

without going bankrupt. Our workforce needs to be retooled to keep up with innovative and new technologies; and our transportation systems need to be expanded. These are only a fraction of the many needs facing Texas and our Nation today.

In my district, I have held recent meetings with the Houston Mayor, school districts, universities, churches, homeowners, and the Houston METRO. They each have expressed their need for full funding to alleviate foreclosure issues, hurricane relief funding, construction issues, technology divides, and law enforcement strengthening.

Recently, President Obama mentioned the Houston's need for greater transportation and infrastructure improvements. I thoroughly agree, which is why I have been working with them for over 20 years to complete construction of the Northeast and South RAIL lines. METRO has indicated that it only requires \$183 million to complete this rail line.

Houstonians need this infrastructure to relieve congestion and provide adequate public transportation, and an investment that will mean jobs for our constituents through the transportation sector in our communities. Creating this critical infrastructure in Houston will allow Houstonians to work and will provide a tremendous boost to community development and mobility.

OMNIBUS DETAILS

Last year, this body passed only one of the twelve appropriations bills, the Military Construction-VA bill. The Senate Appropriations Committee approved nine of the twelve bills.

This Omnibus represents a measure worked out by both chambers—functionally resembling a conference report—and significantly increases funding levels compared to FY 2008 levels that were extended through March 6 by the enacted resolution, PL 110-329.

HR 1105 appropriates \$410 billion, \$31 billion, 8%, more than current funding, in discretionary funding, which represents the largest percentage increase for discretionary spending in regular appropriations in decades. It also contains \$637.5 billion in mandatory spending for entitlement programs, for a grand total appropriation of \$1.048 trillion in FY 2009. The bill covers appropriations for departments and agencies that would have been funded by the nine regular FY 2009 appropriations bills that were not enacted last year. These departments are currently funded under a continuing resolution that expires on March 6.

For our constituents who believe that we here in Congress do not understand their financial woes and their caps on raises and bonuses, let it be made clear that not only do we understand but we hold ourselves to the same standard. The recommended rule for the bill automatically incorporates a provision into the measure that blocks any cost-of-living increase in the salaries of members of Congress in 2010.

This bill provides the following amounts:

Agriculture—\$108 billion for the Agriculture Department, \$17.6 billion, 16%, more than provided in FY 2008. It includes \$87.8 billion, 81%, in mandatory spending and \$20.5 billion in discretionary funding. The total includes \$54 billion for food stamps, \$14 billion, 26%, more than current levels, as well as \$2 billion for the Food and Drug Administration, \$335 million, 16%, more than the current level, and 15% more for rural development programs.

Commerce-Justice-Science—\$57.9 billion, 10%, more than the current level, for the Com-

merce and Justice Departments, and science agencies. It includes a 16% increase in funds to assist state and local law enforcement agencies.

Energy & Water—\$33.8 billion for the Energy Department, Interior Department, Army Corps of Engineers, and related programs—\$2.3 billion, 7%, more than the current level. It provides 12% more than current funding for energy assistance and alternative energy research, but 18% less for nuclear energy and 9% less for "clean coal" projects.

Financial Services—\$44.6 billion, \$58 million more than the current level, for the Treasury Department, the federal judiciary, the District of Columbia, the Executive Office of the President, and various independent agencies.

Interior-Environment—\$27.6 billion for Interior Department, Agriculture Department, Indian Health Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and related programs—\$1 billion, 4%, more than the current level.

Labor-HHS-Education—\$625.7 billion, of which \$152.3 billion is discretionary funding and \$473.4 billion is mandatory spending, for the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, HHS, and Education. The discretionary total is \$7.4 billion, 5%, more than the current level, and includes \$30.3 billion for the National Institutes of Health, 3% more than current funding, \$15.8 billion for education for disadvantaged children programs, 2% more than the current level; 7% more for Education Department programs; and 4% more for the Centers for Disease Control.

Legislative Branch—\$4.4 billion for the legislative branch, \$432 million, 11%, more than the current level. This appropriation includes \$1.3 billion for the House and \$895 million for the Senate.

State-Foreign Operations—\$36.8 billion in foreign aid, State Department operations and export assistance, \$3.8 billion, 12%, more than the current level. The bill provides 14% more for international organizations, but 43% less for the Bush administration's program to aid developing nations that meet certain political and economic standards.

Transportation-HUD—\$108.7 billion in budgetary resources for the Transportation Department, the Housing and Urban Development, HUD, Department, and five related agencies. This total includes \$55 billion in discretionary appropriations, \$6.2 billion, 13%, more than current funding.

Homeland Security—\$100 million for the U.S. Secret Service, including \$61 million for Secret Service protective missions. Of that amount, \$25 million would be for the first-year costs to hire 150 additional special agents to meet increased presidential and vice presidential protection requirements. The measure also extends the authorization of three programs through Sept. 30, 2009 the Basic Pilot, E-Verify, program, the EB-5 Visa program, and the National Flood Insurance Program. In addition, it extends the authorization of the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism until March 1, 2010.

CONCLUSION

As the representative for the 18th congressional district of Texas, I am very pleased that this Omnibus bill will aid people in my district that desperately need it. We have rail lines that need to be expanded, schools that are in dire need of construction, hospitals that cannot help the sick because of capacity issues, and

areas still reeling from Hurricane's Katrina, Rita, and Ike.

The assistance my district will receive is outstanding. I plan to continue to work with Chairman OBEY and the Appropriations Committee staff to ensure that necessary funding goes straight to the city and county agencies, companies, schools, and nonprofits that need it to better assist the people of Houston.

I trust that the money in this omnibus along with monies from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will begin to bring not only relief but life to our economy.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE HONORABLE ANDREW DEGRAFFENREIDT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of my dear friend, The Honorable Andrew DeGraffenreidt. Andrew died last week, at age 80, in a West Palm Beach hospital, his health having deteriorated since breaking his hip socket in October. My thoughts and prayers are with his family at this most difficult time, and I hope that they may take some comfort in knowing that Andrew had a profound impact on those in our community and made significant contributions to the lives of so many Floridians.

Andrew was born in Kansas City, Missouri and reared in Hollandale, Mississippi. From an early age he showed the remarkable intellect that would serve him so well in the years to come, earning a Bachelor of Science degree from Tougaloo College, Mississippi, where he also met his wife, Eddie Pearl. Andrew went on to earn a Master of Science degree in Zoology from Pennsylvania State University in State College, Pennsylvania.

Andrew put his education to work immediately, starting work as a teacher at Dillard High School in Fort Lauderdale, before moving to Everglades Junior High, where he headed the science department, retiring in 1982. Additionally, he was the teacher for several programs for the Broward County School's ITV Center, including a program that focused on the contributions of minorities to the development of the United States. Andrew was a magnificent mentor to so many that he taught and had a profound impact on the lives of his students.

Madam Speaker, Andrew had also had a distinguished career in publicly-elected office, and it is perhaps through this career that he had the greatest influence. Andrew was the first African American elected to the Fort Lauderdale City Commission, serving three terms from 1973-1979. He achieved this office before the city created political districts in 1988, and remains the only African American to have won this office when it was contested city-wide. Andrew was also the first African-American Superintendent of Parks for the city, and served on the boards of Broward County's Urban League and United Way.

Andrew was a tremendous public servant. He was a champion of the city's neglected minority neighborhoods, working to establish a

Youth Advisory Board and to improve city infrastructure. He worked on reforming the city's police department, in particular pushing for the hiring of minorities and encouraging black and white police officers to learn from each other. He also played a key role in opening the Von D. Mizell Community Center in Fort Lauderdale's Dorsey-Riverbend neighborhood. The significance of his work was recognized when, in 2002, the Fort Lauderdale City Commission named the recreation center at Bass Park in his honor and passed a resolution naming Andrew as an Honored Founder of the city.

Madam Speaker, I will treasure Andrew's memory, and although his life has come to an end, his legacy will live on for generations to come. He will be remembered for his generosity and poise, characteristics which enabled him to improve the lives, and earn the respect, of all those who knew him. I am proud and fortunate to call Andrew my friend, and will miss him dearly.

IN RESPONSE TO H.R. 1105

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, the Democrats in Congress have a spending problem. House Democrats spent \$410 billion to fund earmarks such as: \$6.3 billion for AIDS prevention and research and \$1.4 million for energy efficient street lighting in Detroit. The Democrat leadership of this body believes that we can spend our way out of a recession. They believe that a Washington bureaucrat can tell you what is best for you and your family.

But House Republicans know this isn't so. We know that Americans are the hardest working people in the world. We know that Americans are innovative, inspiring, and resilient. Americans are the life-force of the world economy. What the American people need are tax breaks and sales tax credits so they can continue to run their small businesses, create jobs, and rejuvenate our economy. What the American people do not need is more spending for liberal special interest groups. They need opportunities for innovation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2009

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I was not able to reach the House floor to cast my vote on Rollcall 415 on June 17, 2008, prior to the vote closing. Had I been able to reach the floor before the vote was closed, I would have voted "no."

TRIBUTE TO FIREFIGHTER
LIEUTENANT JIMMY McCASKEY

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to honor and recognize

the bravery of Bartlett Firefighter Lieutenant Jimmy McCaskey.

While vacationing in Florida Lt. McCaskey showed the highest form of human compassion and bravery when he risked his own life to save a father and son caught in the grasp of a powerful rip current generated by a hurricane while hundreds of beachgoers stood on the shore and watched. When Lt. McCaskey reached the two swimmers he lifted the father who was already blue in the face out of the water, onto his boogie board and kept him alert for 20 agonizing minutes while being relentlessly battered down upon from all directions by a surging sea until help finally arrived. Thankfully, this fisher of men narrowly escaped his own death.

In honor of this extraordinary act of selflessness, Lt. Jimmy McCaskey was awarded the Medal of Valor which is one of the highest honors for bravery a firefighter can receive. This award is administered by the 100 Club of Memphis and was presented to Lt. McCaskey due to his outstanding performance without regard for personal safety which should stand as an inspiration to all men and women across Tennessee and our Nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in both thanking and congratulating Lt. Jimmy McCaskey for his heroism; he is, indeed, a worthy recipient of this outstanding honor. And may God bless all of the Jimmy McCaskeys of America.

DONNA DENT

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2009

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I am proud to say that one of my constituents, Donna Dent, was part of the heroic emergency landing of US Airways flight 1549 that recently made headlines as a "miracle on the Hudson." Donna and her husband Bill live in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Donna is known by family, friends, and neighbors as an unshakably calm, responsible, and warm person. As one of the flight attendants on duty, Donna was an integral part of ensuring all 150 passengers aboard the flight made it to safety while the plane quickly filled with water.

With two decades of experience, Donna is known to have a knack for keeping passengers calm on flights, especially children. There is no doubt that she was an asset in preparing passengers for a crash and keeping passengers composed enough to exit the aircraft safely once it hit the river.

When people go out of their way to do service for others in such a kind and selfless manner it renews our faith in humanity. We are lucky to have had such a wonderful person from the Fifth District of North Carolina on duty and working to make the "miracle on the Hudson" truly a miracle.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2009

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of HR 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009:

Requesting Member: Rep. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: OJP—Byrne Discretionary Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Megan Nicole Kanka Foundation

Address of Requesting Entity: PO Box 9956, Trenton, New Jersey 08650

Description of Request: I have secured a \$56,000 designated grant for the Megan Nicole Kanka Foundation, Check 'Em Out program in Division B of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009. This funding is to be used to purchase equipment to assist in background checks on volunteers at community recreation departments and athletic leagues. The Kanka Foundation is fundraising to share in the cost of this program.

Requesting Member: Rep. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: OJP—Juvenile Justice

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: DARE New Jersey

Address of Requesting Entity: 292 Prospect Plains Road, Cranberry, New Jersey 08512

Description of Request: DARE New Jersey, Inc. is listed as receiving a \$200,000 grant for the High School Drug and Safety Prevention Project in Division B of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009. This funding will be used to teach students proper decision making skills and how to resist peer pressure in order to live drug and violence free lives. DARE's current budget includes additional funding for this program.

Requesting Member: Rep. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: OJP—Juvenile Justice

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Police Athletic League of New Jersey

Address of Requesting Entity: 180 South Street, Freehold, NJ 07728

Description of Request: The Police Athletic League of New Jersey, PAL of NJ After School Initiative, is listed as receiving \$1,500,000 in Division B of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009. This funding will be used to provide after school athletic activities for students 8–16 years old in order to deter juvenile crime. PAL is committed to raising additional funding through local business and individual donations.

Requesting Member: Rep. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: OJP—Byrne Discretionary Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Greater Trenton Area YMCA

Address of Requesting Entity: 431 Pennington Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey 08075

Description of Request: I have secured a \$450,000 federal grant for the Greater Trenton Area YMCA in Division B of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009. This funding will be allocated for the completion of the new YMCA