

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

AMBASSADOR RICHARD SKLAR

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, on January 20, 2009, just hours after President Obama took the oath of office, our nation lost a tremendous American: Richard Sklar.

My friend Richard Sklar was a master builder: of family, of ideas, of infrastructure, of peace, of the future.

My husband, Paul, and I first met Richard and his beautiful wife Barbara in the 1970s. I remember the day the Sklars moved into the neighborhood. My daughters Christine and Nancy met them first, running home to exclaim to me, "A new family has moved in. They have children our age. Their mother is beautiful, and their father sings show tunes. And did I tell you, they're Democrats?"

My five children became fast friends with the Sklar children: Karen, Eric, Marc, and Pamela. We all quickly came to cherish Richard's larger-than-life personality, sense of humor, and love of life and family.

Richard was like the pied piper when it came to children. When one of my kids wasn't home, there was a good chance that the Sklars were hosting a basketball game, movie, meal, or party. Over 20 years ago, the kids saw the Smurf movie and bestowed Richard with the nickname "Papa Smurf." They—and he—used it ever since.

With a zest for the organic and the exotic, Richard and Barbara were "foodies" long before the term was officially invented. You could count on expanding your palate at the Sklar tables in San Francisco and Napa. He was proud of his homegrown grapes and figs, and enjoyed the small celebrations—weekends in the country, birthdays, and family dinners—as much as the big holidays. Though Jewish and proud of his heritage, Richard put up the biggest Christmas tree anyone had ever seen.

Richard was a master builder of ideas. A brilliant engineer, businessman, diplomat and mediator, Richard brought his passion, talents and determination to every challenge he faced. As pragmatic as he could be in business, Richard was at heart a dreamer—always pursuing big ideas, big ideals, and big innovations.

Richard loved people—earning the respect of all, from the people on the street to the President of the United States. His confidence in their possibilities inspired greatness in return.

But Richard wasn't afraid to use tough love as well, because he was passionate, mission-driven and fearless in all his endeavors. In one such tough love work moment, he said "I didn't come here to be uncritically loved; I get that from my grandkids." He certainly had his priorities in order.

Richard had an opinion about everything and was never shy about expressing his views—whether about family, movies, books,

or politics. Richard wanted the last word in any conversation—and usually he got it.

Richard and I shared a birthplace—Baltimore, Maryland—and a love for progressive values and Democratic politics. Richard and Barbara were long involved in local and national politics from McGovern to Obama. They participated in every election cycle, building coalitions and urging participatory democracy. They opened their home for candidates for office at all levels of service. If you showed up at the Sklar house during TEDDY KENNEDY's 1980 campaign, any number of KENNEDY family and friends might be there for breakfast or dinner.

And more often than not, you would see that great Sklar and KENNEDY friend, ANNA ESHOO. Richard delighted in ANNA's success as a Member of Congress over the years.

Richard and Barbara taught their children to be active in civic life and have always taken great pride in their children's public service.

Throughout the years, Richard's role as master builder of ideas manifested itself in his work to preserve our planet for future generations. A force of nature himself, he never stopped thinking about new ways to save the planet, promote energy independence, and create innovative solutions by sheer force of will and intellect.

San Francisco will always bear the mark of Richard the master builder of infrastructure. In his lifetime, Richard oversaw construction of the Moscone Convention Center, kick-started Muni, and supervised the reconstruction of San Francisco's historic cable car system.

When you attend a conference at the Moscone Center, commute on an electric bus, or catch a cable car ride, you are among millions of people benefiting from the city that Richard helped rebuild.

The Balkans bear the touch of Richard the master builder of peace. In the 1990s, President Clinton asked him to help rebuild war-torn Bosnia, where he coordinated programs with the European Union, World Bank and International Monetary Fund to bring economic reconstruction and strategic reform to eight Balkan countries. He was responsible for restoring basic electricity and water services, reopening the Sarajevo airport and strengthening mine removal efforts. He would return to the area a few years later to help with Montenegrin independence for which he received the highest non-citizen medal of honor.

Richard also served with distinction as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, and will be long remembered for his work to reform management, budgetary financing and personnel practices there.

Richard said that when he was an ambassador in Sarajevo, he made a point of writing out personal notes to the White House on the fax cover sheets that he knew the Bosnian staffers would surreptitiously read—and discuss—as they sent his weekly reports back to Washington. He wanted the Bosnians to know that President Clinton never thought about Bosnia without considering "what does Richard Sklar think?" and that Richard Sklar never

thought about Bosnia without knowing "this is what President Clinton thinks."

While Richard bore the title of ambassador, it is Barbara, with her grace and grit, who is the true family diplomat, negotiating strong personalities and countless adventures in parenting: from Eric's pierced ear to Marc's high school parties. Of course, according to Richard, Karen and Pamela were perfect.

As they traveled the world, Barbara provided the sense of home, keeping their network of family and friends together even while she developed her own networks in civics and philanthropy. Barbara's artistry captured on canvas their life from California to New York to Italy to the Balkans.

For their entire relationship, Richard called her, "Beautiful Barbara." She was always the most beautiful person that he knew.

Like all great visionaries, Richard knew he was building a future he would not see.

Even when he became ill, Richard never stopped his work for the next generation. He continued his work on the local Public Utilities Commission, mentored political figures, and fought for a cure for cancer—if not for him, then for others. Richard taught us how to fight: never giving up, never losing hope, ever confident that the struggle was worth it for every extra minute it gave him with Barbara, his four children, and his eight grandchildren.

He also used the time to come up with new ideas about how to rebuild our country. How we will miss those phone calls and detailed voice messages—mine always contained strategic advice for the House Democrats.

My last message from Richard came after he heard President Obama's inaugural address. He thought it was wonderful, and characteristically had some thoughts to share about it. Later that same day, Richard left us.

Knowing Richard's interest in show business, the movie that I think best describes his journey is, "It's a Wonderful Life". With Richard Sklar in it, it was indeed a wonderful life.

IN HONOR OF LAUREL BRENNAN
AND THE WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Laurel Brennan, Secretary-Treasurer of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO and the Women in Leadership Development (WILD) program. As a devoted mentor, Ms. Brennan has been generous with her time in helping hundreds of women. Through her tireless efforts to help women advance in their professional endeavors, many have reached new heights in the labor movement and other fields.

In 1997, Ms. Brennan became the first woman to hold the position of Secretary-Treasurer of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Since this accomplishment she has implemented and developed the WILD program. Every year, under the leadership of Ms. Brennan, the New Jersey State AFL-CIO sponsors the WILD Conference in New Brunswick, NJ. The conference brings key players together to address a wide array of questions of how unions help women and how women help unions. The conference is designed to ensure that union women will have the opportunity to be educated, develop leadership skills and build diversity within labor movements.

Ms. Brennan's WILD program began in March 2004 as a way to recognize International Women's Day. During the first year she brought together 75 women to spend the day at the Rutgers Labor Education Center. Over the years, the number of women attending the conference expanded to reach over 250 people.

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO has been a leading proponent for workers' rights in our community. Representing a robust one million workers in our great state, the New Jersey AFL-CIO has an impressive record of advocating on behalf of working families. The Women in Leadership Development conference is a unique entity of the AFL-CIO. As Ms. Brennan's brainchild, WILD empowers women in unions. For the first time in its six year history, WILD will be bringing ten union women from the United Kingdom to compare efforts globally. This unique program not only benefits my community, but provides an exceptional foundation for women all over the world to use in the advancement of their careers.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the work of Laurel Brennan and the WILD program. Her advocacy for women in the labor movement has a lasting impact on many New Jerseyans and others. I am confident that Ms. Brennan and the WILD women will continue to inspire and benefit many others for years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE RETURN OF
THE 40TH EXPEDITIONARY SIGNAL
BATTALION TO FORT
HUACHUCA FROM IRAQ

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize, congratulate and welcome home the remaining Soldiers of the 40th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, part of the 11th Signal Brigade, to Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

The battalion's 600 Soldiers began their deployment in December 2007. The men and women of the 40th Signal Battalion supported combat operations throughout the Middle East as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom by providing secure communications and command-and-control networks for both U.S. war fighters and coalition partners. This was the third time the unit was called to war since the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan began.

This week the remainder of the 40th Signal Battalion returned home to a proud and grateful nation. They join other Soldiers from 11th Signal Brigade who returned to Fort Huachuca at the end of December from a similar mission in the Middle East. Together, the 40th Bat-

talion and the 11th Brigade Soldiers courageous and heroically completed their critical mission. They represent the best of Southern Arizona and our Army. As with all of our brave men and women, we are proud and appreciate their service to our nation.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act:

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN R. CARTER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Bus and Bus Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Address of Requesting Entity: 2910 E. 5th Street, Austin, TX 78702

Description of Request: \$2,612,500 is received for Capital Metro's Paratransit Vehicle Replacement. Pursuant to, and in accordance with, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Capital Metro provides door-to-door van and sedan Para-transit service throughout Central Texas for persons with disabilities and senior citizens. This \$11.7 million (FY08 operating budget) program provides more than 500,000 rides each year. Capital Metro will be replacing many of the vans and sedans that serve this program, as they are retired during the coming fiscal year.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN R. CARTER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Temple Health & Bioscience Economic Development District

Address of Requesting Entity: 938 Canyon Creek Drive, Temple, TX 76502

Description of Request: \$381,000 is for the seed money to acquire a state of the art cyclotron and related equipment for the production of radioisotopes. Future funding requests may be submitted.

Cyclotron—\$2,350,000

Micro PET Scanner—\$265,000

Micro Lab—\$58,000

Lab Equipment—\$375,000

Shielding—\$32,000

Rigging—\$35,000

Building Construction \$425,000

Start-Up Funding—\$65,000

Misc. Expenses—\$17,000

Total—\$3,622,000

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN R. CARTER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Southwestern University (Georgetown, TX)

Address of Requesting Entity: 1001 E. University Avenue, Georgetown, TX 78626

Description of Request: \$466,000 is for the TLCC, which is an innovative national model for a biotechnology, life-sciences and nano-

technology center for recruiting and developing emerging companies. The faculty and students of Southwestern University will participate in research partnerships and internships using the requested laboratory equipment, wet lab, and nanotechnology clean room.

Budget: Key equipment and activities to be funded through this one-time federal request are as follows:

VWR Science Instruments—\$48,549

VWR Wet Lab—55,924

VWR Clean Room—29,839

VWR Conference Room and Equipment—31,882

NanoScience Atomic Force Microscope—101,058

Leeds Instruments Confocal Microscope—95,000

Applied Biosystems Mass Spectrometer—35,000

Ground Zero Anti-static Flooring—2,295

Ground Zero Installation—2,000

Guardian Power Generator—16,500

Guardian Generator Pad and Installation—7,500

Indirect Costs (15%)—63,832

Total—\$489,379

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN R. CARTER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Higher Education (Includes FIE)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Texas State University (Round Rock Higher Education Center)

Address of Requesting Entity: 601 University Drive, San Marcos, TX 78666

Description of Request: \$476,000 in funding will continue to support the efforts to establish a nursing program at RRHEC. The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) is an entirely new major for Texas State University only to be offered at RRHEC. Funding for equipment for the clinical and simulation laboratories and additional nursing faculty and staff for the simulations laboratories continues to be needed and FY09 funding will be used for the salaries for the nursing program personnel as well as the simulation lab equipment and operating costs. Future funding requests are expected.

FY09 Budget—\$1,500,000

Funding Request for Salaries and Benefits for Nursing Program Personnel—\$700,000

Director for Community and Continuing Education (1)

Administrative and Lab Staff (4)

Faculty (5)

Simulation Laboratory Equipment and Operating Costs—\$800,000

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN R. CARTER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Elementary and Secondary Education

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Communities-in-Schools, Bell-Coryell Counties, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 4520 E. Central Texas Expressway, Suite 106, Killeen, TX 76543

Description of Request: \$143,000 was secured for the Youngest Victims of War Project. The goal of the project is to continue to impact the lives of a minimum of 1,800 military children in a positive way by keeping them in school and focused on performing to their greatest potential. To accomplish this, the CIS staff focus on the following components while case managing students: Supportive Guidance

and Counseling, Educational Enhancement, Parental and Family Involvement, Enrichment Activities, Health and Human Service Coordination, and Employment Skills Training. These activities encourage academic excellence, promote positive self-esteem, stress community involvement, and promote growth opportunities for students and their families. Future funding requests are expected.

Budget breakdown for the project:

PERSONNEL: (\$628,943)

18 CIS Site Directors @ \$30,603 annual salary = \$550,854

(each Site Director will case manage a minimum of 100 students)

1 Data Entry Spclst @ \$20,912 annual salary = \$20,912

10% Fringe for 19 these positions = \$57,177

(7.65% FICA and Medicare and 2.35% Organizational Insurance—W/C, Professional Liability)

PROGRAM EXPENSES: (\$22,464)

Currently, the average cost for overseeing CIS Campus operations is \$1,248 per campus. With an addition of 18 campuses, the total cost will be \$22,464. This cost covers the coordinated services as mandated for CIS by the Texas Education Agency by: 1) providing documentation to report program progress, 2) supervising CIS campus staff, 3) collaborating with ISD and campus administrators to maximize program success, and 4) overseeing the coordination of resources for students and their families.

TOTAL COST: \$651,407

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN R.

CARTER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: EPA State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Temple, TX

Address of Requesting Entity: 2 North Main Street, Suite 306, Temple, TX 76501

Description of Request: \$500,000 was secured for a wastewater Interceptor that will enable the construction of approximately 9,000 feet of wastewater main line and 11,500 feet of wastewater interceptor. \$50,000 will be spent on a Preliminary Design, \$155,000 on the Final Design, \$10,000 to Bid & Award construction, \$1.7 million for construction, and \$85,000 for construction administration. The federal government has provided \$500,000 of the \$2 million price tag. The requesting entity will provide the required funding match.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN R.

CARTER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Corps of Engineers—O&M

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Congressman JOHN R. CARTER

Address of Requesting Entity: 409 Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515

Description of Request: \$2.85 million in the O&M account for the Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District (SWF) to repair three parks surrounding Stillhouse Hollow Dam and Lake which were devastated in June 2007 during massive rains and flooding.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN R.

CARTER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Bureau of Reclamation—Title 16

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA)

Address of Requesting Entity: 3700 Lake Austin Blvd. Austin, TX 78767

Description of Request: \$1 million to assist in stretching available potable water resources by combining several current and future projects into a Williamson County Regional Reuse System. Total project cost is approx. \$24 million. Federal share cannot exceed 25% of that amount. The local communities provide the remaining 75%.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN R. CARTER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Justice, OJP-Byrne Discretionary Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Tarleton State University

Address of Requesting Entity: 1333 W. Washington, Stephenville, TX 76402

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$1.5 million to establish a rural law enforcement information technology and anti-terrorism service at Tarleton State University. On an annual basis, approximately 28.4% will be used for salaries and benefits; 7.9% for travel for training and meetings with agencies; 1% for equipment; .7% for office supplies; 5.4% for consulting for steering committees; 54% for database records management and assistance; and .3% for meeting expenses and teleconferencing.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN R. CARTER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Justice, COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Austin

Address of Requesting Entity: 301 West 2nd Street, Austin, TX 78701

Description of Request: I have requested an earmark of \$350,000 to complete phase 1 of a security camera system for pedestrian-heavy and crime-ridden areas of the City of Austin. The initial build out will include 2–5 cameras, with the capacity to expand to a 20–100 camera system. The cameras will be able to capture and transmit real-time video footage and have high-resolution, outdoor pan/tilt/zoom, and low light vision capabilities. Approximately 60% of the grant funds will be applied towards design, hardware (including servers) and installation costs; the remaining 40% for software, installation and maintenance.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN R. CARTER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: NRCS, Conservation Operations

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Texas A&M University

Address of Requesting Entity: 113 Jack K. Williams Administrative Bldg., 2142 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843

Description of Request: I have requested an earmark of \$333,000 to demonstrate the use of composted dairy manure, soil management, seeding, and erosion control structures to increase vegetation and reduce erosion on manure areas. Research results are documenting practice impacts on vegetation growth and water quality. In addition, the project is removing composted dairy manure from the North Bosque River watershed to help meet total maximum daily load requirements. Approximately \$188,700 will be spent on salaries and benefits; \$52,329 will be used for supplies and materials; \$6342 will go toward travel expenses; \$19,029 will be applied to equipment rental and contracts; and \$66,600 will be spent on administrative fees of the NRCS and AgriLife.

IN HONOR OF FRED SEARS, II

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Fred Sears, II. In a state with many “firsts” in its history, I am proud of the fact that Fred Sears will be the first recipient of the “Goldey-Beacom College Ethics in Business Award.”

As a native of Delaware, Fred’s career in the banking industry spanned 38 years and culminated with his serving as President of Commerce Bank. Since 2003, Fred has served as President and CEO of the Delaware Community Foundation where he oversees the management of 900 funds with more than \$230 million in assets and the distribution of \$15 million in grants annually. These charitable funds benefit all of us in Delaware.

However, Fred’s leadership at the Delaware Community Foundation is only a small glimpse of the impact he has had on our community. He has served on at least 56 boards, clubs or organizations over the past five decades. His leadership, guidance, counsel and support are sought by government entities, non-profits, sports programs, community groups, educational institutions, and businesses. His willingness to help others has no limit and we are all forever appreciative of what he has done to make our state a better place for everyone.

Leaders like Fred Sears come along once every couple of generations. His integrity and ethics are unsurpassed and he is a great example for others to follow. This is not the first time Fred has been honored or recognized for his good deeds. In 1977 the Wilmington Junior Chamber of Commerce presented him with the Young Man of the Year Award. Since then Fred has been recognized by the Boy Scouts of America, the Wilmington Rotary Club, the United Negro College Fund, the NCCJ, and the Opportunity Center, Inc. Each time, these community organizations recognized Fred for his leadership and willingness to assist others.

I have known Fred for many, many years and I am most proud of being able to call him my friend. Individuals like Fred Sears bring about positive change, and when a small state like Delaware finds someone like him it allows us to show a nation how people working together can make the world a better place. I congratulate Fred on receiving the first ever “Goldey-Beacom College Ethics in Business Award” and thank him for his extraordinary service to Delaware.

HONORING RED CROSS MONTH

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise this March day to celebrate “Red Cross Month.” Since 1943, we have been celebrating March as Red Cross Month and promoting the services provided to the public by the Red Cross each day. The Red Cross has been at the forefront of helping individuals and families prevent, prepare for, and respond to large and small scale disasters for more than 127 years.

In my district, the Santa Clara Chapter of the American Red Cross helps many people in times of need. They range from victims of disasters such as house or apartment fires, floods or mudslides, and earthquakes; to victims encountered through national disasters such as Hurricanes Ike and Katrina and international disasters such as the 2005 tsunami and the philippine earthquake.

This year in my district, the American Red Cross Chapter is hard at work and has already responded to local disasters, including a 5-unit townhome fire on January 12, 2009 that left 14 people homeless and caused more than \$2 million in damages.

The Red Cross is committed to making our homes and our communities safe and works closely with local, state and national partners to help people personalize their risk to natural hazards and make preparedness a personal priority. Join me in applauding the hard work of the American Red Cross volunteers and celebrating March as American Red Cross Month.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
TUSCARAWAS COUNTY CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE.

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the Tuscarawas County Chamber of Commerce has nearly 600 businesses as members; and

Whereas, at 1:15 PM on May 21, 1959, the Tuscarawas County Chamber of Commerce was created out of the former New Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce; and

Whereas, the Tuscarawas County Chamber of Commerce has been instrumental in attracting new industries to the area; and

Whereas, the Chamber of Commerce has held as the core of its mission to promote the civic, economic and social welfare of Tuscarawas County; therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the friends, member businesses, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the Tuscarawas County Chamber of Commerce for their staunch support of the county and their ever-present efforts to bring economic growth and industry to the people of Tuscarawas County.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the California Legislature on the passage of Assembly Joint Resolution No. 69 addressing child nutrition programs.

The high occurrence of malnutrition, obesity and poor fitness in California are frightening.

Currently, only 6 percent of school lunches meet all of the School Meal Initiative (SMI) standards.

Over 30 percent of 7th graders in California are overweight and almost 40 percent cannot pass the state's fitness test.

The Resolution passed by the California Legislature urges Congress and the President of the United States to ensure that child nutrition programs establish comprehensive nutrition and wellness policies in schools.

In addition, this resolution supports the reauthorization of federal child nutrition programs and requests adequate reimbursements to fund the cost of producing a healthy school meal in the region where it is served.

I urge my colleagues to follow California's example and work together to ensure proper nutrition and fitness for American children.

I would now like to insert the following text from the California Assembly Joint Resolution No. 69.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 69

Whereas, The National School Lunch Program is declared to be the policy of Congress, "as a measure of national security, to safeguard the health and well-being of the nation's children and to encourage the domestic consumption of nutritious agricultural commodities and other food, by assisting the states, through grants-in-aid and other means, in providing an adequate supply of food and other facilities for the establishment, maintenance, operation, and expansion of nonprofit school lunch programs"; and

Whereas, Federal regulations further state that participating schools shall ensure that children gain a full understanding of the relationship between proper eating and good health; and

Whereas, Child nutrition programs are responsible for collaborating with the school community to implement comprehensive nutrition and wellness policies in school districts; and

Whereas, All of California's more than 6 million pupils deserve access to high-quality, safe, nutritious meals available in the school setting, recognizing the link between adequate nourishment and educational performance; and

Whereas, Children that experience hunger have been shown to be more likely to have lower math scores, decreased attentiveness, increased likelihood of repeating a grade, increased absences and tardiness, and more referrals to special education services; and

Whereas, Child nutrition programs in California provide over 4 million meals to school children daily, and must comply with complex state and federal requirements, provide adequate food preparation and dining facilities, and meet budget requirements despite rapidly escalating food, energy, transportation, labor, and other costs; and

Whereas, Losses in the school meal programs must be offset by other revenue sources that would otherwise support classroom instruction; and

Whereas, For each lunch provided to a child who qualifies for a free meal, the estimated average cost of producing the lunch is \$3.10; the reimbursement received for each meal, provided that all state and federal requirements are met, is \$2.6895 (a federal reimbursement of \$2.47 and a state reimbursement of \$0.2195); and

Whereas, The difference between reimbursement and cost undermines the ability to continue to provide nutritious meals to all pupils; and

Whereas, The United States Department of Agriculture recognizes higher cost as a factor in determining reimbursement rates by allowing a higher federal reimbursement rate in Alaska and Hawaii; and

Whereas, Many families that qualify for reduced-price meals, prescribed by federal law

using the federal poverty level, find it difficult to pay the reduced fee, and the fee for a paid meal is an insurmountable barrier to participation for an increasing number of families in California; and

Whereas, The eligibility scale to qualify pupils for free or reduced-price meals is the same scale throughout the country and does not consider regions with higher costs of living; and

Whereas, A self-sufficiency index, which identifies the income levels at which families can meet their most basic needs without public support, is available in all regions to apply to meal eligibility standards; and

Whereas, A single-parent household with two children in San Mateo County, California, needs \$67,867 to be self-sufficient, while a similar family in Hardeman County, Tennessee, is self-sufficient with only \$21,657; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature supports reauthorization of federal child nutrition programs and urges the President and the Congress of the United States to ensure that reimbursement rates are adequate to fully fund the cost of producing a nutritious school meal relative to the cost of living in a region; and be it further

Resolved, That the eligibility scale used to qualify families for free and reduced-price meals be adjusted according to the self-sufficiency index for the region served; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

FLORIDA EVERGLADES BRIDGE

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, in yesterday's Washington Times is an article about a very controversial bridge project through the Florida Everglades.

This project has been strongly opposed by the Miccosukee Tribe through whose land this bridge would be built.

A federal judge has blasted this omnibus bridge in a scathing opinion, but our Omnibus bill ordered that it be constructed anyway.

The estimated cost is \$225 million, but because almost all federal projects are given lowball estimates on the front end, it would probably end up costing much, much more. I have discussed this project with my friend, Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART in whose district this bridge project is located.

He told me he has discussed this bridge with the Army Corps of Engineers and all of the interested parties.

He believes that, while a bridge may have to be built at some point, that other, cheaper alternatives should be considered first.

I agree with Representative BALART, for whom I have the greatest respect.

I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD the following article about this project from the Washington Times.

[From the Washington Times]

'BRIDGE TO NOWHERE' OK'D FOR EVERGLADES

(By Stephen Dinan)

A provision buried inside Congress' giant spending bill would overturn a federal court order, discard part of environmental law and reject an Indian tribe's plea, forcing the government to build a bridge in Everglades National Park that a federal judge declared "a complete waste of taxpayer dollars."

The project is being opposed by the Miccosukee tribe, and U.S. District Judge Ursula Ungaro called it an "environmental bridge to nowhere." She ordered the government in November to comply with federal environmental laws, which would further delay the long-controversial project.

But lawmakers inserted a provision in the 1,123-page omnibus spending bill that is pending in the Senate. It waives those laws and in sweeping language orders the Army Corps of Engineers to begin building the bridge "immediately and without further delay."

Those pushing for the bridge, which would elevate the Tamiami Trail roadway to allow water to flow freely into the Everglades, say Congress' urgency is justified.

"The project has been studied and delayed over and over again for 20 years. Meantime, one of the world's great treasures continues to die," said Dan McLaughlin, a spokesman for Sen. Bill Nelson, Florida Democrat. "The National Academy of Sciences, in a report to Congress, says the bridge is needed to allow water north of the road to flow south into the Everglades. Senator Nelson supports it. It's absolutely essential to restoring the 'Glades. No bridge—no water flow. No water—no Everglades."

But the Miccosukee, who went to court last year to stop the bridge, are crying foul, saying it's hypocritical of Congress to ignore its own environmental laws.

The tribe also said that overturning a court order smacks of the broken treaties and poor treatment Indians suffered in years past.

"You tell the tribe to follow the law, but when the tribe follows the law and wins, you throw them out of court. It's really immoral and unconscionable," said Dexter Lehtinen, an attorney for the tribe. His wife is Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a Florida Republican who Mr. Lehtinen said recuses herself from these matters.

The \$212 million bridge is part of a complex and contentious decades-old plan to try to restore the free flow of water through the Everglades, the swamp that covers much of southern Florida and is considered critical to the state's ecosystem. Decades of development and road-building have ruined the usual water flows.

Plans to restore water flow have changed repeatedly, and parts have been caught up in litigation, including the proposal to build a one-mile-long bridge along the northern park boundary at the Tamiami Trail, or U.S. Highway 41, which backers say would help the free flow.

The Miccosukee trace their time in the Everglades back to the 1700s when they moved to avoid encroaching upon European settlers farther north, in what is now Georgia, Alabama and northern Florida. They gained U.S. government recognition in 1962 and have both official reservation land and other land in perpetual lease.

Rather than the bridge, the tribe wants the government to instead clean out culverts and build swells that the Miccosukee say better and more cheaply restore water flow.

"The judge found that the likelihood is that people in Miami-Dade County are going to be flooded, there's not going to be any benefit to Everglades National Park, and

Miccosukee land is going to be further damaged," said Terry Rice, owner of an environmental services company and a former head of the Army Corps of Engineers district that includes the Everglades, who served as a witness for the tribe in court.

"Why do you say you have to build a project and you're not going to abide by any laws unless you can't abide by the laws?" Mr. Rice said.

The judge apparently agreed.

In issuing her preliminary injunction against the bridge, she said it won't begin to help water flow until the corps takes other steps, which are still in the planning stages. Given that, the judge said, rushing to build the project amounts to "no more than construction of an 'environmental bridge to nowhere' that accomplishes (and harms) nothing but which would be a complete waste of taxpayer dollars."

Backers acknowledged that tacking this sort of provision onto a spending bill was unusual, but said the bridge has widespread support, and only the tribe—and now the federal judge—objected.

Still, it could not be learned Monday who approved the insertion of the provision that forces the bridge to be built into the \$410 billion spending bill making its way through Congress.

The Miccosukee, in an ad last week, blamed House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid for the measure. The tribe called it "a lamentable blast from the past in American history."

But both leaders' offices said they weren't responsible.

"We had nothing to do with this," said Jim Manley, a spokesman for Mr. Reid, Nevada Democrat.

"This language was included at the request of the Bush administration and has bipartisan support. Neither the speaker nor her office played a role in its inclusion," said Drew Hammill, a spokesman for Mrs. Pelosi, California Democrat.

The Army Corps of Engineers also said it wasn't the source.

"To our knowledge the corps did not promote or draft this language," said spokeswoman Lt. Col Elizabeth Robbins.

The Interior Department did not return messages for comment.

Spokesmen for Sen. Dianne Feinstein, California Democrat, and Rep. Norm Dicks, Washington Democrat, the chairmen of the Senate and House subcommittees that wrote the parts of the bill funding the Interior Department, didn't have a comment Monday night.

A spokeswoman said Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, a Florida Republican whose district could be affected, was unavailable, while a spokeswoman for Sen. Mel Martinez, Florida Republican, said the senator did not request the provision, but she said she couldn't say whether he supported it.

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, a Florida Democrat whose district is also affected, does support moving forward, said spokesman Jonathan Beeton.

"The congresswoman supports this project because it is the essential next step in Everglades restoration," Mr. Beeton said. "This view is supported by the National Academy of Sciences. At the same time, she understands the concerns and the deep commitment of the Miccosukee Tribe to the restoration of the Everglades."

Several Democrats pointed to the Bush administration's support for the provision. But that came in his fiscal 2009 budget, submitted nine months before the judge ruled that the environmental laws hadn't been followed.

THANKING DEBORAH PRICE FOR
HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement at the end of February 2009, I rise to thank Ms. Deborah Price for her 25 years of outstanding service to the United States House of Representatives.

Deborah began her career with the House on September 19, 1984, and served in positions within the Office of Finance of the Chief Administrative Officer. As a Team Lead within the Office of Financial Counseling, she provided financial assistance and guidance to all Member and Committee offices including monitoring and projecting available fund balances and ensuring expenditures comply with both House and Committee rules and regulations.

Deborah has provided financial guidance to every entity of the House, assuring that House staff and vendors are paid accurately. Her passionate customer service and tireless commitment to the countless House staff members who have worked with her will be deeply missed.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Deborah for her many years of dedication and contributions to the financial management of the House. We wish Deborah many wonderful years enjoying her retirement.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE
187TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
QUINN CHAPEL AFRICAN METH-
ODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in 1821 and is celebrating its 187th anniversary in Chillicothe, Ohio; and

Whereas, the congregation of Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church can trace their roots to the first Methodist church congregation in Chillicothe and can boast to be among the first African Methodist Episcopal churches in the state, and

Whereas, the church was founded to extend equal rights and privileges of worship to African congregants at a time when such congregants were not afforded the same considerations as their white brethren and has continued to seek equality and brotherhood that transcends race. Congregants from the Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church played integral roles in the Underground Railroad and other abolitionist causes throughout the 19th century; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church for nearly two centuries of dedication and service to the Chillicothe community and their efforts to preach equality and faith among all races and religions throughout the years.

RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING IN HONOR OF JOHN JOSEPH AND LIFE OF WILBERT "BILL" TATUM "WACKO" HURLEY OF SOUTH BOSTON, MA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, once in a while someone leaves this Earth and their life's story needs to be told, not just because it's interesting, but because it illustrates lessons that should be passed along. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recall the life Wilbert "Bill" Tatum, longtime publisher of the *Amsterdam News* and my personal friend, who, to the sadness and shock of my community, died suddenly last week. Bill lived the life that people dream of and few attain, and while doing so became a friend, mentor, and "brother" to countless people.

In the early 1970s, Mr. Tatum, along with former State Comptroller H. Carl McCall and former Manhattan borough president Percy Sutton, bought the *Amsterdam News*. This venture into the news industry reflected their longtime involvement in civic activism and passion for their community. Bill maximized his passion as the paper's publisher, a role for which his life prepared him.

Bill's voice goes back to his high school oratory competition days in North Carolina. He was a journalist, writing for three small newspapers that provided information to Black farmers. He served his country in the Marine Corps, graduated from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, and received his master's degree from Occidental College in Los Angeles. In New York, he was a community activist who served as deputy Manhattan Borough President under Percy Sutton's borough presidency and held various city-level posts.

Under Bill's ownership, the *Amsterdam News* was a brash and controversial voice for the Black community, regularly scorching politicians like 1970's Mayor Ed Koch. He was one of the angriest—and most eloquent—of voices on issues of politics, civil rights, and community action. What some perceived as sensational journalism, we in the community knew reflected the honest views of the publisher and his readers. At the same time, he filled the pages with colorful articles on social and community happenings.

Bill was a gentleman who loved people and derived no bigger joy than helping his community. He gave opportunities to scores of budding journalists and was a friend and professional mentor to many. A kind and decent person with a keen sense of humor, Bill was a man for all seasons and fierce defender of the causes he believed in. Despite an illness that confined him to a wheelchair, he and his beloved wife Susan continued their travels around the world. He entrusted his daughter Eli to succeed him as publisher and editor, and she has done an admirable and successful job in filling his shoes.

Wilbert Bill Tatum will be remembered as an honorable man of tough love, who used his brilliant mind and the First Amendment to denounce injustices he saw in his community. His life reminds us that the greatest love we can share with others is the power to speak up and be honest about where we are and where we need to go. I will miss him dearly.

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of John Joseph "Wacko" Hurley, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to his hometown of South Boston, MA, and to commend him for over 50 years of dedicated service to his community.

The son of Margaret and Michael Hurley, immigrants from County Kerry, Ireland, John was born on May 11, 1930 in South Boston and lived on East Fifth St. until 1965 when he moved to East Fourth St. in South Boston where he currently resides.

John attended Nazareth School at O and Third St., and South Boston High School graduating in 1948. Subsequent to his graduation, John enlisted in the United States Navy, serving from 1950–1952 aboard the USS *Noah* (DD–841).

Upon completion of his distinguished service to our country, John worked for the State Veterans Services for 20 years. Following this position, John worked as an office manager for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority for 18 years.

Along with providing distinguished service to his country and his state, John is also an active member of his community. A faithful parishioner at St. Brigid's Church in South Boston, John can be found daily at the 7 a.m. early morning mass followed by his walk around Castle Island. John also brought to the United States Supreme Court the case (John J. Hurley v. GLIB) that affirmed the First Amendment right of the South Boston Allied War Veterans Council to organize a private parade. He won a victory with a 9–0 vote. This law can now be found in every law book in the country. In fact, John has organized the Evacuation Day/St. Patrick's Day Parade in South Boston for the past 50 years.

John was recently awarded the Bishop Cheverus Medal from Cardinal Sean O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston, for Community Service and Catholic Dedication. You will find John every Thanksgiving and Christmas at St. Monica/St. Augustine serving holiday meals to the less fortunate.

Madam Speaker, John is known for his quick sense of humor and great storytelling. He has had the good fortune to be married to Molly for 56 years; they are the proud parents of 7 children, 15 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with John J. "Wacko" Hurley's family, friends, and contemporaries to thank him for his remarkable service to his community of South Boston.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE TUSCARAWAS COUNTY COUNCIL FOR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Tuscarawas County Council for Church and Community has been faithfully serving the community of Tuscarawas County since 1966; and

Whereas, the Tuscarawas County Council for Church and Community has participated in "Character Counts! Week," a character building program meant to instill six pillars of character in children, from October 19–25; and

Whereas, the "Character Counts!" program teaches young people about the six pillars of character—trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship—and is an enrichment and community extension of the Tuscarawas County Council for Church and Community Character Formation Program, now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the participants of the "Character Counts!" program on their commitment to citizenship and respect of themselves and one another. I also commend those involved in the program for their dedication to the youth of our community and preparing them for lives of thoughtfulness, respect, and civic responsibility.

EARMARK DECLARATIONS

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the FY 2009 Omnibus.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Natural Resources Conservation Service, Resource Conservation and Development

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Municipal Water District of Orange County

Address of Requesting Entity: 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92728

Funding Secured: \$134,000

Description of Request: Funding will be used to expand an existing \$2.2 million program launched in 2004 to distribute an additional 5,500 Smart Irrigation Controllers by the end of 2011 to the highest water using residential and commercial properties in Orange County. This "smart" Irrigation Controller technology assists customers in delivering the appropriate amount of irrigation water to landscape based on soil, slope, type of landscape, and changing water conditions. Smart irrigation controllers will help use exiting water resources and efficiently as possible to help take pressure off of our imported water supplies from Northern California and the Colorado River. When fully implemented there will be a reoccurring 40,000 acre foot savings of water every year.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Community Oriented Policing Services' Law Enforcement Technology Program

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Brea

Address of Requesting Entity: 1 Civic Center Circle, Brea, CA 92821

Funding Secured: \$50,000

Description of Request: The City will use the funds to develop of a forensics criminal science laboratory for its police department. This will allow the Brea Police Department to meet legal and scientific standards in the proper handling and processing of biological evidence (DNA, blood, semen, saliva, and tissues); to process evidence in a manner that meets safety standards for the evidence technicians; more efficiently and effectively identify and collect latent fingerprint evidence through the use of chemistry and light. The creation of the forensics criminal science laboratory will give the Department the means in which to identify more suspects and solve more crime. It will also reduce the workload on outside companies that Brea Police Department contracts with and the Orange County Sheriff's crime lab. Finally, it will allow the department to control the speed in which evidence is processed and maintained.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Office of Justice Programs, Juvenile Justice Delinquency Programs

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Hope Through Housing Foundation

Address of Requesting Entity: 9065 Haven Avenue, Suite 100 Rancho Cucamonga, California 91730

Funding Secured: \$750,000

Description of Request: Funding will be used to administer an after school program on site at National CORE affordable housing facilities that is designed to help prevent violence and keep at risk youths off the streets. This program includes an array of services essential to assisting at-risk youth gain the resources they will need to succeed in life and school. An afternoon at Hope's After School and Beyond—Violence Prevention includes: team building exercises, self esteem building activities, homework assistance, family literacy and Peace Builders, the nationally acclaimed violence prevention curriculum. These elements will further develop positive and community networks that will support youth in their journey into adulthood, and will support their families in helping them on this journey.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Office of Justice Programs, Community Oriented Police Services' Law Enforcement Technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Orange County District Attorney

Address of Requesting Entity: 401 Civic Center Drive, Santa Ana, California 92701
Funding Secured: \$500,000

Description of Request: Funds will provide for three DNA mobile collection vehicles that would travel to the five branch courts in Orange County to collect DNA on site from offenders and volunteers. Funds would also provide for related equipment, supplies and DNA processing. By expanding collection efforts, the District Attorney would be able to collect approximately 50 samples a day. The Orange County District Attorney DNA Expansion Project will strengthen local law enforcement efforts to solve, and ultimately prevent, "volume crimes" such as burglaries, auto thefts, and robberies. Currently, throughout the country, law enforcement DNA laboratories are backlogged and must focus on the most vio-

lent of crimes, such as homicides and rapes. Due to these backlogs, volume crimes are either "not processed" or significantly delayed. It is well documented that those who commit burglaries, also commit other crimes. These crimes include, but are not limited to, rapes, homicides, robberies, gang violence, drug possession and sales, carjacking, auto theft, etc.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Office of Justice Programs, Byrne Discretionary Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: County of San Bernardino

Address of Requesting Entity: 655 E Third Street, San Bernardino, California

Funding Secured: \$1,925,000

Description of Request: The request is for the purchase of the Automated Fingerprint Identification System for mobile and fixed identification. In 1985, the Counties of Riverside and San Bernardino embarked on a joint venture to create a regional identification system designed to be shared by all law enforcement agencies in the 27,360 square mile jurisdiction (with a combined population of over 3,250,000). The system provides fingerprint, photo, and DNA services to all public safety agencies including the local police departments, district attorneys, school districts, coroners, and Sheriff's Departments in both counties. It is also available to other state and federal law enforcement agencies that utilize these services on a routine basis.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: County of Orange

Address of Requesting Entity: 300 N Flower Street, Santa Ana, California

Funding Secured: \$14,000,000

Description of Request: This funding will go to construction, acquisition of property rights, relocations, environmental mitigation and enhancement in Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties for the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project. The Army Corps of Engineers considers the Santa Ana River as the worst flood threat west of the Mississippi River. The Corps estimated that 3 million people and 110,000 acres would be impacted, with potential loss of 3,000 lives and \$15 billion in economic losses in 1987 price levels. Estimated impacts and loss without the Project being constructed would be much greater with current population growth and value of land and structures. In addition to protecting a large, highly populated and rapidly growing area of Southern California, the Project has and will improve protection of major transportation corridors. The Santa Ana River Mainstem Project including Prado Dam was authorized under the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, and Section 309 of WRDA, 1996. The flood control districts of these counties are the Local Sponsors who are responsible for implementing the Project.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of the Interior and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Water and Related Resources, Title XVI

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Orange County Water District

Address of Requesting Entity: 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, California

Funding Secured: \$558,000

Description of Request: Funds will be used to supply 72,000 acre feet per year of water and will provide the backbone facilities for future ground water replenishment system expansion. The Groundwater Replenishment System (GWR System) is a jointly funded project of the Orange County Water District (OCWD) and the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) with OCWD serving as the lead or constructing agency. When complete, the GWR System will be the largest water recycling project of its kind in the world, reusing 140,000 acre feet per year (AFY) of advance treated wastewater (recycled water). Phase I, currently under construction, will supply 72,000 AFY and will provide the backbone facilities for future GWR System expansion. The GWR System will supplement existing water supplies by providing a new, reliable, high-quality source of water to recharge the Orange County Groundwater Basin and protect the Basin from further degradation due to seawater intrusion. By treating excess storm flows along the Santa Ana River, the GWR System project also postpones the need for OCSD to construct a new ocean outfall in Huntington Beach.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Environmental Protection Agency's State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Orange County Sanitation District

Address of Requesting Entity: Ellis Avenue, Fountain Valley, California 92708

Funding Secured: \$300,000

Description of Request: The Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) is under a Consent Decree mandate to comply with the Clean Water Act through implementation of secondary wastewater treatment standards. The Consent Decree compliance effort requires that OCSD undertake an enormous capital improvement program to construct, rehabilitate, and upgrade the facilities needed to comply with secondary treatment standards. Federal support has been provided to municipalities, including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, and Boston, for similar projects. These funds will go to meet this mandate.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Education, Elementary and Secondary Education

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Hope Through Housing Foundation

Address of Requesting Entity: 9065 Haven Avenue, Suite 100 Rancho Cucamonga, California 91730

Funding Secured: \$330,000

Description of Request: These funds will be used to administer an after school tutoring program on site at National CORE housing facilities. The project will combine intensive age-appropriate academic tutoring with enrichment activity for children in grades K-8. In addition, a family literacy component and community building technical assistance program will strengthen the support services available to children and youth. The program includes tutoring each day where a student attends, they receive 60 minutes of small group academic tutoring in both math and English/language

arts. Each learning center is a literacy-rich environment stocked with age appropriate books, as well as creative writing and reading materials. Students are encouraged to check out books, create journals, and engage in any type of activity that encourages them to read and write.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Health Resources & Services Administration

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Children's Hospital of Orange County at Mission

Address of Requesting Entity: 27700 Medical Center Road, Mission Viejo, California 92691

Funding Secured: \$95,000

Description of Request: Funds will be used to purchase needed equipment to retrofit all patient rooms on the Medical/Surgical unit with sleep sofas to improve the comfort and restfulness of overnight accommodations for parents of children in the Children's Hospital of Orange County at Mission. To facilitate and maximize parental and family involvement in patient care at CHOC at Mission, the hospital maintains open visiting hours and encourages parents to spend as much time as possible with their children, including sleeping overnight with their children, in the hospital. CHOC at Mission provides a family lounge area, two separate parent sleep rooms with bathrooms, and sleep accommodations for parents in each room on the general Medical/Surgical unit.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Federal Highway Administration, Interstate Maintenance Discretionary

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Orange County Transportation Authority

Address of Requesting Entity: 550 South Main Street, Orange, CA 92868

Funding Secured: \$237,500

Description of Request: Funds will be used for the examination of the technical feasibility of options to connect SR-91 Express Lanes with SR-241 and for the preliminary engineering for funding for the SR-91 corridor and the Costa Mesa Freeway (SR-55) Interchange. The SR-91 is the only significant transportation facility connecting Orange County and Riverside County. The facility is currently operating at full capacity during peak hours and is critical for the movement of goods from the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to inland destinations. The request is partly for examination of the technical feasibility of options to connect SR-91 Express Lanes with SR-241. A direct connection between high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes on the SR-91 and the SR-241 toll road will provide a new travel option for SR-91 commuters and allow for a more balanced distribution of travel along the highly congested SR-91 corridor. The request is also for the preliminary engineering for funding for the SR-91 corridor and the Costa Mesa Freeway (SR-55) Interchange. Constructing this project will alleviate current and future congestion at the interchange of SR-91 and SR-55.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Federal Highway Administration, Transportation, Community and System Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Rancho Santa Margarita

Address of Requesting Entity: 22112 El Paseo, Rancho Santa Margarita, California

Funding Secured: \$95,000

Description of Request: The project will consist of removing failed pavement, installing new pavement in the failed areas, cold milling the pavement, overlaying the entire roadway surface with Asphalt Rubber Hot Mix, repairing the sidewalks, installing Concrete Access Ramps, adjusting utility manholes and water valves to grade, and installing new striping and traffic loops along the Antonio Parkway. The Antonio Parkway was constructed in the mid to late 1980s. Since that time, heavy use combined with the natural aging process has caused transverse block cracking, heaving, and shoving on its surface. A new surface course of asphalt rubber hot mix combined with full depth dig-out repairs will extend the life of the pavement another 20 years.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiative

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Hillview Acres Children's Home

Address of Requesting Entity: 3683 Chino Avenue, Chino, California

Funding Secured: \$95,000

Description of Request: This request is for construction and improvements to Hillview Acres Children's Home facilities. One of the biggest challenges Hillview faces today is their aging physical plant. The campus's relationship impact model was written and implemented in the 1970s. Since that time, Hillview has continued to be progressive in the way they treat and care for injured children. As their success in taking care of abused and neglected children maintains and increases in strength, their facilities have weakened and no longer parallel the quality of their program.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiative

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: National Community Renaissance

Address of Requesting Entity: 9065 Haven Avenue, Suite 100, Rancho Cucamonga, California

Funding Secured: \$950,000

Description of Request: Funding will be used for the construction of affordable housing communities. With this funding, National Community Renaissance will undertake one or more large-scale neighborhood revitalization projects, develop or acquire and preserve over 10,000 additional apartments in at least 10 more states nationwide, and establish a best-in-class non-profit Web portal, a free information resource that will become the go-to location for updates and information assistance in using affordable housing resources. National Community Renaissance is one of the largest nonprofit affordable housing development corporations in the United States. It manages several business lines that contribute to the development and preservation of high quality affordable housing throughout the country, including development of new affordable housing, preservation of existing affordable housing

at risk of going to market rate, and full service construction management with expertise in multifamily and mixed use development.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE SANDY VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL CARDINALS FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the Sandy Valley High School Cardinals football team admirably squared off against the Garaway High School Pirates on the night of Friday, September 12, 2008; and

Whereas, recognizing the game was not going their way, the Sandy Valley Cardinals, under the direction of Coach John Groff, exemplified the finest in sportsmanship and class by allowing the Pirate's team manager, Craig Gordon, a young man with Down Syndrome, to record his first touch of the football during a game; and

Whereas, Cardinals players allowed Gordon to carry the football into the end zone for a touchdown, giving him a memory and a feeling of pride that will last a lifetime, now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the players and coaches of the Sandy Valley High School Cardinals for showing the very highest in class, sportsmanship, and character by allowing Gordon the opportunity to fulfill a dream of scoring a touchdown during a game in his senior year. Coach Groff, his coaching staff, and the Cardinals players have proven to be decent and honorable men who should be proud of their actions on the field that night.

TROOPS TO TEACHERS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Troops to Teachers Improvement Act to improve opportunities for veterans to transition into second careers in teaching. I am pleased to once again be joined in this effort by Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI. I have been a supporter of the Troops to Teachers program since its authorization, and I am proud of its success over the last decade. Since 1994, this program has placed nearly 10,000 veterans in our nation's classrooms.

Troops to Teachers is a unique program that provides retiring military with a \$5,000 stipend to help cover the costs of teaching certification in exchange for three years service in a high-need school, which until recently was defined as receiving grants under part A of Title I. To further encourage participants to teach in schools with the greatest need, a \$10,000 bonus is offered to those who agree to teach for three years in a school with 50 percent of students below the poverty level.

This structure has proven very effective in transitioning qualified retiring military personnel into second careers in teaching. Indeed, Troops participants fill several critical

needs among educators: eighty-two percent are male, over one-third ethnic minorities, and a majority bring an expertise in science and math to the classroom. In an increasingly globalized economy, these valuable characteristics provide a vital resource for schools across the country.

However, this success is now in jeopardy due to a drafting error in the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act which has inadvertently restricted the number of schools at which participants may fulfill their service. The applicable definition for "high-need local education agencies" for Troops to Teachers was inadvertently changed as it was included in the section of the legislation regarding other alternative programs that had a different definition. This stricter definition requires a higher threshold for "high-need," requiring the school to have either 10,000 students or 20 percent of students from families below the poverty level. However, the original Title I definition of high-need was also retained in the law in the section specifically detailing the Troops program. Essentially, Congress inadvertently created two conflicting definitions of "high-need" with regard to this program.

Early on, the Department of Education and the Troops to Teachers program recognized this unintended change in law and worked together to address it. From 2003–2005, while discussions were being held on how to reconcile this discrepancy, the program continued to operate under the original and intended definition. However, after the completion of a negotiated rulemaking process in September 2005, the Department issued a regulation stating that the new, stricter definition was not an error but congressional intent. As one of the leading supporters of this program during the drafting of No Child Left Behind, I can assure my colleagues that this clearly was not the intent of the supporters of the program.

Madam Speaker, the unfortunate result of this, aside from limiting the number of schools at which veterans may teach and honor their obligation of three-years service, is that it has disproportionately impacted western and rural states. In my home state of Wisconsin, the number of eligible school districts has been reduced from approximately 420 to 13. Not surprisingly, participation in the program has fallen significantly since the implementation of the new definition. This decision, although understandable given the conflicting definitions contained in the law, is a disservice both to veterans wishing to continue their service to our nation as educators as well as children who stand to benefit from their unique expertise.

The bottom line is that we are losing out on great teachers because they cannot accept the certification stipend due to a lack of schools meeting the higher needs threshold in their communities. The more we restrict opportunities for participation, the fewer teachers we will be able to bring into public education, and the fewer teachers we will eventually be able to attract to the schools with the greatest need. Further, given the nation's need for more math and science teachers, we should be removing, not creating, restrictions that prevent qualified teachers in these areas from teaching in our nation's classrooms.

Madam Speaker, with Troops to Teachers, the Department already has an established program that is well-funded and successful. Rather than restricting it, we should be maximizing this program's potential. This legislation

would correct this error and restore the original intent of the Troops to Teachers program. Our bill would ensure that veterans participating in the Troops to Teachers program may receive a \$5,000 stipend for teaching for three years in any school that is in a district receiving grants under part A of Title I. This legislation would result in a 49% increase in the number of eligible schools for the program. This would mean that in my home state of Wisconsin, 94 percent of the schools in the state would once again be eligible for the program.

The legislation would retain the current criteria for troops to receive an additional bonus of \$5,000 for teaching in a high need school, defined as in a school district that has at least 10% or greater who come from families living below the poverty level and a school where at least 50% of students are eligible for free or reduced lunch or have a "high percentage" of students with disabilities.

I urge my colleagues to join me and Congresswoman MATSUI in supporting this successful program and restoring the opportunity to "serve again" to our nation's veterans.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE
200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
CHALFONT METHODIST CHURCH

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the Chalfont Methodist Church was founded in 1808 and is celebrating its 200th anniversary in Washington Township, Ohio; and

Whereas, the congregation was started by Mordecai Chalfant, a member of the society in Methodism in 1808 but did not have a church until 1811, and

Whereas, in June of 1970, when the East Ohio Conference of the Methodist Church decided to close the parish due to dwindling membership, the building was turned over to another congregation and scheduled to be demolished, the community came together to form the Chalfant Society, raising money to purchase the building and have it named to the National Register of Historic Buildings; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the Chalfont Methodist Church for two centuries of dedication and service to the Washington township community and their determination to save the church building and continue the good works of the parish.

H.R. 1293, DISABLED VETERANS
HOME IMPROVEMENT AND
STRUCTURAL ALTERATION
GRANT INCREASE ACT OF 2009

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a bill to provide an increase in the amount payable to disabled veterans under

the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Home Improvement and Structural Alteration Program.

Known as the HISA program, this important VA benefit provides grants to seriously disabled veterans who require home adaptations to provide access to in-home medical care.

Typically, HISA grants are used for such things as widening doors; putting in handrails or special lighting; making kitchens, bathrooms, windows, or electrical outlets and switches more accessible; building ramps or improving entrance paths and driveways.

The benefit is paid from the medical care appropriation and is available to both veterans with service-connected and non-service connected disabilities. A service-connected veteran can receive a HISA grant in addition to other home adaptations grants available through the Veterans Benefits Administration.

Congress first authorized VA to establish the HISA program as part of outpatient care for home health services in 1973. We have been engaged in the Global War on Terror for nearly eight years and are seeing an increasing number of servicemembers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan utilizing VA health care. It is especially important that this program remains relevant and can meet the needs of our newest generation of veterans.

The current maximum amount of a HISA grant is \$4,100 for service-connected veterans and \$1,200 for non-service connected veterans. This amount was established by Congress in 1992 and has not been raised in seventeen years.

My bill would increase the maximum amount of the grants to \$6,800 for service-connected veterans and \$2,000 for non-service connected veterans. This recommended increase reflects a three percent increase for each year since 1992. It accounts for inflation and the increased cost of home modifications.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation. It would have a direct and immediate impact on improving health care and the quality of life for our disabled veterans.

SOLID WASTE GREENHOUSE GAS
REDUCTION ACT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "Solid Waste Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act," legislation that will reduce our nation's contribution to global warming by addressing the methane gas that escapes from municipal solid waste landfills.

Hardly a week goes by without reports of new evidence that the world climate is changing because of human activities that are putting greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Scientists predict that as the earth warms, droughts and flooding will become more severe, threatening the world's food supply. Warmer ocean waters are producing expanding oxygen-depleted zones that are unable to support sea life. Higher temperatures are shrinking the Arctic ice cap, threatening coastal communities with rising sea levels and destroying the habitat that polar bears depend

on for survival. It is imperative that we look at all the options available to us for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases.

While most of us are familiar with the harmful effects of CO₂, methane is a greenhouse gas that is even more harmful. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports that methane is over 20 times more effective at trapping heat in the atmosphere than CO₂. Decomposing waste in landfills is the largest source of U.S. anthropogenic methane emissions, accounting for approximately 24 percent of these emissions. About 138 million tons of municipal solid waste were discarded into 1,754 landfills in 2006, according to EPA estimates. Municipal and other landfills emitted over 6 million metric tons of methane gas into the atmosphere in 2005, the equivalent of 132 million tons of CO₂.

The Solid Waste Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act will create a new national program to address these emissions. By requiring the owner or operator of a municipal solid waste landfill to collect a modest fee on each ton of waste disposed of, revenue will be made available to support programs to reduce the amount of waste entering landfills and to make beneficial use of the methane generated by decomposing landfill waste.

A fee of \$5.00 per ton will produce close to \$700 million in revenue for this program. The fees will be remitted to the local government having jurisdiction over the area in which the landfill is located. The local government could use the fees itself to undertake greenhouse gas reduction projects that were determined by EPA to be cost-effective. Alternatively, the local government could provide grants, loans, or other financial assistance to other entities to undertake such projects, or could transfer the fees to the State for that purpose. Projects could include waste reduction measures or recycling programs to reduce the amount of methane generated by decomposition, landfill gas recovery, and waste recovery including energy generation.

Americans understand the enormous challenge we face as a nation in preventing global warming and are asking how they can make a difference. With the funding provided by this legislation, local communities can identify and implement projects that will make a real contribution to reducing greenhouse gases. I urge my colleagues to support the "Solid Waste Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act."

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE GARAWAY HIGH SCHOOL GOLF TEAM ON THEIR SECOND STRAIGHT DIVISION III STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the Garaway High School Pirates Golf team competed in the Ohio State Division III Boys Golf Championship Tournament; and

Whereas, under the direction of head coach Ryan Taggart and assistant coach Mike Felton, the team overcame a two stroke deficit to Lima Central Catholic after the first day of play to win the tournament by eight strokes with a combined score of 631 to Lima's 639, and

Whereas, this is the team's second consecutive win in the Division III championship tournament and its third in five years, creating a dynastic legacy of sportsmanship, skill, and determination, and

Whereas, Garaway's Kevin Miller, finished as the individual state champion for the second year in a row defeating challenger Nathan Tarter of Mogadore High School, 141 to 144; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend Kolt Andreas, Donny Beechy, Michael Dague, Kevin Miller, Greg Moomaw, and Ryan Troyer for their excellent performance on the golf course and congratulate them on their second win in as many years. The Garaway High School Golf Team has shown exemplary sportsmanship and skill under the management of Coaches Taggart and Felton, and should be proud of their achievement.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS TO HELP THE UNEMPLOYED

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing two pieces of legislation to help the increasing number of Americans who, because of the recession, have lost their jobs. The first bill, the Unemployed Tax Relief Act, makes a laid-off worker's last paycheck tax free.

The second bill, the Unemployment Assistance Act, allows unemployed people to make penalty-free withdrawals from accounts such as Roth IRAs and 401(k)s, to cover living expenses, health care, education, and job training expenses. People who make these penalty-free withdrawals while unemployed will be able to replenish their accounts once they have started new jobs.

Madam Speaker, while we may disagree about the best solutions to the economic crisis gripping the nation, I hope my colleagues will at least agree on these commonsense measures and cosponsor the Unemployed Tax Relief Act and the Unemployment Assistance Act.

PAUL HARVEY

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. I rise today to remember Paul Harvey, one of our nation's great storytellers and a fixture for anyone who spent time listening to radio while traveling Nebraska's highways.

Unfortunately, we lost one of our most distinctive voices on Saturday when Harvey passed away at the age of 90.

Since 1951, his signature "Stand by . . . for news" alerted listeners to both stories which would strike a chord for the common man, and for commentary which would bring smiles to faces and nods across our country.

Paul Harvey's strength was his ability to tap into the humor, empathy and charm which

made him unique. In a day of constantly streaming news and information, Harvey made each of us feel like we were listening to a local radio commentator, not a national program.

America's air waves are a little quieter today.

So I end today with the immortal words of Mr. Harvey, "Good day, America."

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO ESTABLISH THE POSITION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SERVICES WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR HEALTH

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a bill today that would elevate the current position of Physicians Assistant (PA) Advisor to a full-time Director of PA Services in the VA Central Office.

I would like to thank my good friend Representative JERRY MORAN for leading this effort with me, as well as Chairman FILNER and Ranking Member BUYER and all of my colleagues who are original cosponsors of this legislation. I would also like to thank the American Academy of Physician Assistants for their tireless work on this bill.

There are currently about 1,600 PAs serving in the Veterans' Health Administration (VHA), including many veterans, National Guard and Reservists. PAs are a critical component of the health care delivery system and are responsible for roughly one-quarter of all primary care patients seen in the VHA.

The change from the current role of PA Advisor, who works part time and is based in the field, to a full-time Director is necessary in order to ensure that PAs are being appropriately and effectively utilized throughout the VHA. Right now, the PA Advisor is being left out of strategic planning discussions and long-term staffing initiatives, leaving PAs with no voice and no advocate.

Additionally, there is a severe disparity throughout VHA facilities in how PAs are being utilized, what medical services they can perform, and even whether facilities can hire PAs.

Most importantly, the unnecessary restrictions and widespread confusion are causing the VA to miss an important opportunity to improve the quality of health care for veterans.

One of the biggest challenges facing current and future PAs in the VA system is their exclusion from any recruitment and retention efforts or benefits; the VA designates certain positions, such as physicians and nurses, as critical occupations, which are given priority in loan repayment and scholarship programs. Since PAs are not designated as a critical occupation, they are excluded from these monies, despite the fact that the VA has determined PAs and Nurse Practitioners are functionally interchangeable and equal in the work they perform.

The underutilization, lack of recruitment and retention efforts, and pay disparity are all leading PAs to not consider the VHA as a viable employment option.

PAs are very important for veterans living in rural areas, like those living in my congressional district. Veterans that live in underserved areas made the same sacrifices as their urban and suburban counterparts. With a disproportionate number of these brave men and women being cared for by PAs, it is critical that we establish a system that will best serve the needs of those veterans so as not to compromise their care.

Considering the fact that nearly 40 percent of all VA PAs are projected to retire in the next five years, the VA is in danger of losing its PA workforce unless some attention is paid to this critical group.

My bill will allow the Director of PA Services to become an integral component within the VA system, to proactively solve the many issues facing PAs, and give PAs a fair and long overdue voice within the VA.

Madam Speaker, this commonsense legislation promotes quality medical care for our veterans and I am proud to introduce it again this Congress. This bill (H.R. 2790) passed the House in the 110th Congress, but stalled in the Senate. I look forward to working with my Congressional colleagues to once again bring this measure to the floor so our nation's heroes have access to the care they need and deserve.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE
200TH ANNIVERSARY OF
TUSCARAWAS COUNTY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Tuscarawas County is celebrating the 200th anniversary of its organization; and

Whereas, Tuscarawas County has contributed greatly to the history and culture of eastern Ohio and its residents should take pride in the accomplishments of the county and look forward to its future; and

Whereas, the residents of Tuscarawas County will celebrate the county's 200th anniversary with a Bicentennial Parade, fireworks show, music by local school and adult performers, and exhibits commemorating the history and culture of Tuscarawas County; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the residents of Tuscarawas County, past and present, for their contribution to the state of Ohio over the last 200 years, congratulate them on the bicentennial of the county, and wish them well in the festivities planned to commemorate this once in a lifetime event.

INTRODUCTION OF DOMESTIC
TUNA CANNING BILL

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to clarify existing tariff law and protect our domestic tuna canning industry. Bumble Bee Foods operates the only

tuna cannery remaining in the United States in Santa Fe Springs, CA in my 38th Congressional District. This cannery relies on imported tuna loins from Asia to manufacture canned tuna in the U.S.

For 75 years, Congress and the administration have implemented a \$10 per loin ton (less than 1%) duty rate on tuna loins while having a 12.5% duty rate on canned tuna. The difference in these duty rates is to encourage companies like Bumble Bee to can tuna in the United States. Given our current economic situation, it is of maximum importance to help maintain and create jobs in the United States.

Bumble Bee imported tuna loins in plastic bags sealed with metal clips and paid the lesser duty rate. At the direction of the Food and Drug Administration in 2000, Bumble Bee stopped this practice and instead began packaging loins with a heat seal to improve product quality and safety.

Upon inspection of the heat sealed bags in August 2006, the local Customs Service at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach concluded that the new bags were airtight and imposed increased duties of 12.5%. This is contradictory to Congress' intent and the historical application of customs regulations that put a lower tariff rate on imported tuna loins to promote the domestic tuna canning industry. The fact that current imports of loins are in heat sealed plastic bags to more effectively prevent contamination of frozen tuna loins should not change the underlying classification of the product.

The bill I am introducing today will clarify the previously long standing customs regulations and allow tuna companies to continue to safely import tuna loins at a lower duty rate to can in the U.S. The bill requires Customs to adopt a clear test to determine whether a container is "airtight" that is based on universal standards, promotes health and safety, and comports with the intent of the tariff legislation. Under such a test, heat sealed loin bags would not be subject to the higher duty rate paid by canned tuna imports.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill which will clarify Congress' intent to protect the domestic canning industry by maintaining a lower duty rate on imported tuna loins.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on member requests, I am submitting the following information regarding an earmark I received as part of H.R. 1105, the FY09 Omnibus Appropriations Bill:

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF FORTENBERRY

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY09 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

Account: Corps of Engineers—Construction Project Name: Antelope Creek Flood Damage Reduction Project

Amount: \$4,620,000

Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Lower Platte South Natural Resources District located at 3125 Portia Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68521.

Description: The Antelope Creek Flood Damage Reduction Project is a critical element of a flood control, transportation and community revitalization project known as the Antelope Valley Project. The project is being constructed in central Lincoln adjacent to the University of Nebraska Lincoln main campus to improve flood control, transportation networks and community well-being in the city's downtown area.

A CALL FOR CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to a cost-of-living increase for Members of Congress. Across our country, the faltering economy is closing businesses and leaving many without jobs. Our national debt is climbing to levels that future generations will be responsible for. I believe it is past time for Congress to be responsible. One action we can take is to cancel the automatic pay increase.

Without a direct yes-or-no vote on this provision, we add to the impression that too many people have of Congress. If Congress is to vote itself a raise in pay, it should be done in full view.

This process should be reformed. Members of Congress should not be able to receive an automatic cost-of-living increase. Each of us should be on the record with the citizens of our districts whether we believe an increase to our own salary is justified. In this time of increased economic hardship, I am going on the record in firm opposition to this increase in pay. Since I was not allowed to directly vote yes or no, this forum has become my only recourse. We will not have the transparent process promised to my fellow Americans until we cease this automatic system. I only wish I could do more to right this injustice to the American taxpayer. We have a long way to go in gaining the people's trust. Ending this unfair practice would help.

2009 ACADEMY NOMINEES

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, every year more high school seniors from the 11th Congressional District trade in varsity jackets for Navy pea coats, Air Force flight suits, and Army brass buckles than most other districts in the country. But this is nothing new. Our area has repeatedly sent an above average contingent of its sons and daughters to the nation's military academies for decades.

This should not come as a surprise. The educational excellence of our area's schools is well known and has long been a magnet for families looking for the best environment in which to raise their children. Our graduates are skilled not only in mathematics, science, and social studies, but also have solid backgrounds in sports, debate teams, and other

extracurricular activities. This diverse upbringing has caught the eye of military academy leaders, as many of them now know our towns and schools by name.

Since the 1830s, Members of Congress have enjoyed meeting, talking with, and nominating those superb young people to our military academies. But how did this process evolve? In 1843, when West Point was the sole academy, Congress ratified the nominating process and became directly involved in the makeup of our military's leadership. The procedure, still used today, is a further check and balance in our democracy. It was originally designed to weaken and divide political coloration in the officer corps, provide geographical balance to our armed services, and to make the officer corps more resilient to the unfettered nepotism that had handicapped European armies.

In 1854, Representative Gerritt Smith of New York added a new component to the academy nomination process, the academy review board. This was the first time a Member of Congress appointed prominent citizens from his district to screen applicants and assist with the serious duty of nominating candidates for academy admission. Today, I am honored to continue this wise tradition in my service to the 11th Congressional District.

The Academy Review Board is composed of six local citizens, several of whom are distinguished veterans, who have shown exemplary service to New Jersey, their communities, and to the continued excellence of education in our area. Members of the board come from diverse backgrounds and professions, but they all share a common dedication that the best qualified and motivated graduates attend our academies. And, as true for most volunteer groups, their service goes largely unnoticed.

I would like to recognize these men and women and thank them publicly for participating in this important panel. Serving as board member requires hard work and an objective mind. They have the responsibility of interviewing over 50 outstanding high school seniors every year in the academy review process.

The nomination process follows a general timetable. Interested high school seniors mail personal information directly to the Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy. Information includes academic achievement, college entry test scores, and other relevant activities. At this time, they also inform my office of their desire to be nominated.

The academies then assess the applicants, rank them based on the data supplied, and return the files to my office with their notations. In late November, our Academy Review Board interviews all of the applicants over the course of 2 days. They assess a student's qualifications and analyze character, desire to serve, and other talents that may be hidden on paper.

This year the board interviewed 38 applicants. Nominations included ten to the Naval Academy, eight to the Military Academy, five to the Merchant Marine Academy, and five to the Air Force Academy; the Coast Guard Academy does not use the Congressional nomination process. The recommendations are then forwarded to the academies by January 31, where admissions staff reviewed files

and notified applicants and my office of their final decision on admittance.

As these highly motivated and talented young men and women go through the academy nominating process, never let us forget the sacrifice they are preparing to make. This holds especially true at a time when our nation is fighting the war against terrorism. The current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan serve as constant reminder that wars are fought by the young. And, while our military missions are both important and sometimes dangerous, it is reassuring to know that we continue to put America's best and brightest in command.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2009—11TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT NEW JERSEY
AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Nicholas A. Davis, Sparta, Sparta H.S.
Joseph W. Geib, Oak Ridge, Jefferson H.S.
Richard B. T. Margerison, Long Valley,
West Morris Central H.S.
Matthew D. Nafie, Basking Ridge, Ridge
H.S.

MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Ian M. Bland, Somerville, Somerville H.S.
Dalton R. Harbula, Parsippany, Parsippany
Hills H.S.
Yehudi Maldonado, Morristown, Morris-
town H.S.
Kevin M. McCormick, Lake Hopatcong,
Pope John XXIII H.S.
Ryan J. McCoy, Flanders, Roxbury H.S.
Andrew M. Seals, Long Valley, West Mor-
ris Central H.S.

MILITARY ACADEMY

Alex P. Filauero, Denville, Morristown
Beard.
John G. French, Jr., Denville, Morris
Catholic H.S.
Steven T. Godine, Whippany, Hanover
Park H.S.
Christopher A. Johnson, Chester, Home
Schooled.
Matthew D. Parsons, Green Pond, Morris
Knolls H.S.
Stephen E. Rogacki, North Caldwell, Seton
Hall Prep.
Luke T. Suczewski, Chatham, Delbarton
School.
Russell J. Tepper, Flanders, Mt. Olive H.S.

NAVAL ACADEMY

Kristen A. Asdal, Chester, West Morris
Mendham H.S.
Zachary GP Beecher, Randolph, Randolph
H.S.
William B. Brundage, New Vernon, Pingry.
Douglas F. Chesnulovitch, Sparta, Sparta
H.S.
Aaron Z. DeWitt, Califon, West Morris
Mendham H.S.
Robert F. Eckert, Parsippany, Parsippany
H.S.
Michael C. Jones, Basking Ridge, Ridge
H.S.
Jacob B. Levin, Madison, Madison H.S.
Marykate B. Moore, Chatham, Villa Walsh
Academy.
Jack A. Morado, West Caldwell, St. Bene-
dict's Prep.

A PROCLAMATION CONGRATU-
LATING MARTHA MILLER ON
ACHIEVING HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Martha Miller will soon celebrate her 100th birthday; and

Whereas, she has been able to drive a car and maintain a home through her 97th year; and

Whereas, Martha Miller has volunteered as a poll worker through her 94th year; therefore, be it

Resolved that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Martha Miller on achieving her 100th birthday, and for her contributions to her community and country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CAN DO
BILL

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Communities in Action Neighborhood and Opportunity bill, also known as the CAN DO bill. The Department of Justice reports that, on average, 45 people are shot and killed daily in America. Annually, there are 16,000–17,000 gun deaths in America.

The Communities in Action Neighborhood Defense and Opportunity Act is a comprehensive, community-based approach designed to address the issue gun violence. The bill calls for a four-pronged strategy in addressing gun violence in our nation's most crime-infested neighborhoods, including aggressive law enforcement, increased access to mental health and psychological counseling, additional employment training and job placement, and increased educational and recreational services for at-risk youth.

Madam Speaker, the issue of gun violence affects all Americans, white, black, Latino, Native American, and Asian. And gun violence pervades in all of our communities: urban, suburban, and rural. This issue is not a black or white issue, and it is not an urban or rural issue. This is an American issue that we must address with all of the resources we have at our disposal.

The research confirms that in order to effectively combat the causes of youth gun violence, there must be a holistic approach that provides not only aggressive law enforcement, but also provides at-risk youth with constructive alternatives to their dangerous lifestyles and gives them access to critical social services and programs.

This bill is unique in that it brings together the entire community to provide alternatives to youth by establishing partnerships between public and private agencies, businesses, community-based nonprofits, churches, schools, and universities. There is an 'all hands on' approach in order to get all of the stakeholders involved and provide a comprehensive and effective strategy that families and communities can support and get behind.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the CAN DO bill and help end the destruction that is tearing apart so many of our communities. Americans of conscious must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will we say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks the Third Congressional District will receive as part of the Consolidated Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2009.

Requesting Member: Congressman ADRIAN SMITH

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Small Business Administration, Salaries and Expenses

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Nebraska Kearney

Address of Requesting Entity: 905 West 25th Street, Kearney, Nebraska, USA

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$100,000 for the University of Nebraska World Trade Center. The funding would be used to provide market research to businesses, facilitate participation in trade shows, organize trade missions, conduct international trade education for businesses, and offer business services that directly support trade for clients. This program will be a one-stop resource for businesses at various stages, from exploring opportunities to forming export and import agreements with trade partners. The Small Business Administration has recognized that support for entrepreneurship is critical to economic growth, as reflected in SBA's guiding principles of supporting entrepreneurs through a network of local resource partners and empowering the spirit of entrepreneurship in every community. This project will provide specific support for growth-oriented small businesses that need access to larger markets, a particular challenge faced in non-metropolitan areas. Because impact is closely tied to the geographic distribution of resources, this project will achieve federal interests by locating a resource partner in a critical region.

Requesting Member: Congressman ADRIAN SMITH

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Transportation and Community and Safety Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Nebraska Department of Roads

Address of Requesting Entity: 1500 Highway 2, Lincoln, Nebraska, USA

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$570,000 for a new interchange located on Interstate 80 at Cherry Avenue, which is located approximately three miles east of Kearney's only interstate exit. This project will provide efficient access from Interstate 80 to the large industrial and commercial area on the northeaster part of the city and relieve traffic congestion along 2nd Avenue. Currently, regional and national truck traffic serving these businesses must pass through the center of Kearney, causing delays and safety concerns. A new interchange and connecting roadway will encourage economic development and investment in this part of the country at a time when rural areas are experiencing difficult economic times.

Requesting Member: Congressman ADRIAN SMITH

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Transportation and Community and Safety Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Panhandle Area Development District

Address of Requesting Entity: 1432 10th Street, Gering, Nebraska, USA

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$475,000 for the Heartland Expressway Corridor Management Study. The funding would be used to prepare a corridor development and management plan for the Heartland Expressway High Priority Corridor which will update project cost estimates, schedule segment priorities, and quantify economic development benefits. The plan will include, at a minimum, a coordinated corridor development plan and schedule, including a timetable for completion of all planning and development activities, environmental reviews and permits, and construction of all segments; the results of any environmental reviews and mitigation plans; a gap analysis identifying areas that need environmental reviews; a complete and comprehensive analysis of corridor costs and benefits; a finance plan, including any innovative financing methods and a State-by-State breakdown of corridor finances; and, the identification of any impediments to the development and construction of the corridor, including any environmental, social, political and economic objections.

RECOGNIZING NEWTON-CONOVER HIGH SCHOOL'S STATE FOOTBALL TITLE

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. McHENRY. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the Red Devils of Newton-Conover High School for winning the North Carolina state football championship. The Red Devils, led by head coach Nick Bazzle, met the Tarboro Vikings in the University of North Carolina's Kenan Stadium for the state 2A title.

Roughly 5,000 fans from Catawba County traveled to Chapel Hill to cheer on the Red Devils to the school's first state football championship. The hard work and dedication that these young men have put into the Newton-Conover football program paid off with an impressive 51-28 victory in the title game.

The enthusiastic support shown by the students, Principal Kevin Campbell, and the community has made this football season a historic one for Newton-Conover High School. I commend them for their efforts—and a great victory!

EARMARK DISCLOSURE

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Requesting Member: Congressman HOWARD COBLE

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Burlington-Alamance County Regional Airport

Address of Requesting Entity: 3441 North Aviation Drive, Burlington, North Carolina 27215

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$855,000 for lengthening the existing runway to 6,400 feet. Specifically, funds will be used for site preparation, along with paving and airfield strengthening of a 1,500-foot runway extension to 6,400 feet. The airport is located in the heart of North Carolina's premier area of growth and development along the Interstate 40/Interstate 85 corridor between Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill and Greensboro-High Point-Winston-Salem. While completion of significant airport enhancement projects such as the installment of a High Intensity Runway Lighting System and the strengthening of the existing runway to support 120,000-pound aircraft have been successful in increasing corporate air traffic, safe operations of these aircraft are marginal on the airport's existing 5,000-foot runway. This project received \$1,000,000 in Fiscal Year 2004 and \$980,000 in Fiscal Year 2008.

Requesting Member: Congressman HOWARD COBLE

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Federal Highway Administration Transportation and Community Systems Preservation account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: North Carolina Department of Transportation

Address of Requesting Entity: North Carolina Department of Transportation, 1542 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$427,500 for the widening of SR 1306 and SR 1363 (Mebane Street) from SR 1158 to NC 54 in Burlington, North Carolina. Specifically, this project, TIP number U-3303, proposes to widen to multi-lanes SR 1306 and SR 1363 (Mebane Street) from SR 1158 (Huffman Mill Road) to NC 54 (Chapel Hill Road) in Burlington, NC. The length of the project is 2.4 miles. Right-of-way acquisition is currently underway and construction is set to begin in Fiscal Year 2009. This project has received no prior federal appropriations.

Requesting Member: Congressman HOWARD COBLE

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Federal Railroad Administration Grade Crossings on Designated High Speed Rail Corridors account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: North Carolina Department of Transportation

Address of Requesting Entity: North Carolina Department of Transportation, 1542 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$2,280,000 for the Southeast High Speed Rail (SEHSR) Corridor Initiative from Greensboro to Charlotte. The project is located on the rail corridor between Greensboro and Charlotte. Specifically, funding will be used to restore three double track sections, adding capacity, improving freight and passenger service reliability and bi-directional operation. North Carolina has invested significant funds to renovate or replace all passenger stations, improve grade crossing safety, and reduce travel time by approximately one hour to be automobile-competitive. The corridor supports

some 60 freight and 6 passenger trains daily. The project will be developed and implemented with the communities, Norfolk Southern Railway, and the North Carolina Railroad Company.

Requesting Member: Congressman HOWARD COBLE

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Federal Highway Administration Transportation and Community Systems Preservation account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of High Point, North Carolina

Address of Requesting Entity: 211 South Hamilton Street, High Point, North Carolina 27261

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$95,000 for the High Point Greenway Project. The project encompasses a 3.8 mile greenway is located in High Point, North Carolina and funding will be used for completing the remaining 1.1 miles to create walking, jogging, bicycling and other recreational activities. The City of High Point is contributing \$1.3 million to this project, and needs federal assistance to complete the project. This project meets all of the requirements of FHWA's Transportation, Community, and System Preservation program from which federal funds are being sought.

This area is rapidly urbanizing and opportunities to preserve and develop recreational resources in the future will be limited. The High Point Greenway provides high quality healthy living resources to the citizens of High Point and Guilford County, as well as to tourists from across the world who visit the City. Some of those tourists include people who visit High Point for the International Furniture Market, which is the largest home furnishings trade show in the world, and is the largest biannual event in the state to which an average 140,000 people from more than 100 countries attend.

Requesting Member: Congressman HOWARD COBLE

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Federal Transit Administration Bus and Bus Facilities account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Greensboro, North Carolina

Address of Requesting Entity: Greensboro Transit Administration, 320 East Friendly Avenue, Greensboro, North Carolina 27401

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$1,140,000 for the Greensboro Maintenance/Operations/Administration Transit Facility, Land Acquisition, Design and Construction. This project, NC TIP number TD-4915, would replace the existing facility that is too small and outdated to handle Greensboro's growing fleet and operations. The facility will enhance the Greensboro Transit Authority's service delivery efficiency and the quality of transit services. No previous funds have been appropriated for this project. Dollars will be used for land acquisition, design and construction. Rep. MEL WATT is the lead on this request.

Requesting Member: Congressman HOWARD COBLE

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: COPS Law Enforcement Technology account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: North Carolina State Highway Patrol

Address of Requesting Entity: 4702 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$350,000 for the North Carolina State High-

way Patrol (NCSHP) Communications Enhancement project. Specifically, funds will be used to purchase and install a state-of-the-art communications console at Troop D Headquarters in Greensboro, North Carolina. The console to be replaced is outdated technology and parts are no longer available. Parts must be scavenged from other abandoned consoles of the same vintage (if they can be found) or fabricated.

Requesting Member: Congressman HOWARD COBLE

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: COPS Law Enforcement Technology account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Alamance County, North Carolina

Address of Requesting Entity: 124 West Elm Street, Graham, North Carolina 27253

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$500,000 for the 800 MHz Emergency Communications System Conversion project in Alamance County, North Carolina. Specifically, funds will be used to convert its current VHF emergency communications system to an 800 MHz emergency communications system between January 1, 2009 and July 1, 2009. The reason for converting to the 800 MHz emergency communications system is based on two primary needs: safety and interoperability. Under the current VHF system, there are areas within the county that are without coverage which causes a safety issue for many of our system users and health and/or safety issues for those in need of emergency services. There are times when the users are unable to communicate with anyone. Because many of the users in Alamance County are on different VHF systems, there is also a lack of interoperability between users. Currently, only the City of Burlington, the Town of Elon, and the Town of Gibsonville Guilford/Greensboro's 800 MHz system.

Requesting Member: Congressman HOWARD COBLE

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: North Carolina State University's National Textile Center and the Textile/Clothing Technology Corporation [TC]²

Address of Requesting Entity: N.C. State University, Contracts and Grants, Administrative Services Building III, Raleigh, NC 27695 and 211 Gregson Drive, Cary, NC 27511

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$100,000 for the National Textile Center and the Textile/Clothing Technology Corporation [TC]². Specifically, funding will be used for developing new materials; providing trained personnel, industrial partnerships and technology transfer mechanisms; strengthening the nation's textile research and education efforts; and improving textile and apparel production techniques. This request was almost made by Reps. WATT, MYRICK, Hayes, SHULER, and BUTTERFIELD.

Requesting Member: Congressman HOWARD COBLE

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Education Elementary and Secondary Education (FIE) account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNC-G)

Address of Requesting Entity: 1601 MHRA Building, 1111 Spring Garden Street, Greensboro, North Carolina 27412

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$250,000 for the ON TRACK—LEARN MATH project. Specifically, funds will be used to develop a reform-based problem-solving mathematics enrichment program for use in after school settings with elementary school-aged children. Undergraduate majors in elementary education at UNCG and elementary school teachers in Guilford County will team together to deliver the ON TRACK programs. The ON TRACK program, together with current efforts spearheaded by local and state curriculum directors, will address several problems related to mathematics instruction and achievement: the manner and methods used to teach mathematics, low student achievement, teachers' low expectations of students in this area, and the upcoming reforms to the NC mathematics curriculum in 2009. To foster student engagement and parent support for this program, the program will provide fun, stimulating activities that use hands-on experiences to reinforce conceptual learning. This project has not received federal funds and is lead by Rep. BRAD MILLER

Requesting Member: Congressman HOWARD COBLE

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Health and Human Services Office of the Secretary account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNC-G)

Address of Requesting Entity: 1601 MHRA Building, 1111 Spring Garden Street, Greensboro, North Carolina 27412

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$238,000 for the North Carolina Council for Health Literacy project. Specifically, dollars will be used to support the infrastructure for this initiative, which would address health literacy. This includes support training for public health and clinical health professionals; statewide readability service, media campaign; and targeted research and evaluation projects. This project has not received federal funds and is lead by Rep. BRAD MILLER.

HONORING PATRICIA ANNE McKEE

HON. MARK H. SCHAUER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. SCHAUER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor today one of Michigan's finest postal service employees, Patricia Anne McKee of Albion, Michigan. Patricia is retiring after 35 years of service with 29 years of supervisory and postmaster experience. She has been a postmaster for 25 years and a dedicated member of the Albion community for 22 years. Patricia has served our state with honor and distinction and has shown extraordinary devotion to her community, being active and serving on many boards and committees as well as volunteering in her spare time. She has done all of this as a loving mother to Travis and a loving grandmother to Kemar. In her spare time she enjoys reading, traveling, playing the piano and spending time with family, friends and special partner, Greg. Patricia is a model of patriotism and well deserves our respect and appreciation for her years of dedication to the postal service and the Albion Community.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following regarding earmarks I received as part of the FY 2009 Omnibus.

AGRICULTURE, FDA AND RELATED PROGRAMS

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service, Research and Education

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Miami

Address of Requesting Entity: 4600 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami, FL 33149

Description of Request: I have secured \$2,494,000 for the Southeastern Climate Consortium Application of Climate Forecasts in the Southeastern United States. The Consortium reduces economic risks and improves social well-being by providing climate information that is integral to agricultural decision-making. The program seeks to develop flood forecasting methods to help farmers and producers plan for reducing risks of economic losses and environmental damage; develop partnerships and methods for incorporating climate forecasts and other climate information into agricultural and water policy decisions; and begin development of a prototype decision support system for the application of climate forecasts to water resource management, especially for agricultural water use.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Department of Justice, COPS Law Enforcement Technology account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Hialeah

Address of Requesting Entity: 501 Palm Avenue, Hialeah, FL 33010

Description of Request: I have secured \$600,000 to enhance the City of Hialeah police department's current radio system which does not allow for radio interoperability among other law enforcement agencies, especially important during times of statewide response to natural disasters, domestic security incidents or multi-agency jurisdictional public safety efforts. The XPS radio system would bridge the current gap and achieve interoperability with the State of Florida by replacing and upgrading fixed end, portable and mobile radio communication equipment.

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Department of Commerce, NOAA, Operations, Research and Facilities account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Florida International University

Address of Requesting Entity: University Park Campus, 11200 SW 8th Street, Miami, FL 33199

Description of Request: I have secured \$500,000 to develop the capability of real-time forecasting for storm surges associated with

hurricane activity and flooding. The State of Florida is completing a state-wide collection of data from airborne lasers to record detailed elevation information. Combined with new computational capabilities and overland flow algorithms, the proposed models would allow Florida the best understanding of storm surge effects and subsequent planning advantages. This new information will save lives and mitigate property loss due to storm surge flooding.

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Department of Justice, Juvenile Justice account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: ARISE Foundation

Address of Requesting Entity: 4001 Edmund Benson Boulevard, Miami, FL 33178

Description of Request: I have secured \$300,000 to educate at-risk youth. Established in 1986, ARISE has trained over 5,000 certified life skills instructors who have gone on to teach over 3,600,000 documented hours of evidence-based life skills lessons. Specifically targeting high-risk youth, ARISE's goal is to stop the cycle of crime and violence while offenders are young enough to learn life lessons—and ultimately, to reduce rates of recidivism, drug abuse and violence while building skills to keep juveniles in school and out of harm's way. The ARISE Life Management Skills Lessons provide both training and program materials for teaching such lessons to incarcerated youth through interactive methods that help develop positive social and emotional skills needed to break the cycle of violence and crime that would otherwise doom many of today's juvenile offenders. Further, it provides demonstrable outcome measures on the value of expanding this statistically proven, award-winning, professionally managed intervention program.

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Department of Justice, Juvenile Justice account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Miami-Dade County, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 111 NW 1st Street, Suite 1032, Miami, FL 33128

Description of Request: I have secured \$200,000 to continue the partnership between Miami-Dade County and the Department of Justice in administering the JAC program which has been recognized by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy for its exemplary results in reducing the recidivism rate among juveniles in Miami-Dade County. The Office of Justice Programs also strongly supports the JAC's initiative to provide an expanded data base, as it could offer valuable lessons to other large jurisdictions across the U.S. The Juvenile Assessment Center, a centralized processing, referral, and evaluation center for all juveniles arrested in Dade County, opened in late October 1997 and has served over 100,000 arrested juveniles. The JAC allows representatives from law enforcement and social services to work together to provide a complete range of services at the initial stages of the juvenile's involvement with the Juvenile Justice System. Over 5,000 juveniles have participated in the Post-Arrest Diversion component of the project since 2000, with a success rate of 73% and a sharply decreased recidivism rate among juve-

niles in Miami-Dade County. A successful completion of this demonstration project will continue to reduce juvenile crime in Miami-Dade County and provide a valuable blueprint for similar efforts across the country.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Operations and Maintenance account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Florida Inland Navigational District, Intracoastal Waterway Maintenance

Address of Requesting Entity: 1314 Marcinski Road, Jupiter, FL 33477

Description of Request: I have secured \$4,019,000 for the maintenance dredging of the Intracoastal Waterway in portions of St. Johns, Duval, St. Lucie, Martin and Indian River Counties.

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Department of Energy, Science BER account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Barry University

Address of Requesting Entity: 11300 NE 2nd Avenue, Miami Shores, FL 33161

Description of Request: I have secured \$761,200 to fund Phase II of the Institute for Collaborative Sciences Research which is intended to create a state-of-the-art research infrastructure through new laboratory and teaching space. The focus of the Institute will be to prepare minority leaders for future work in healthcare professions while facilitating important research that has a direct benefit on minority populations in my South Florida community. Barry University is one of the largest independent universities in Florida. The university boasts a student body that is more than 60% minority and 42% are the first in their family to attend college.

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Office of Science, BER account
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: St. Thomas University

Address of Requesting Entity: 16401 NW 37th Avenue, Miami Gardens, FL 33054

Description of Request: I have secured \$570,200 for a continuation of the university's Minority Science Program and its commitment to attract top minority students to pursue a career in science and provide them with up-to-date laboratories, cutting edge curriculum, experienced professors and research opportunities. To this end, STU is constructing a state-of-the-art science facility, the Carnival Cruise Lines Science and Technology Building. The U-CORTE project will be located in the space vacated by the Department of Natural Sciences when it moves to the new building. It consists of establishing a university-community resource center and programs to stimulate and expand linkages between the university and local community partners. This partnership will address disparities in access to critical health, mental health and legal services in the low-income, minority communities of Miami Gardens and Opa Locka, which are adjacent to St. Thomas University.

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Construction account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Miami-Dade County, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 111 NW 1st Street, Suite 1032, Miami, FL 33128

Description of Request: I have secured \$478,000 for dredging of the Miami Harbor at the Port of Miami which includes the design, preparation of plans and specifications for bidding. The Chief of Engineers has recommended the deepening project to 50–52 feet and Congress has authorized the project (Title I, Water Resources Development Act of 2007). It is essential that the Planning, Engineering, and Design (PED) begin in FY09. Extended delay in the proposed dredging improvements could be detrimental to the economy of South Florida and the nation. Cargo growth at the Port of Miami has been phenomenally strong. However, the industry standard container ship is becoming larger, and the Port cannot handle the newer ships without deeper channels. In addition, the Port has been facing increasing competition from foreign ports with existing significantly deeper channels and faces lost business to foreign ports (such as Freeport).

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Investigations R&D account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Miami-Dade County, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 111 NW 1st Street, Suite 1032, Miami, FL 33128

Description of Request: I have secured \$239,000 for an ongoing feasibility study being conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Miami-Dade County that examines the affect of canal and groundwater discharges on Biscayne Bay's hydrodynamics, water quality and ecology. This study will help determine the historic freshwater flows to Biscayne Bay and help to improve the ecosystem.

LABOR, HHS AND EDUCATION

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Department of Health and Human Services, HRSA account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Miami Jewish Home and Hospital Hialeah PACE Center

Address of Requesting Entity: 5200 NE 2nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33138

Description of Request: I have secured \$476,000 to develop a PACE Center in Hialeah, Florida. The Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) is an innovative long-term care model that allows frail elders to remain at home. The goal of PACE is to deliver high quality, cost-effective care while managing participants' complex medical, functional, and social needs. PACE integrates financing and delivery of acute and long-term care services. PACE enables older individuals who are eligible for nursing home care to continue living in the community with a full spectrum of medical, social and rehabilitative services. The Program of all Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) meets three important objectives in providing long-term care services: a) it allows long term care in operate in a managed care environment, b) it integrates Medicare and Medicaid into a seamless and transparent

funding source, and c) it allows nursing eligible older adults to remain at home.

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Department of Health and Human Services, HRSA account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Miami Children's Hospital

Address of Requesting Entity: 3100 SW 62nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33155

Description of Request: I have secured \$285,000 to construct two new hybrid pediatric cardiac suites under the Miami Children's Hospital Congenital Heart Institute. These adjoining hybrid suites will feature: full cardiac operating room capabilities including cardiopulmonary bypass, dedicated pediatric cardiac anesthesia, state of the art hybrid cardiac surgical/interventional table, low dose digital flat panel imaging technology and operating room ventilation and temperature control. The goal of CHI is to achieve 100% survivability for children with congenital heart disease, and to improve their health status throughout their lives. This mission is entirely consistent with the goals of HRSA and HHS, and better medical interventions at the early stages of the disease lead to better quality of life for patients, shorter hospital stays, and fewer hospital admissions over their lifetime.

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Department of Health and Human Services, HRSA account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Florida International University

Address of Requesting Entity: 11200 SW 8th Street, Miami, FL 33199

Description of Request: I have secured \$238,000 to establish a nanotechnology facility to develop biosensors capable of measuring exposure to environmental and occupational hazards for community safety. The proposed Center for Advanced Diagnostics Devices would be able to design regional toxin monitoring systems. In addition, the project allows Florida International University's College of Medicine to merge research and treatment with real time toxin exposure detection.

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: SAMHSA Mental Health account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Spectrum Programs, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 11031 NE 6th Avenue, Miami, FL 33161

Description of Request: I have secured \$238,000 to demonstrate the effectuality of a mental health and substance abuse treatment continuum that integrates research, best practices and emergent treatment methodologies across the spectrum of mental health, substance abuse, and co-occurring disorders in a continuous improvement model, making the processes and procedures of behavioral health treatment more effective, the timelines to improved behavioral health shorter, and the gains more sustainable, substantially reducing the catastrophic personal, family, and societal consequences of historically disaggregated treatment approaches. The funding will establish the Florida Center for Excellence in Emerging Behavioral Health Strategies.

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Administration for Children and Families Social Services account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Barry University

Address of Requesting Entity: 11300 NE 2nd Avenue, Miami Shores, FL 33161

Description of Request: I have secured \$167,000 to support the Center for Community Services Initiatives (CCSI) to enhance opportunities for external individuals and groups to participate in on-campus programs. The Center will serve as an educational resource to community organizations, including health providers. Barry service-learning opportunities support local community clinics, helping to improve the quality and accessibility of health care, including behavioral health care.

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Department of Education, Elementary and Secondary Education (FIE) account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Address of Requesting Entity: 1450 NE 2nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33132

Description of Request: I have secured \$143,000 to develop a curriculum modeled on world-class standards, delivered by a high-quality teaching corps, resulting in an internationally superior level of student achievement, and to establish an international education model of excellence. The membership of the ECIC will include chief education officers, national and international education researchers, business leaders, and mayors of major urban cities from around the world, ensuring that work of the ECIC is informed by the context of the new world economy and what will be required to succeed in it.

TRANSPORTATION/HUD

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Federal Transit Administration, New Starts account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Miami-Dade County, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 111 NW 1st Street, Suite 1032, Miami, FL 33128

Description of Request: I have secured \$20,000,000 for Phases II and III of the Miami-Dade County Transit Authority's Metrorail Orange Line Expansion. Primarily, in Phase II, Miami-Dade County Department of Transit is in the final planning stage for the construction of a 9.2-mile Metrorail extension along NW 27th Avenue between the existing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Metrorail station and the Broward County line. Phase III, the County's East-West Corridor Rapid Transit Project proposes to extend Metrorail some 10–13 miles from the Miami Intermodal Center to Florida International University and points west. As fewer than 48% of the County's residents live outside incorporated Miami, this Orange Line expansion project will allow for more options for commuting and travel around Miami-Dade County.

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Federal Highway Administration, TCSP account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Hialeah, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 501 Palm Avenue, Hialeah, FL 33010

Description of Request: I have secured \$570,000 to enable the city's Streets & Engineering Department to develop and implement the City's 5-year Capital Improvement Program. The City of Hialeah has a rapidly aging infrastructure with some areas facing more than 50 years since any work has been done in repairs/reconstruction. Areas have been chosen throughout the city, based on roadway need, drainage concerns, areas that have not been reconstructed for over three decades and fill-in for sections that are still needed.

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Federal Highway Administration, TCSP account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Sweetwater, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 500 SW 109th Avenue, Sweetwater, FL 33174

Description of Request: I have secured \$475,000 to repair, resurface and mill city sidewalks and streets. Many of the city's sidewalks and streets have not been serviced in over 20 years due to the lack of funding for improvements and maintenance. These damaged sidewalks and streets compromise citizen safety (several are unsafe for walking and bicycling); cause damage to property (i.e., cars, bicycles); and give the city an undesirable aesthetic appearance. Sweetwater does have approximately \$300,000 in matching funds for sidewalk and street-related projects.

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Federal Transit Administration, Buses and Bus Facilities account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Miami-Dade County, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 111 NW 1st Street, Suite 1032, Miami, FL 33128

Description of Request: I have secured \$475,000 to purchase additional buses for Miami-Dade County. Federal bus and bus-related funds will enhance current levels of service to meet the growing transportation demand—increasing bus routes and improving service frequencies. The purchase of additional buses will have an important collective impact on Miami-Dade County's ability to decrease congestion and promote intermodal linkages for passengers throughout the South Florida region.

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Federal Transit Administration, Buses and Bus Facilities account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Pembroke Pines, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 10100 Pines Boulevard, Pembroke Pines, FL 33026

Description of Request: I have secured \$475,000 to purchase three buses for the City of Pembroke Pines senior center for transporting the elderly population. This program will help to alleviate congestion on already crowded city streets and ensure additional safety of the elderly population who frequent the senior center.

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Federal Highway Administration, TCSP account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Doral, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 8300 NW 53rd Street, Suite 100, Doral, FL 33166

Description of Request: I have secured \$237,500 for property acquisition, design, permitting, and construction of roadway gaps and intersections identified to be in need of capacity improvements. This will help to alleviate roadway sections that are failing due to large traffic volumes. In addition, there are several roadway gaps where development has expanded the grid pattern of the City roadways surrounding small parcels that have not been developed. The completion of these small sections of roadway would complete the City's grid pattern and provide additional options for increasing traffic to avoid already congested intersections.

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Department of Housing and Urban Development, EDI account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Miami Springs, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 201 Westward Drive, Miami Springs, FL 33166

Description of Request: I have secured \$237,500 to replace the municipal gymnasium in Miami Springs, Florida. The new community center will be a focal point of Miami Springs, providing functions including theater, elderly continuing education and gymnasium functions.

OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to a cost-of-living increase for Members of Congress. We are currently faced with difficult economic times and an expanding federal deficit. Our economy is in a recession, unemployment figures are on the rise, home values are falling, and our national debt exceeds \$10 trillion. Congress must not insulate itself from the crises at hand and I believe it is past time for Congress to be responsible. The most immediate action we can take is to cancel the automatic pay increase system currently in place for Members of Congress.

To address this issue, I recently cosponsored H.R. 156 in this 111th Congress, legislation that would prevent Members from receiving an automatic cost of living adjustment in the future. The 27th Amendment to the Constitution restricts the current Congress from altering its pay for 2009. I am disappointed that H.R. 156 was not brought to the House floor for a vote to address this important issue. Rather, this issue was lumped into a controversial 1100-plus page omnibus bill for political purposes. By not allowing an independent yes-or-no vote on this provision, we simply reinforce the impression that many important legislative measures are structured to be political gamesmanship. If Congress is to vote itself a pay raise, it should be done in sunlight in the full view of the American public, not through a quiet procedural motion hidden in the shadows. The people of Virginia deserve accountability and transparency from their elected officials.

I oppose the automatic cost-of-living increase for Members of Congress. Each of us should be on the record with our constituents as to whether we believe an increase to our own salaries is justified. In this time of increased economic hardship, I am going on the record in firm opposition to this pay increase. Since I was not allowed to vote yes or no, this forum has become my only recourse. Until the procedural barriers are removed, we will not have the transparent process that Americans deserve from their government. I will continue to fight for fiscal responsibility at all levels of government spending.

ANNA BELLE CLEMENT O'BRIEN
PRESENTED WITH 2009 HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I could not think of a more fitting person to receive the Frank G. Clement 2009 Humanitarian Leadership Award. Miss Anna Belle, a well known political figure in Tennessee, has long been an advocate for Tennessee's children and working families living in the Upper Cumberland region.

Anna Belle Clement O'Brien was reared and schooled in the values and lessons of life west of Nashville in Dickson, Tennessee, before embarking on a path that led her through the Office of Price Administration, the Governor's office, the Tennessee House of Representatives and the Tennessee Senate.

Known for her great storytelling abilities, wonderful sense of humor, quick wit, warm smile, it's hard not to be comfortable around Miss Anna Belle. Over the years I have learned much about what molded her into the role model and leader she has been.

Armed with a great memory, you will quickly learn through Miss Anna Belle's stories that she was raised in an environment where service to your neighbor is not only spoken, but actually done. The majority of us lucky enough to serve the public believe in the power of a good and responsive government. Miss Anna Belle articulates those beliefs well by saying, "Politics is a beautiful word to me. . . . I truly believe politics make handicap children walk and the mentally ill have a better life. Politics builds roads and makes education available for all."

Those words couldn't ring more true. Miss Anna Belle, the first woman to ever serve as a committee chair, brought common sense and a tireless work ethic to the job and a love of the people she served.

I read an interview she gave once in a local newspaper where she said, "I love this area we moved to over 40 years ago. No thought was given by either of us to run for public office before we moved here. It wasn't planned this way, but it has been a most exciting life. I am grateful to the people in the community for allowing me to serve for all those years." Well, Miss Anna Belle, I along with the countless Tennesseans you have helped over the years, thank you for your tireless leadership in working to make sure future generations have a better quality of life. Congratulations for being recognized for your hard work. It is well earned and most deserved.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN SECURITY AND PROSPERITY ENHANCEMENT ACT"

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Afghanistan-Pakistan Security and Prosperity Enhancement Act. The legislation is aimed at protecting our national security and that of our allies in the fight against Al-Qaeda and the Taliban. I am pleased to be joined by Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. BURTON, Mr. SMITH (WA), Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. WELCH and Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Senator CANTWELL has introduced the companion measure in the Senate.

This bill authorizes the President of the United States to designate Reconstruction Opportunity Zones, ROZs, in Afghanistan and in certain areas of Pakistan. Qualified businesses operating in those zones will gain duty-free access to U.S. markets for designated products, thereby providing significant employment opportunities where few currently exist. A ROZ program could go a long way toward bolstering economic development in this critical region of the world where extremists have tried to exploit the lack of economic opportunities to gain recruits for their radical agenda.

The 9/11 attacks against the United States resulted from Al-Qaeda exploiting a safe haven in Taliban controlled Afghanistan. We cannot allow this to happen again. These extremists pose a threat to the people of Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States.

I commend President Obama for his focus on the threat that this region poses to our national security. I am pleased that the President and Secretary Clinton have appointed a seasoned negotiator, Ambassador Holbrooke, as the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

U.S. and NATO forces are essential to confronting the threat. However, the President has recognized that the threat cannot be neutralized by military force alone. We need a comprehensive strategy to deal with these countries. Such a plan must include programs to expand the economic opportunities of the people in this region.

Towards that end, hopefully Congress will revisit the foreign assistance bill that was introduced by Senators BIDEN and LUGAR in the last Congress. The Reconstruction and Opportunity Zone bill that we are introducing today is another vital tool to bolster these economies. In my recent trip to Afghanistan and Pakistan, the importance of this ROZ bill was specifically raised by Presidents Zardari and Karzai. I urge the House to pass this bill quickly to assist these countries in achieving economic sustainability.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint commit-

tees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 6

9:30 a.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the employment situation for February 2009.

SD-106

MARCH 9

2:30 p.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine preventing worker exploitation, focusing on protecting individuals with disabilities and other vulnerable populations.

SD-430

5 p.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Ronald Kirk, of Texas, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador.

SD-215

MARCH 10

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine current and future threats to the national security of the United States; with the possibility of a closed session to follow in SH-219.

SH-216

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine budget for veterans programs for fiscal year 2010.

SR-418

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine proposed legislation to provide for the conduct of an in-depth analysis of the impact of energy development and production on the water resources of the United States.

SD-366

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the President's fiscal year 2010 health care proposals.

SD-215

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine rebuilding economic security, focusing on empowering workers to restore the middle class.

SD-106

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine patent reform in the 111th Congress, focusing on legislation and recent court decisions.

SD-226

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine the impact of potential climate remediation policies on carbon-intensive United States industries and creating climate-friendly economic and trade policies, focusing on how the financial crisis impacts the implementation of climate-friendly policies within the United States and among trading partners.

SR-428A

10:30 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine enhancing investor protection and the regulation of securities markets.

SD-538

2:30 p.m.

Budget

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2010.

SD-608

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the next generation of national service.

SD-430

MARCH 11

10 a.m.

Budget

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of Energy.

SD-608

Judiciary

Constitution Subcommittee

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties to examine S.J. Res. 7 and H.J. Res. 21, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to the election of Senators.

SH-216

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine violent Islamist extremism, focusing on al-Shabaab recruitment in American.

SD-342

Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine voter registration, focusing on assessing current problems.

SR-301

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization, focusing on NextGen and the benefits of modernization.

SR-253

MARCH 12

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine proposed legislation regarding siting of electricity transmission lines, including increased federal siting authority and regional transmission planning.

SD-366

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings to examine legislative presentations of veterans' service organizations.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine climate science, focusing on empowering our response to climate change.

SR-253

MARCH 17

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine United States Southern Command, United States Northern Command, United States Africa Command, and United States Transportation Command.

SH-216

MARCH 18

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
334, Cannon Building

MARCH 19

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine United States Pacific Command, United States Strategic Command, and United States Forces Korea.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine cybersecurity, focusing on assessing our vulnerabilities and developing an effective defense.

SR-253

MARCH 25

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine State-of-the-Art information technology (IT) solutions for Veterans' Affairs benefits delivery.

SR-418