

improve traffic flow through the city of Jacksonville. Funding would be spent in two phases: 1) on design and 2) actual construction of the overpass system.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (AL)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Transportation, HUD Appropriations bill, Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Pike Road, AL

Address of Requesting Entity: 4902 Old Pike Road, Pike Road, AL 36064

Description of Request: It is my understanding that the funding will be used for the Town of Pike Road to conduct economic, community, transportation, and infrastructure planning, including a study on light rail using existing rail lines between Pike Road and Gunter and Maxwell Air Force bases. The Town of Pike Road has developed a four-part strategic outline that its citizens endorsed at a town hall meeting. The plan calls for: (a) visionary community and economic planning; (b) excellence in public education; (c) recreation that fits the natural resources of the area; and (d) public safety and services that maintain a high quality of life.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (AL)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Transportation, HUD Appropriations bill, Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Valley, Alabama

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. 186 Valley, Alabama 36854

Description of Request: It is my understanding that the funding would be used for installation of elevator to increase access of the Sportsplex to the elderly and disabled population.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (AL)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Transportation, HUD Appropriations bill, Federal Highway Administration, Interstate Maintenance Discretionary account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Auburn, AL

Address of Requesting Entity: 144 Tichenor Avenue, Suite 1, Auburn AL 36803

Description of Request: It is my understanding that the funding would be used for the development of a 430-acre Auburn Technology Park West, including land acquisition and infrastructure construction, both on-site and off-site. Specifically, federal funding is requested for the construction of an extension of West Veterans Boulevard and part of the Outer Loop road to connect with the Technology Park. This road connection would provide a western connection between the City, the Technology Park and a new 1-85 interchange currently being designed. To this end, the City has provided \$11,300,000 to fund the development of the West Technology Park, but we still need additional resources to provide the road connectivity needed for access between the Technology Park, the City, and the interstate.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (AL)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Transportation, HUD Appropriations bill, Federal Highway Administration,

Transportation & Community & System Preservation account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Opelika, AL

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 390, Opelika, AL 36803

Description of Request: It is my understanding that the funding would be used to plan and design a perimeter or northern transportation corridor in Opelika. A northern perimeter is needed due to tremendous population growth primarily in the northern sector of Opelika resulting from strong economic growth in every sector-residential, commercial, and industrial. The corridor would ultimately connect US Highway 280 in northeast Opelika with Interstate 85 in northwest Opelika improving highway safety, reducing congestion on inner city streets, and connect new population centers with the growth of employment opportunities in the Northeast Industrial Park.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (AL)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Transportation, HUD Appropriations bill, Federal Aviation Administration, Facilities and Equipment account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Montgomery Airport Authority

Address of Requesting Entity: 4445 Selma Highway, Montgomery, AL 36108

Description of Request: It is my understanding that the funding would be used to preserve valuable airport infrastructure. It consists of rehabilitation of the pavement structure of the airport's primary runway, Runway 10/28, whose condition is beginning to deteriorate. This runway is showing signs of advanced deterioration at this time and will not last beyond another year or two without major rehabilitation. Since airport runways do not receive the level of activity that keeps roadways fresh by constantly flexing the asphalt, they tend to oxidize and crack over a period of 10-12 years. This runway has not been rehabilitated since 1996.

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#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF JORDI REYES-MONTBLANC

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2009*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise with great sadness as I pay tribute to my dear friend Jordi Reyes-Montblanc who recently passed away. As I speak with profound sorrow, I ascend to celebrate a life well lived and to remember with fondness the accomplishments of a remarkable man who, over his many years as an outstanding advocate for the West Harlem community, fought strongly and passionately for his ideals regardless of how popular the issue.

Jordi was a larger-than-life figure in the West Harlem community. For decades he was one of the area's most energetic activists, fighting for safe streets and cleaner parks, and especially championing the cause of affordable housing and homeownership for New Yorkers of modest means. Jordi delighted in his many contradictions. He was staunchly proud of his Cuban heritage. He was a fierce opponent of Communism who nonetheless fought for not-so-Capitalistic affordable housing policies.

Jordi's story was the stuff of novels. He fled his native Cuba as a young adult in 1958, escaping the winds of communism that eventually swept the island. He joined the U.S. Marines, where he engaged in covert operations in Southeast Asia. Though, he never spoke much about his past to those outside of his closest circle of friends. He was an avid hunter who often demonstrating his trademark frankness.

Jordi was a pioneer in the movement to allow low- and middle-income families to purchase their own apartments through the city's Housing Development Fund Corporation program, and in 1993 he led the conversion of his own building to a limited-equity co-op.

This activism on housing issues secured his appointment to Community Board 9 in the mid-1990s. It was during that period when he developed a close bond to Councilman Stan Michels, another significant local leader who passed away late last year. As Chair of Community Board 9, Jordi was fearless in speaking his mind on local issues, regardless of who he might offend. That quality could have earned him nothing but detractors on the Board, but instead the reverse happened: he was almost universally respected for his even-handedness and devotion to the community.

Columbia University's plan to expand to a new campus in Manhattanville defined Jordi's tenure as Chair of the local community board. While maintaining that he wasn't opposed to the expansion per se, he became a vocal critic of the displacement of local residents and businesses which would result from the specific plan Columbia was advancing. Jordi trusted his community board into the center of the fight on this issue, and he became a fixture in the city's media as an outspoken critic of the expansion.

In his blog you can still find his thoughts on what he felt he was about. He states, "I don't lead, I don't follow and I do the things my heart and conscience tells me are right for me to do, any one is welcome to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with me freely."

Jordi Reyes-Montblanc will be long remembered for his extraordinary commitment, energy, wisdom, discipline, principle, and clear purpose which won the admiration of all who were privileged to come to know and work with him. I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to observe and experience his example as a personal inspiration.

Madam Speaker, rather than mourn his passing, I hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the life of Jordi by remembering that he exemplified greatness in every way.

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#### JUDGE TOM ELLINGTON AND "WE THE PEOPLE"

#### HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2009*

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Municipal Court Judge Thomas Ellington in Washington State who received the annual William Nevins Award from the Washington Judges' Foundation for working tirelessly to educate youth about the judicial branch of government. Judge Ellington has spent the entirety of his judicial career working on behalf of "We the People," a high