehensive approach to break the cycle of foreclosures and declining home values. This legislation offers fair and effective solutions to help families who are facing foreclosure today and those at risk of foreclosure in the future. To accomplish this, H.R. 1106 improves the Hope for Homeowners program by reducing fees that discourage lenders from voluntarily refinancing mortgage loans. This bill would also provide bankruptcy judges with the authority they need to modify loan terms for families who are already in the bankruptcy process—a provision that could reduce foreclosures by 20 percent at no cost to taxpayers. Bankruptcy courts currently have the power to modify loans for corporations, commercial real estate and even vacation homes; extending this option to save the primary residences for families is necessary and equitable.

Last week, President Obama announced the Comprehensive Homeowner Affordability and Stability Plan, a bold strategy to help up to nine million families restructure their mortgages to avoid foreclosure. The Helping Families Save Their Homes Act is a key step in putting President Obama's plan into place.

The collapsing housing market is one of the root causes of the present economic crisis.

Until the housing sector is stabilized, there will simply be no recovery in America. H.R. 1106 is a major step in addressing the crisis in the housing market

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING MIKE HAUSER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mike Hauser of Santa Rosa, California, who passed away on March 3, 2009, at the age of 62. Mike had led the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce for almost nine years, including regular calls from his sick bed during the last months of his life.

Mike took the reins of Chamber in 2000, and, under his leadership, the organization expanded its programs, enhancing the business climate while benefiting the community. He realized that the two goals complemented each other and brought people together to focus on them. Mike used his low-key style and friendly manner as well as his keen understanding and broad experience to develop initiatives that drew various stakeholders into the process. He was adept at developing relationships that fostered his success.

Mike's efforts included a focus on educating the Spanish-speaking community to be the current and future workforce, including a summer algebra academy for middle school students, securing airline service at the county airport, advocating for the SMART train, and creating programs to develop entrepreneurial businesses and generate high-wage jobs.

Because of his skills and efforts, the Chamber recently learned that it had been awarded a rare five-star rating by the National Chamber of Commerce, becoming the only organization in California to achieve that honor. Also, Mike was set to become Chair of the American Chamber of Commerce Executives in August.

Originally from Iowa, Mike graduated from Iowa State University and then worked in a number of Chambers of Commerce in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Nebraska. He settled for 13 years in Fort Collins, Colorado, where his reputation attracted national attention. When the Santa Rosa Chamber was ready for a new president, Mike was an ideal choice.

He leaves a Chamber that is thriving, with increased membership and a variety of successful programs.

Mike is survived by his wife Kelly, daughters Heidi and Dana, and granddaughter Avery as well as his mother Beryl and three siblings.

Madam Speaker, the Santa Rosa Chamber and the broader community will miss Mike Hauser's leadership and his passion for addressing significant local issues. We thank him for the legacy he will leave in strong ongoing programs, especially the newly re-named Mike Hauser Algebra Academy.

IN MEMORY OF REV. JOSEPH C. MARTIN

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Rev. Joseph C. Martin, a son of Maryland who devoted his life to helping tens of thousands of alcoholics overcome their addiction—an addiction he overcame himself. Father Martin drank heavily for more than a decade until, with the help of a treatment center for the clergy, he recovered his sobriety. Drawing on his personal struggle, Father Martin developed his famous "Chalk Talk on Alcohol," a common-sense lecture on addiction that remains in heavy use to this day, from the U.S. Armed Forces to substance-abuse programs around the world.

Along with his hard-won lessons on sobriety, his most lasting legacy is Father Martin's Ashley, a treatment center overlooking the Chesapeake Bay in Harford County, Maryland. Father Martin's Ashley has kept its doors open for more than three decades and, with the guidance and leadership of its co-founder, has served more than 30,000 people. A giving, loving man who exemplified the best tenets of his faith and of the sobriety movement, Father Martin never turned away a potential patient who was short on funds. His example and his wise counsel enabled recovering alcoholics around the world to reclaim control of their lives.

Michael Deaver, who served as chief of staff to President Reagan and received treatment at Father Martin's Ashley, said: "I had been with presidents, kings, popes, and prime ministers, but Father Martin was the most powerful person I had ever met. You see, Father has the power to change people, to make them better, to make them whole again."

Though Father Martin is gone, I am sure that his legacy, his teaching, and his example will have that same power for years to come.

RECOGNIZING SUSAN CUNDIFF AS THE 2008–2009 HURLBURT AFA CHAPTER HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of Susan Cundiff, the 2008–2009 Hurlburt AFA Chapter High School teacher of the Year.

For many students, the prospect of taking physics and chemistry is daunting. Yet, for those at Gulf Breeze High School in Gulf Breeze, Florida, these advanced subjects become something comprehensible and enjoyable due to the outstanding teaching abilities of Ms. Susan H. Cundiff.

Advanced Placement Physics, Physics I/ Honors, Beginning Physics, and Beginning Chemistry are all taught by Ms. Cundiff, who was a cofounder of the Physics Alliance of Northwest Florida (PANF) and served as the organization's president for two years. She

has also coached events for the Science Olympiad. In each of her classes, students participate in a Rube Goldberg project in which a particular machine must be built. Previous projects include a letter folding machine, a machine that changes light bulbs, and robots capable of picking up and carrying objects. This learning style promotes an integrated, hands-on approach which helps break down the advanced material and makes it more tangible.

The title of Teacher of the Year is an incredible honor and is evidence of Ms. Cundiff's exceptional capabilities as an educator. Her teaching skills have influenced many and pushed countless students to a higher level of academic achievement. Ms. Cundiff's outstanding accomplishments have distinguished her as one of the great teachers in Northwest Florida, and the First District of Florida is honored to have her as one of their own.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Susan Cundiff on this outstanding achievement and for her exemplary service in the Santa Rosa School District.

WATER QUALITY INVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1262):

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my strong support for the Water Quality Investment Act of 2009. I thank Chairman OBERSTAR and the House leadership for their hard work on this timely legislation, which will modernize our nation's wastewater infrastructure to ensure our water supply is clean and safe for America's children and families.

A growing economy and population over the past decades have stretched the availability and compromised the quality of America's water supply. Our country has outgrown the capacity of our wastewater systems. Sewage overflows and toxic spillage are contaminating our water supply and posing grave threats to human health and the health of our water ecosystems.

By authorizing \$13.8 billion in federal grants for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and \$1.8 billion for sewer overflow control grants over the next five years, the Water Quality Investment Act will put 480,000 Americans to work and help bridge the gap between the number of wastewater infrastructure projects that need assistance and the amount of funding available. Over the next five years, Minnesota will receive over \$250 million to modernize its water systems, thereby helping to protect and restore the more than 10,000 lakes that help define our state.

This legislation also takes bold steps to clean up the Great Lakes, one of the nation's greatest natural resources. The Great Lakes make up the largest system of fresh, surface water on Earth, providing 90 percent of America's fresh surface water and 18 percent of the world's fresh water supply. In 2006 alone, over 23 billion gallons of sewage entered the Great

Lakes due to failing wastewater systems. This threatens human health and compromises the environmental integrity of these precious water bodies. This legislation authorizes \$750 million over five years for the Great Lakes Legacy Act, which supports projects to restore and protect the water quality of the Great Lakes.

Water is a scarce, precious resource and we must use it with great care. By passing the Water Quality Investment Act, Congress is working to ensure that our water can remain clean and safe for generations to come. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND THE NETWORK JOURNAL'S ELEVENTH ANNUAL 2009 TWENTY-FIVE INFLUENTIAL BLACK WOMEN IN BUSINESS HONOREES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Women's History Month and The Network Journal's Eleventh Annual 2009 Twenty-Five Influential Black Women In Business Honorees. Since 1998, The Network Journal has recognized the outstanding performance of 25 African-American women in the public, private, entrepreneurial and non-profit sectors throughout this nation and their impact to the world economy.

The Network Journal is a monthly business magazine with more than 88,000 readers. The publication is distributed nationwide with a focus on the Tri-state area (NY/NJ/CT) and features business articles of interest such as finance, technology, industry focus and ideas for Black professionals and small business owners. Aziz Gueye Adetimirin, Publisher of The Network Journal Magazine stated, "The women we are honoring this year are in the forefront of American leadership and symbolize the diversity and advancement that has occurred across industry lines." Founded in 1993, The Network Journal (TNJ) knows that Black professionals, more than most, recognize the importance of owning their own enterprises, but more importantly, TNJ knows that there is a difference between direct ownership and someone else defining your future. TNJ is also aware that Black professionals and entrepreneurs can chart their own course and own their success.

I am pleased to recognize TNJ's 2009 Twenty-Five Influential Black Women In Business Honorees: Abenaa Abboa-Offei, Senior Vice President, Customer and Community Connections Affinity Health Plan, New York City; Kelly Chapman, Director, Diversity Recruiting, Microsoft Corp., Cleveland; Amina Dickerson, Senior Director, Global Community Involvement Kraft Foods, Chicago; Joi Gordon Esq. Chief Executive Officer Dress for Success Worldwide, New York City; Brenda P. Grant, Infection Preventionist, Stamford Hospital, Stamford, Connecticut; Cecelia "Ci Ci" Holloway, Managing Director, Diversity and Inclusion for the Americas UBS Investment Bank, Stamford, Connecticut; Michele Hoskins, Michele Foods Inc. South Holland, Illinois; Gayle S. Lanier, Vice President and

General Manager, Nortel Knowledge Services Nortel Networks, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina; Ellin LaVar, Owner, LaVar Hair Designs, New York City; Sibongile Magubane, Head of Finance Sports Cars, General Motors Corp., Detroit; Lillian Roberts, Executive Director, District Council 37, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, New York City; Teresa Wynn Roseborough Esq., Senior Chief Litigation Counsel, MetLife Inc., New York City; Sandra Scott Esq., Vice President of Legal Affairs, Home Box Office Inc., New York City; Gerri Warren-Merrick, President Warren, Merrick Communications, New York City; Elizabeth Williams, President and CEO, Roxbury Technology Corp., Jamaica Plain, Mass.; Karen Williams, Associate Publisher, Marketing, Essence Magazine, New York City; Rebecca Williams, Senior Vice President, Executive Creative Officer, Uniworld Group Inc., New York City; and Brenda Williams-Butts, Director of Community Engagement & Audience Development, WNYC Radio, New York City.

The Network Journal has been recognized by government agencies, premier media outlets and business and professional organizations. TNJ has received the "Outstanding Commitment and Positive Contribution to the MBE Community" from the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency, and has been featured on CNN and FOX Television networks.

HONORING PAUL QUINN COLLEGE'S 137TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Paul Quinn College and this institution's Founder's Observance of 2009 entitled 137 Years of Combining Intellect with Faith.

Paul Quinn College is a historically black college and holds the distinction of being the oldest such institution in the State of Texas. On April 4, 1872, a small group of African Methodist Episcopal circuit-riding preachers established the college under the leadership of Bishop J. M. Brown in Austin, Texas. Originally, Paul Quinn College helped newly freed slaves learn various skills including blacksmithing, carpentry, tanning and saddle work.

A few short years after its founding, the college moved to Waco, Texas where increased funds allowed the school to expand in size and further develop a curriculum. The subjects of Latin, mathematics, music, theology, English, carpentry, sewing, household, kitchen and dining room work were added. In 1881, the college was chartered by the State of Texas and the school officially took the name of Paul Quinn College. This name was chosen in honor of Bishop William Paul Quinn who served as a Bishop representing the western states in the African Methodist Episcopal Church for over thirty years.

Today Paul Quinn College stands as a legacy to the hard work and dedication of the institution's founders, teachers, alumni, and students. On the week of March 28 through April 4, the college will be holding various Founder's Observances to commemorate the birth

and 137 years of the school's history. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in honoring Paul Quinn College and recognizing this institution's accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING HELENE MCGLYNN AS THE 2008-2009 HURLBURT AFA CHAPTER ELEMENTARY AND OVERALL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Helene "De De" McGlynn, who has received the Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398 Teacher of the Year Award for the 2008-2009 school year. Her passion and dedication show that teachers can truly make a difference in the lives of their students, and I am proud to honor such an admirable leader of our local community.

Ms. McGlynn teaches fifth grade at Florosa Elementary School in Mary Esther, Florida. Her classes span the width of the education spectrum, from a gifted and advanced math class to a science and reading class for lower performing students. She provides a differentiated curriculum to her pupils by integrating math, science, and reading skills to all academic levels. By using hands-on experiments, creative discussions, and real-world problem solving, Ms. McGlynn inspires a passion for learning to all. Her unwavering goal is to instill a thirst for knowledge in her students by crafting a relevant, modern program for classroom success.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to thank Ms. McGlynn for her public service to the students of Northwest Florida. Vicki and I wish her and her family best wishes for continued success.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. HELLER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: Dept of Agriculture—SRG

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Nevada-Reno

Address of Requesting Entity: 1664 N. Virginia St., Reno, NV 89557-0208

Description of Request: Funding would be used to address critical rangeland issues as they affect the health and productivity of land, forage for wildlife and domestic livestock, protection of endangered species, wildfires and invasive species. Science-based solutions to reduce wildfires, improve forage production, and protect wildlife species are critical needs. Funds requested will pay for scientific projects approved by the Experiment Station after peer-review.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: Dept of Agriculture—Conservation Operations

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Carson City, Nevada

Address of Requesting Entity: 201 North Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701

Description of Request: Funding will be used by the city to continue fire restoration following the Waterfall wildfire.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: DOJ—COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Washoe County Sheriff's Department

Address of Requesting Entity: 911 Parr Boulevard, Reno NV 89512

Description of Request: Funding will be used to improve DNA processing technology at the sheriff's office, which serves most of northern Nevada. The bulk of the funds would specifically help with the creation of a DNA database laboratory, in addition to purchasing equipment.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: DOJ—COPS meth

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Partnership Carson City Anti-Meth Coalition

Address of Requesting Entity: 201 North Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701

Description of Request: Funding will be used to combat methamphetamine in the Carson City area, which is one of the top crime and narcotics issues facing the state. Carson City has developed a model program that combines law enforcement, public awareness, drug treatment and counseling programs to eradicate meth use in the local community. The requested funding will build on significant past efforts and ultimately lead to the reduction of meth use in the local community and related criminal activity.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: DOJ—COPS Meth

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Secret Witness

Address of Requesting Entity: Secret Witness Program at PO Box 20991, Reno, Nevada 89515

Description of Request: Secret Witness is a non-profit organization (501 (c) (3)) that has been active in northern Nevada for more than 30 years. Secret Witness will expand its efforts into Phase II, and will include an assessment of its program upon completion to determine the impact of the information.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: DOJ—OJP—Juvenile Assistance

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

Address of Requesting Entity: 1041 North Virginia Street, Third Floor, Reno, Nevada 89503

Description of Request: The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), the nation's premier judicial education organization, has been providing critical education to members of this nation's judiciary

for decades. Located on the University of Nevada, Reno campus, its long and outstanding reputation for providing cutting-edge training for judges and other system professionals in areas related to court practice is nationally recognized. The National Council uses these Federal dollars to provide training to judges nationwide on child abuse and neglect, juvenile delinquency, divorce, custody and visitation, substance abuse, and mental health and educational needs of children, among other topics.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: Corps of Engineers—Investigations
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Truckee River Flood Project

Address of Requesting Entity: 9390 Gateway Drive, Ste. 230, Reno, NV 89521

Description of Request: The Truckee Meadows, Nevada project is a multi-purpose project that will provide flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration and recreation along the Truckee River from Reno to Pyramid Lake.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: Corps of Engineers—Construction
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: no entity—program request spent by Corps

Address of Requesting Entity:

Description of Request: The Rural Nevada program was designed to benefit small communities and to provide assistance for construction of water supply, wastewater treatment, environmental restoration and surface water protection projects. The difficulty in meeting water supply needs in Nevada has only been exacerbated by the tremendous growth Nevada has experienced. The Rural Nevada Program was authorized in a prior Water Resources Development Act and splits the project costs with the federal government 75% federal share/25% local share.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: DOE—EERE

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Desert Research Institute

Address of Requesting Entity: 2215 Raggio Parkway, Reno, NV 89512

Description of Request: A Renewable Energy Center (REC) will serve as the physical and programmatic focal point for all of Desert Research Institute (DRI) research, development, demonstration, and deployment (RDD&D) work in the area of renewable energy. DRI has proven strengths in wind and hydrogen research, with significant potential to expand its renewable-energy activities into areas such as biomass and biofuels.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: Small Business Administration

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Western Nevada Development District

Address of Requesting Entity: 704 West Nye Lane, Ste 201, Carson City, Nevada 89703

Description of Request: WNDD is a multi-county development organization that promotes job creation and growth among mostly small businesses. Funds will promote job creation in northern Nevada.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: EPA—Science and Technology
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: American Water Works Research Foundation

Address of Requesting Entity: 6666 W. Quincy Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80235

Description of Request: Funding would be used to continue research into cost-effective technologies for water quality that will benefit consumers, as the primary purpose of the research is to enable water utilities to practically address and manage challenges to water supply and to be directly involved in the deployment of new technologies.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: EPA—STAG

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Henderson, NV

Address of Requesting Entity: 240 Water Street, Henderson, NV 89009

Description of Request: Funding would be used for construction of the Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant/Southwest Water Reclamation Facility.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: EPA—STAG

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Reno, NV

Address of Requesting Entity: 1 E 1st Street, Reno, NV 89501

Description of Request: Funding would be used to convert septic systems to sewer systems, in order to help promote health and safety of residents.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: HHS—HRSA

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Carson/Tahoe Regional Healthcare/CTRH Dayton Hospital

Address of Requesting Entity: 1600 Medical Parkway, Carson City, Nevada 89703

Description of Request: Funding would be used to provide Emergency Medical Services Equipment for the hospital, which serves a large and fast-growing region.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: HHS—HRSA

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Pershing County General Hospital and Nursing Home

Address of Requesting Entity: PO Box 661, Lovelock, Nevada 89419

Description of Request: Funding would be used for the purchase of equipment, specifically a mammography machine.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: HHS—HRSA

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: St. Mary's Regional Medical Center

Address of Requesting Entity: 235 West Sixth Street, Reno, Nevada 89503

Description of Request: Funding will be used to expand and renovate the existing, outdated emergency unit.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: HHS—HRSA

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Center for Molecular Medicine/Institute for Neuro-Immune Disease at Pennington Medical Building

Address of Requesting Entity: Mail Stop 0332, Reno, Nevada 89557

Description of Request: Funding will be used for construction and equipment for the Institute clinical and research facility.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: DOT—Buses and Bus Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County, Nevada.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2050 Villanova Drive, Reno, NV 89520

Description of Request: Funding would be used to complete the replacement intermodal transportation facilities in downtown Sparks and Reno that are currently operating over capacity.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: DOT—Interstate Maintenance Discretionary

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County, NV

Address of Requesting Entity: 2050 Villanova Drive, Reno, NV 89520

Description of Request: Funding will be used to mitigate severe current and future traffic congestion occurring on I-580/US 395 and the adjacent surface arterials in the primary commercial retail district for the Reno/Sparks metropolitan area.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: DOT — Transportation, Community, and System Presentation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Reno, NV

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 1900, Reno, NV 89505

Description of Request: Funding would be used for continuing the revitalization and enhancement of the downtown rail access corridor.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: HUD—Economic Development Initiatives

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Fernley, NV

Address of Requesting Entity: 595 Silver Lace Blvd., Fernley, NV 89408

Description of Request: Funding will be used for the redevelopment and enhancement of an historically significant downtown corridor to attract business and generate jobs, largely in response to destruction from a recent flood.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: HUD—Economic Development Initiatives

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Wells, NV

Address of Requesting Entity: 1279 Clover Avenue, P.O. Box. 366, Wells, Nevada 89835

Description of Request: Funding will be used for streetscaping and construction of an indoor recreation facility, largely in response to destruction caused by a recent earthquake.

STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE FDIC'S SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ON COMMUNITY BANKS AND THE NEGATIVE IMPACT IT WILL HAVE ON THESE INSTITUTIONS, THE COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE, SMALL BUSINESSES, COMMUNITY-BASED GROUPS, FAITH-BASED GROUPS, AND CESAR CHAVEZ GROUPS

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, over the years, Texas community banks have provided the loans and services to small businesses and others, which have helped me help my district. Together, the community banks, the credit unions, the chambers of commerce, the mayors, the Texas Senate and House, the Public Housing Authorities, the CDCs, and many more in the Rio Grande Valley helped me reduce the unemployment rate in my district from 23 percent when I first arrived in Congress all the way down to 6 percent, which has increased to 9 percent in January 2009.

I want to impress upon you the need for all of us on this Committee, the House of Representatives, the Congress in general and the Executive branch to keep in mind the importance of community banks. It is a small—but vital—sector in the overall health of our economy. Community banks foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, and help increase individual savings, which is of particular importance to me as Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus.

While community banks are not the cause of the current crisis, they are feeling its effects. Commercial banks and savings institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) reported a net loss of \$26.2 billion in the fourth quarter of 2008.

However, more than two-thirds of all insured institutions were profitable in the fourth quarter of 2008, including community banks. “Unfortunately, their earnings were outweighed by large losses at a number of big banks”, as stated by the FDIC in their Quarterly Banking Report.

Total deposits increased by \$307.9 billion (3.5 percent), the largest percentage increase in 10 years, with deposits in domestic offices registering a \$274.1 billion (3.8 percent) increase. And at year-end, nearly 98 percent of all insured institutions, representing almost 99 percent of industry assets, met or exceeded the highest regulatory capital standards.

I agree with a statement made by Chairman Sheila Bair that, and I quote, “public confidence in the banking system and deposit insurance is demonstrated by the increase in domestic deposits during the fourth quarter. Clearly, people see an FDIC-insured account as a safe haven for their money in difficult times.”

Higher level of losses for actual and anticipated failures caused the FDIC Deposit Insurance Fund balance to decline during the fourth quarter of 2008 by \$16 billion, to \$19 billion (unaudited) at December 31. In addition to having \$19 billion available in the fund, \$22 billion has been set aside for estimated losses

on failures anticipated in 2009. The fund reserve ratio declined from 0.76 percent at September 30, 2008, to 0.40 percent in the last quarter of 2008. The statutory “targeted” reserve ratio for the FDIC fund is 1.15 percent.

When the FDIC Board recently met to address DIF’s fund reserve ratio, they decided to increase deposit insurance assessment rates beginning in the second quarter of 2009 and to consider adopting enhancements to the risk-based premium system.

I must admit that I was surprised and concerned when I read the FDIC’s press release announcing that the FDIC Board adopted an interim rule to impose a 20 basis point “emergency special assessment” on the industry on June 30, 2009. The assessment is to be collected on September 30, 2009. The interim rule would also permit the Board to impose an additional emergency special assessment after June 30, 2009, of up to 10 basis points if they deem it necessary to maintain public confidence in federal deposit insurance.

The FDIC merged the Bank Insurance Fund (BIF) and the Savings Association Insurance Fund (SAW) to form the Deposit Insurance Fund (DIE) on March 31, 2006 in accordance with the Federal Deposit Insurance Reform Act of 2005. As a result of the merger of the BIF and SAW, all insured institutions are subject to the same assessment rate schedule, but not necessarily the same assessment rate.

What is key here is the amount each institution is assessed is based upon statutory factors that include the balance of insured deposits as well as the degree of risk the institution poses to the insurance fund. Community banks do not pose a risk to the solvency of the Deposit Insurance Fund and its Designated Reserve Ratio and were not a party to the activities that led to such a low DIF ratio to the best of my knowledge.

The FDIC has a \$30 billion line of credit with the Treasury Department to meet its obligations. I am not opposed to the FDIC tapping that source. Our nation is in a severe economic crisis, and the FDIC plays a pivotal role in the financial system. We need to provide Chairman Bair and the Board with as much support as possible while simultaneously avoiding imposing unnecessary and unwarranted special assessments on financial institutions that had nothing to do with the current economic crisis or the condition of the overall banking industry.

The FDIC’s Deposit Insurance Fund currently has \$19 billion available, \$20 (you indicate \$22B earlier) billion set-aside for estimated losses on failures anticipated in 2009, and a \$30 billion line of credit with the Department of Treasury, bringing the total “available” to \$69 billion.

Legislation that recently passed the House and is being considered in the Senate included a \$70 billion increase in the FDIC’s line of credit at Treasury to \$100 billion, more than three-fold, and was intentionally capped at \$100 billion during a markup, bringing the total dollar amount available for the Deposit Insurance Fund to \$139(\$141?) billion, provided the legislation passes and is signed by the President.

Although very pleased to learn that Chairman Bair would cut the emergency special assessment in half, to 10 basis points, provided Congress increases the FDIC’s borrowing authority to \$100 billion, a quid pro quo, I remain

steadfast in my opposition to any special assessment that would be imposed on community banks.

Community banks did not cause the economic crisis. To the best of my knowledge, community banks do not pose a threat to the Deposit Insurance Fund or its Designated Reserve Ratio. Community banks did what they always do, they took care of their communities, small businesses, faith-based groups, community-based groups, nonprofits, César Chávez entities and many, many others.

Under the restoration plan approved last October, the FDIC Board set a rate schedule to raise the DIF reserve ratio to 1.15 percent within five years. Recent actions taken by the FDIC extends the restoration plan horizon to seven years in recognition of the current significant strains on banks and the financial system and the likelihood of a severe recession.

I agree with FDIC Chairman Sheila Bair's statement in the release that, and I quote, "Public confidence in the FDIC guarantee has helped assure a stable source of funding for banks in these troubled times." However, I am curious as to why community banks that played little to no role in the current financial crisis will have to pay a special assessment for something they did not do. I understand the argument that it's best to impose the assessment on all the insured institutions across the board. But, it is flawed. And, I'll ask one more time why should community banks that had little to nothing to do with the current crisis have to pay the special assessment?

They are small institutions that are well-capitalized whose funds are needed by local communities. Only thirteen out of 640 community banks in Texas have opted to participate in Treasury's Capital Purchase Program, and none of them are based out of my district.

As noted, the Full Committee and subsequently the House of Representatives passed legislation authorizing the FDIC to borrow up to \$100 billion from Treasury. Recently, Senate Banking Committee Chairman CHRISTOPHER DODD introduced legislation that would give the FDIC's Board of Directors, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the President, the power to increase the FDIC's borrowing authority above the \$100 billion cap to an amount they deem necessary to maintain the stability and designated reserve ratio of the FDIC's Deposit Insurance Fund, but not to exceed \$500 billion. This borrowing authority would sunset on December 31, 2010.

I support Chairman DODD's legislation—both its intent and its language—in large part due to the strict requirements it imposes on the FDIC, the Federal Reserve, and Treasury (in consultation with the President) prior to granting the authority for the FDIC to borrow beyond the proposed \$100 billion threshold as capped in the House-passed version of the legislation. It is sound public policy.

At the same time, with all the funds the FDIC currently has available and the additional borrowing authority it likely will have soon, I don't believe it needs to tap the community banks in my district, in Texas and the United States.

I have the utmost respect and confidence in Chairman Bair. I laud her for her commitment to financial literacy, especially her efforts to bring the unbanked into the mainstream financial system and away from check cashers, and payday and predatory lenders. I acknowledge and commend her and the FDIC Board for all their efforts and success at addressing the current economic crisis, up to a point.

The FDIC's proposed emergency special assessment will not only negatively impact community banks, but it will not help me in my capacity as Co-Chair of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus. It will not help me as a member of the Financial Services Committee. It definitely will not help me, a representative of the poorest county in the country, to bring the unbanked into the mainstream financial system.

There are alternatives to what the FDIC is proposing. If the FDIC needs additional funds to meet the designated reserve ratio, it can easily change the assessment base from domestic deposits to all deposits. The FDIC could tap temporary funding from the Treasury, like Wall Street firms, to re-capitalize the insurance fund, giving Main Street banks time to strengthen their balance sheets and allow local lending activities to continue, and grow, to help our struggling economy recover, rather than constrict lending further by imposing a new debt obligation on already burdened balance sheets.

I cannot support a policy in which a federal agency takes funds from my district, which includes Hidalgo County—the poorest county in the country—and transfers them to the limited areas of the country in which the large banks and entities other than community banks or credit unions, with the help of certain regulators, created the current global economic crisis.

Madam Speaker, I hope that someone out there is listening.

TREASURE ISLAND MAYOR MARY MALOOF COMPLETES 12 YEARS OF SERVICE TO HER COMMUNITY

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, Treasure Island Mayor Mary Maloof turns over her gavel this week during the city commission's regularly scheduled meeting, ending 12 years of dedicated service.

It has been a privilege to work with Mayor Maloof on a number of projects important to the people of Treasure Island. Most notable was the rebuilding of the Treasure Island Causeway and Draw Bridge, which serves as a major evacuation route for the city's residents. Together, we dedicated this \$65 million project in June of 2006, to the cheers of the people of Treasure Island and to the relief of the city's engineers who were concerned about the safety of the old bridge.

Mayor Maloof was never afraid to tackle a problem of any size whether it is a major bridge replacement, the largest public works project in the city's history, or the concern of a single constituent. She approached all those challenges with the same interest and can-do spirit.

Mayor Maloof served for six years as a City Commissioner before being elected Mayor in 2003. She was the first woman to be elected Mayor of Treasure Island and was reelected to a second three-year-term in 2006.

She had the great honor to preside over the city's 50th anniversary in 2005 and through her 12 years of service to the people of Treasure Island, she has set the city on course for great success and prosperity over the course of its next 50 years.

Madam Speaker, serving as mayor of any community large or small is among the toughest of elected positions. Mayor Mary Maloof has carried out her duties with the greatest of honor and dedication and it is my hope that my colleagues join me today in saluting her for a job well done.

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, March 17, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 18

- 9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine nuclear energy development; to be immediately followed by a business meeting to consider the nomination of David J. Hayes, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior. SD-366
- Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. 334, Cannon Building SD-430
- 10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Gary Locke, of Washington, to be Secretary of Commerce. SR-253
- Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider S. 277, to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to expand and improve opportunities for service. SD-430
- Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the National Academy of Science's report Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward. SD-226
- 10:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine Department of Defense medical programs. SD-192

- 2:30 p.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Disaster Recovery Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine findings from the Disaster Recovery Subcommittee Special Report and working with the Administration on a way forward. SD-342
- Finance
Health Care Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine what is health care quality and who decides. SD-215
- Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Securities, Insurance and Investment Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine risk management oversight at Federal financial regulations. SD-538
- 2:45 p.m.
Armed Services
Personnel Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the incidence of suicides of United States Servicemembers and initiatives within the Department of Defense to prevent military suicides. SH-216

MARCH 19

- 9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine United States Pacific Command, United States Strategic Command, and United States Forces Korea, with the possibility of a closed session following in SR-222. SH-216
- Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the Application Standards Improvement Act of 2009. SD-366
- 10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine cybersecurity, focusing on assessing our vulnerabilities and developing an effective defense. SR-253
- Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine prospects for engagement with Russia. SD-419
- Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 515, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform, and the nomination of Dawn Elizabeth Johnsen, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice. SD-226
- Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine perspectives from main street on small business lending. SR-428A

- 10:30 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine bank supervision and regulators. SD-538
- 2 p.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Financial Institutions Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine current issues in deposit insurance. SD-538
- 2:30 p.m.
Intelligence
To hold closed hearings on examine certain intelligence matters. SH-219

MARCH 24

- 9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine United States European Command and United States Joint Forces Command; with the possibility of a closed session following in SR-222. SH-216
- 10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine addressing insurance market reform in national health reform. SD-430

MARCH 25

- 9:30 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation. SH-216
- Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine State-of-the-Art information technology (IT) solutions for Veterans' Affairs benefits delivery. SR-418
- 2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization, focusing on NextGen and the benefits of modernization. SR-253
- Armed Services
Personnel Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine reserve component programs of the Department of Defense. SR-232A

APRIL 2

- 2 p.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the report of the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States. SD-106