

guidance of its faculty. I know that the university will continue into its next century as it finished its first: a dynamic institution for education and research, and a true source of pride for Californians. I ask you to join me in thanking all the students, staff, administrators and faculty, past and present, for their accomplishments and continued hard work.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL NIGHT  
OUT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2008*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker. I support this resolution and encourage my colleagues to do the same. This resolution is important today as Americans are desirous of making America a better, safer place. This resolution recognizes the importance of community policing and crime prevention.

Because the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne-JAG) Program at fiscal year have been severely cut in America, we must be vigilant and ensure that America and our neighborhoods remain safe. The Byrne-JAG monies are supposed to be used to make America a safer place.

Byrne-JAG allows states and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime and to improve the criminal justice system, which states and local governments have come to rely on to ensure public safety. They support: law enforcement, prosecution and court programs, prevention and education, corrections and community programs, drug treatment, planning, evaluation, technology improvement programs, and crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation). In short, they are an indispensable resource that states use to combat crime.

Unfortunately, in fiscal year 2008 the Byrne-JAG program was cut by two-thirds. Although Congress authorized over \$1 billion, only \$520 million were appropriated for fiscal year 2007. The appropriation was then drastically reduced to \$170.4 million in fiscal year 2008, and the President has proposed further cuts for the fiscal year 2009 budget.

The continuing cuts seem to indicate that information regarding the success of the program has not been brought to the attention of members of Congress or to the Administration. Therefore, H. Res. 1324, recognizes that the President should focus on neighborhood crime prevention.

The trend to reduce the grant funding may result, in part, from instances where Byrne-JAG funding has been abused. For example, in 1999 Byrne-JAG funding was used in the infamous Tulia outrage in which a rogue police narcotics officer in Texas set up dozens of people, most of them African-American, in false cocaine trafficking charges. In other instances, jurisdictions used the funding to fund task forces focused solely on ineffective, low-level drug arrests, which has put the task force concept and the diminished standards of drug enforcement that it has come to represent in the national spotlight.

The most well-known Byrne-funded scandal occurred in Tulia, Texas where dozens of Afri-

can American residents (representing 16 percent of the town's black population) were arrested, prosecuted and sentenced to decades in prison, even though the only evidence against them was the uncorroborated testimony of one white undercover officer with a history of lying and racism. The undercover officer worked alone, and had no audiotapes, video surveillance, or eyewitnesses to collaborate his allegations. Suspicions eventually arose after two of the accused defendants were able to produce firm evidence showing they were out of state or at work at the time of the alleged drug buys. Texas Governor Rick Perry eventually pardoned the Tulia defendants (after four years of imprisonment), but these kinds of scandals continue to plague the Byrne grant program.

These scandals are not the result of a few "bad apples" in law enforcement; they are the result of a fundamentally flawed bureaucracy that is prone to corruption by its very structure. Byrne-funded regional anti-drug task forces are federally funded, state managed, and locally staffed, which means they do not really have to answer to anyone. In fact, their ability to perpetuate themselves through asset forfeiture and federal funding makes them unaccountable to local taxpayers and governing bodies.

But, reducing the funding is not the answer. Instead, we should encourage the President to invest in America and keep our neighborhoods safe. H. Res. 1324 does just that. I urge my colleagues to support it.

RECOGNIZING MARIAN MEDICAL  
CENTER'S CO-GENERATION EN-  
ERGY PLANT

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2008*

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Marian Medical Center, located in Santa Maria, California, and in my congressional district, for the recent completion of a new Co-Generation Energy Plant. This truly is a win-win project that will benefit our community and the environment.

With skyrocketing energy costs, it's very important now that we develop alternative methods of generating electricity. The Marian Medical Center Co-Generation Energy Plant system works by capturing toxic methane gas run-off from the Santa Maria Municipal Landfill and piping it to an energy plant recently built on the hospital campus where it is converted to clean electrical energy.

Piping gas from the landfill to power the hospital will significantly reduce methane emissions and offset the use of non-renewable resources, such as natural gas and oil. The energy plant will also result in significant energy and cost savings for the hospital. It will supply all but 50 kilowatts of the energy necessary to power the medical center and is expected to achieve an annual electrical cost savings of nearly \$350,000. Finally, the cogeneration project will provide benefits to the City of Santa Maria, which will be able to make use of and receive revenue for an otherwise unused, potentially toxic resource.

I am so proud that Marian Medical Center is one of only a handful of healthcare facilities in

the nation to be powered by co-generated energy. This project is the result of a unique partnership and I want to commend Marian Medical Center and the City of Santa Maria for serving as a role model for other organizations in our community.

RECOGNIZING THE SPECIAL  
OLYMPICS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 30, 2008*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1279, "Recognizing the Special Olympics 40th anniversary". First, I would like to thank my distinguished colleague, LEE TERRY of Nebraska, for introducing this important piece of legislation. This resolution will recognize the significance of the Special Olympics in establish lasting competitive bonds and teaching the world that all people possess the same courage and profound joy in the face of athletic competition. Through its 40 years the Special Olympics has dedicated itself to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive, and respected members of society through sports training and competition. I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this act.

The Special Olympics currently serves over 2,500,000 people with intellectual disabilities in more than 200 programs in over 180 countries. The organization has over 700,000 volunteers and 500,000 coaches worldwide. Indeed, every four years the Special Olympics requires a massive undertaking of athletes, volunteers and coaches. Throughout all this the organization has stood true to its oath "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt". Indeed, the bravery of the Special Olympics and its intellectually disabled athletes is inspiring, and well worth this commendation.

This bill recognizes not only the importance of an organization such as the Special Olympics, but also its effects. Children and adults with intellectual disabilities who participate in Special Olympics develop improved physical fitness and motor skills, greater self-confidence and a more positive self-image. These competitors grow not only physically, but mentally, and emotionally. In the process new powerful ties are made between individuals and between nations regardless of the barriers of language and geography.

This legislation will express the desire of Congress to recognize the tireless compassion of those volunteers and coaches working with the Special Olympics, as well as the unshakeable bravery of its athletes. Through its 40 years of service the Special Olympics has helped millions of intellectually disabled children and adults to find their true voice.

Whether it is through their 40 years of international competition, or their work regionally, where chapters such as Special Olympics Texas work to bring out both athleticism and joy from the intellectually disabled in 21 sports, this organization has shown a commitment to bringing out the best in both volunteer and competitor alike. To think that from a small summer day camp for intellectually challenged children and adults could evolve into a