

CELEBRATING METRO GOLD LINE
CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY'S 10
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority as it celebrates ten years of service and commitment to the community. Since the Construction Authority was established by the California State Legislature to design and construct the Pasadena Metro Gold Line, it has completed 13.7 miles of light rail, which averages 24,000 daily weekday boardings.

One decade ago, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, faced with serious budgetary problems, delayed the construction of the light-rail line to Pasadena. Senate Bill 1847 was introduced to create the Construction Authority and finish the work that had already been started on the new rail line. The newly created Construction Authority was not only able to complete the project on time but was also able to build it under budget.

Today, the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority is continuing its work in connecting downtown Los Angeles to the San Gabriel Valley and beyond. Funding has been secured to extend the line to the city of Azusa and plans are in place to continue the Gold Line to Montclair and Ontario International Airport. The success of the Gold Line is a testament of the collaborate efforts between the staff of the Construction Authority and the elected officials, civic leaders, and residents of the surrounding communities.

The Gold Line not only provides a reliable and efficient source of transportation to residents of the greater Los Angeles region, it also alleviates traffic and is a part of our fight to reduce pollution. The congestion on the Gold Line corridor highways has continued to increase as the Inland Empire grows in population. As we work to find solutions to solve our traffic congestion dilemma, extending the Gold Line into our eastern cities is clearly part of the answer.

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority on its ten years of success. I am proud of the role I have played in helping the Gold Line become the pride of the San Gabriel Valley and I wish it continued success!

THE BELLEVUE WOLVERINES

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud a phenomenal high school football program in my District—the 8th of Washington—for winning another State Championship—their seventh in nine years.

The Bellevue Wolverines have an illustrious history of football success in the State of Washington, and they continued the trend on Saturday, December 5, defeating the Liberty Patriots, 23–17, to secure another 3A title. Head Coach Butch Goncharoff and his assist-

ants provide some of the best coaching and vision in the country and the program—well known for their great on-the-field success—often makes positive impacts in the community as well.

I congratulate every member of the roster for their continued and storied success on the field. I thank coach Goncharoff, his assistants, Athletic Director Brian Hercules and Principal David Wellington for creating an environment that allows student-athletes to thrive on the field, in the classroom and in their community. Once again, congratulations and I wish the Wolverines all possible success in the future.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING LISA
ABELE FOR HER CERTIFICATION
BY THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR
PROFESSIONAL TEACHING
STANDARDS

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, Whereas, Lisa Abele has been granted certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; and

Whereas, Lisa Abele has sufficiently demonstrated adherence and dedication to the five core propositions of teaching set by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; and

Whereas, due to her hard work and dedication to her profession, Lisa Abele was able to achieve this esteemed honor; and

Whereas, we recognize the values and lessons teachers impart to our children; and

Whereas, the creative ingenuity that Lisa Abele has demonstrated while educating her students; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with Ohio's 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Lisa Abele for her certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on congressionally-directed funding, I am submitting the following information regarding funding included in H.R. 3326—Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman HAROLD ROGERS

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: PA,A

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Blue Grass Army Depot

Address of Requesting Entity: 431 Battle Field Memorial Road, Richmond, KY 40475

Description of Request: The funding of \$3.92 million will be used for the Blue Grass Army Depot Superficial Water Oxidation-Conventional Demilitarization. These funds will provide the Army with a state-of-the-art environmentally friendly means of processing the problematic energetic wastes generated at the Blue Grass Army Depot.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER
CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLYMAN NAO
TAKASUGI

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, today I honor the life and achievements of my dear friend, former California State Assemblymember Nao Takasugi. Nao dedicated his life to public service with humility, integrity, and commitment to the American ideals of equality and justice.

Nao was a 19-year-old student at the University of California, Los Angeles, when he and his family were incarcerated in an internment camp for Japanese Americans during World War II.

His family was forced to sell most of their possessions, but was able to keep the family store, the Asahi Market in downtown Oxnard, which they had owned since 1907.

The Takasugi family was able to save the store during their imprisonment by entrusting the family business to a Mexican American employee, Ignacio Carmona. When the Takasugi family returned to Oxnard in 1945, Mr. Carmona returned the business back to the Takasugis, after faithfully carrying on the business for three years.

In 1943, Nao was among approximately 4,000 Japanese American college students who were released from the internment camps and allowed to attend college on the East Coast. Nao earned his business administration degree at Temple University in Philadelphia and a master's in business administration from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in 1946. When he returned to Oxnard, he ran his family's Asahi Market.

His family's imprisonment inspired him to commit his life to strengthening our democracy in public service, and did not cause deep bitterness. As Oxnard City Councilman, Mayor, and then California State Assemblyman, he ably represented all of his diverse constituents, crossing racial and ethnic divides, and building bridges across party lines.

At the age of 87, Nao died of complications from a stroke on November 19, 2009. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Judy, and their five children, Scott, Russell, Ron, Tricia and Lea.

I was truly saddened by the loss of my dear friend Nao Takasugi. He was a gentle soul, and never let his kind demeanor get in the way of his strong beliefs about justice and civil rights. When he spoke, people listened as he was always true to his convictions and sense of honor. I will miss him dearly and will always reflect on his life as a metric of how I should conduct my own.

“THIS CHRISTMAS,” IN HONOR OF
ALL OUR ARMED FORCES AND
THEIR FAMILIES THIS CHRIST-
MAS SEASON

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a poetic tribute in honor of our