

These 21st century explorers achieved a great engineering and scientific triumph earlier this year when the 770-pound Phoenix traveled 420 million miles and successfully parachuted to the rocky surface of Mars. That odds-defying landing, however, was only the beginning of Phoenix's awe-inspiring accomplishments.

On the surface of the Red Planet, Phoenix harnessed the power of the sun to scoop up and analyze the Martian soil. This data—including a series of remarkable photographs—was transmitted back to Earth where scientists made what must surely be one of the most significant discoveries in human history: the presence of frozen water.

For as long as humankind has peered into the heavens, we have wondered whether or not we are alone in the universe. From our earliest ancestors to medieval theologians to the scientists of our day, this question has loomed over us like the stars themselves. Mars has been the focus of much of this speculation. More than 40 missions have been launched to explore this planet but only six have been successful. Foremost among them is the University of Arizona-led Phoenix Mars Mission.

The discovery of frozen water on Mars by Phoenix did not definitively confirm or deny the age-old question of our uniqueness in the universe. No one ever expected it would. But it did give us a deeper understanding of the fourth planet from the sun. This new knowledge is a testimony to the creativity of the men and women who made Phoenix possible at the University of Arizona, the first public university to lead a mission to Mars.

The Phoenix Mars Mission Team members are: Cherie Achilles, Douglas Archer, Chris Adams, Paul Allvin, Maria Banks, Stephanie Barnes, Jean Barret, Carla Bitter, Rolfe Bode, Matt Bomhoff, William Boynton, Robert Bovill, Dennis Bowers, Cassie Bowman, David Burke, Sanlyn Buxner, Ryan Brestel, James Cantone, Chewie Chu, Kevin Corcoran, Jesse Cornia, Michael Drake, Gerard Droege, Alex Ebadirad, Jacob Egan, Heather Enos, Lisa Fahey, Charles Fellows, Tony Ferrow, Michael Finch, Kenny Fine, Mike Fitzgibbon, Gwennie Furr, Connie Garcia, Justin Giacotto, Gabrielle Gilbertsen, Joseph Gotobed, Stephen Gray, Dave Hamara, Sara Hammond, Lori Harrison, Dustin Harshman, Karl Harshman, Chelsea Hodson, John Hughes, Robert Jaw, Monty Kennedy, Hamza Kolaghsi, Frankie Kolb, Melissa Lambertson, Jeffrey Landgreen, Lynn Lane, Therese Lane, Pamela Larrow, Abel Levario, Colleen Lester, Andrew Levine, Robert Logan, Douglas Lombardi, Peter Manning, Katelun May, Rick McCloskey, Evan McKelvy, Trevor Merkley, John Moores, Bryan Morgante, Sean Mulvey, Julie Norwood, Carroll Oquest, Jerry Penegor, Federico Pennacchini, Ian Phillips, Amy Philips, John Pursch, Siddhartha Ray, Robert Reynolds, Garret Richards, Joaquin Ruiz, David Sage, Tisha Saltzman, Walter Seaman, Jeff Seligman, Andrew Shaner, Adam Shaw, Robert Shelton, Chris Shinohara, Peter Smith, William Sperry, Lori Stiles, Johnathan Strootman, Kari Sturm, Roger Tanner, Lisa Tatge, Lisa Tidwell, Cheryl Tomoeda, Kimmie Varela, Cindi Ward, Heather Weisacosky, Mike Williams, Galen Woida, Patrick Woida, Rigel Woida, Patricia Wroblewski.

I commend them for their success and for all they have done to expand our knowledge of the planet Mars.

HONORING SISTER'S JOURNEY AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, the first of November will mark an important milestone for an outstanding organization in my community—the 10th Anniversary of Sister's Journey. Founded by my dear friend, Linda White-Epps, as she coped with her own battle with breast cancer, Sister's Journey has been an invaluable source of comfort, compassion, and support for women diagnosed with this disease for the last decade.

The diagnosis of breast cancer can be overwhelming—not only for the woman who has been told she has this battle to face but for her loved ones as well. It is important for women to know that they are not alone and that there are others who are facing comparable challenges, asking the same questions, and enduring similar hardships, physically and emotionally. That is what Sister's Journey is all about.

In facing her battle with breast cancer, Linda White-Epps saw the need in her community for a group that could help women to heal physically, emotionally, and spiritually. She recognized the need for education and advocacy, for women to share the trials and tribulations of cancer, and to celebrate survivorship. What began as a monthly support group meeting has grown into a community educator and a strong voice of advocacy for early detection and quality treatment for every woman fighting breast cancer. But perhaps the organization's greatest contribution has been that of the Sister's Journey annual calendar. With each month comes the face and the story of a woman still facing breast cancer or who has survived—each page highlighting their personal journeys. The calendar has proven to be a tangible example of the encouragement, support, and vision that is Sister's Journey.

Though Linda lost her battle in 2003, today her legacy—Sister's Journey—is carried on by her family; her mother Phyllis White, and her daughter, Dawn White-Bracey, who serves as its current President. Today as members gather for the annual Pink Tea, we celebrate the remarkable 10 years this organization has been supporting those struggling with the ongoing challenges of breast cancer. I am proud to stand today to pay tribute to Sister's Journey and their decade of good work. We all hope for a time when breast cancer will no longer be a threat to our health, until then, our community could not be more fortunate than to have Sister's Journey for those in need.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to identify an earmark that I obtained in H.R. 2638—Homeland Security Division D for the Coast Guard account for the Elgin, Joliet, and Eastern Railway Company Bridge, Morris, IL in the amount of \$2,000,000.

In February 1995, the Coast Guard declared the EJ&E Bridge across the Illinois Waterway to be an unreasonable obstruction to navigation and issued an Order to Alter. The EJ&E Bridge is the most hit bridge on the entire inland river system.

Funding will allow design and construction for widening the width between the bridge piers. Currently, the width of the EJ&E Bridge is only 113 feet. Typically, barge tows that operate within the inland river system are 105 feet wide, leaving only a total of 8 feet of room for the barge to fit between the piers. According to the Coast Guard, modifications made to this bridge will save \$1.1 million in damage each year. Funding this project will make the Illinois River safer for maritime traffic and will substantially reduce the number of accidents at this site.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the United States Coast Guard located at Office of Bridge Administration, CG3-PWB Room 3500, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street, SW., Washington, DC 20593. It is my understanding that the funding would be used to the design and construction for widening the width between the bridge piers. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any direct financial interest in this project.

Consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge this request (1) is not directed to an entity or program named or will be named after a sitting Member of Congress (exception must be justified here); (2) is not intended for a "front" or "pass through" entity; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

HONORING HELEN JONES, M.D.

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Helen Jones upon being awarded with the "Community Health Champions Award" at the 2008 West Fresno Health Care Coalition's 4th annual "This is Your Life of Service" dinner and award ceremony. This year the ceremony will be held at the Radisson Hotel Conference Center in Fresno, California on Friday, October 24th.

Dr. Jones was raised in San Francisco, California. She graduated from Lowell High School, one of the oldest and most prestigious schools in the San Francisco school district. She earned a Bachelor's of Arts in biochemistry from the University of California, Berkeley and her Medical Doctorate from the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Jones also attended classes at the Universities of California, Irvine and Riverside and attended summer courses in biomedical engineering at Clark College in Atlanta, Georgia. She originally made her way to Fresno to train under Dr. Howard Morelli, the former dean at the University of California, San Francisco. Currently, Dr. Jones is in private practice with Internal Medicine Associates and was formerly with Linder-Quann Medical Group.

In addition to being an internist, Dr. Jones specializes in palliative medicine, a form of medical care or treatment that concentrates on reducing the severity of disease symptoms