

involvement that their idea produced. With a half century of overwhelming success, I think it's safe to say, "job well done."

TRIBUTE TO MR. EDWARD L. GARDNER

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2009*

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Edward L. Gardner for his lifetime of philanthropic service, most notably with Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City. On Tuesday, April 28, 2009, Mr. Gardner will be honored by Big Brothers Big Sisters at their 2009 Sidewalks of New York Annual Awards dinner.

Inspired by his experience as a Big Brother in 1963, Ed Gardner's involvement with Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City spans nearly a half century. In 1965, Mr. Gardner joined the organization's Board of Directors and has since served as President and Chairman.

Founded in 1904, Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City has evolved into a far-reaching one-to-one mentorship program that reaches over 4,000 young people every year. By providing mentors to children who need caring adult role models, the organization helps New York City's youth to realize their potential and lead enriching lives.

Over the past forty-four years, Ed Gardner has helped ensure the longevity and success of Big Brothers Big Sisters by single-handedly raising over \$20 million for this worthy cause. However, Mr. Gardner's philanthropic efforts are not limited to his work with Big Brothers Big Sisters. Over the years he has dedicated his time and considerable talents to aiding other notable organizations in the arts, health and education.

Mr. Gardner has served on the boards of the Health Care Chaplaincy, PS #1, and the Alvin Ailey Dance Company. He is a Council Member at The Rockefeller University, an Honorary Chairman of The New York Public Library's Conservator Council, and former Chairman of the Bank of New York Hamilton Funds.

A graduate of the City College of New York, Mr. Gardner has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Industrial Solvents Corporation since 1980.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize my friend Edward L. Gardner for his remarkable service with Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City and his lifelong commitment to enriching the lives of others. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring his tremendous accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMED FORCES FOR D-DAY JUNE 6, 1944

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2009*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the brave acts of heroism and military achievement by the mem-

bers of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the June 6, 1944, amphibious landing at Normandy, France.

I want to commend them for their leadership and valor in an operation that helped to bring an end to World War II.

I would like to draw special attention to the 201 Missouri men who died aboard LST 496 during the Battle of Exercise Tiger, a 1944 naval battle that had been originally planned as a practice mission for the D-Day Invasion of Normandy.

Nearly 750 United States soldiers and sailors, a large number of whom were from Missouri's 3206th Quarter Master Service Company, died in the exercise on April 28, 1944, after a number of their ships were sunk by German forces.

These soldiers and sailors sacrificed everything they had in service to America and will serve as a permanent reminder of bravery, loyal patriotism, and love of country.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing all the members of the Armed Forces our sincerest thanks and appreciation for their heroic mission.

ADDITIONAL CALIFORNIA 49TH DISTRICT PROJECTS FUNDED IN THE FY2009 OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS ACT

**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2009*

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, March 11, 2009, in an extension of remarks on the House floor regarding H.R. 105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009, I stated that Members need to think of the future of this Nation, rise above their own self-interests, and advocate for the removal of all earmarks from all present and future appropriations bills until we get the federal deficit under control. It is a shame that the Speaker and the Democratic leadership have not been willing to take the initiative and do this on their own.

The Democratic leadership has made no significant effort to perform real earmark reform during this economic crisis. Rather than eliminating costly earmarks, and excess spending, under the leadership of President Obama, the Speaker and Democrats push to implement the largest budget in our nation's history; a \$3.55 trillion budget that will dramatically increase the deficit and likely bankrupt our children's children. The American people are asking that the member's of this body lead us out of this crisis, but it is apparent that the President and the majority leadership can do nothing more than throw money at the wrong problems and tax and lambast those that can create the right solutions. The majority leadership needs to understand that unbridled government spending is not the answer to this crisis, and that earmarks continue to be a problem that plagues this body and not a solution.

Since being reelected to Congress last November, I have not made any earmark project requests. The projects that were included in H.R. 1105 were not done so at my behest in this Congress. As I stated before, I am highly disappointed that, faced with the enormity of the current federal deficit and the unprecedented amount of federal spending that has

occurred, the House and Senate majority leadership and Appropriators did not take the opportunity to start showing fiscal restraint by removing Congressional Earmarks from the fiscal year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act. Had I been approached by the appropriations committee prior to the passage of this bill, I would have asked for the removal of the listed projects.

This bill is another example of a missed opportunity to begin the real reform that the American public truly seeks. Members must realize that we have an obligation to the public to work to eliminate earmarks from future appropriations bills until we get deficit spending under control.

Below are two requests that were made in the 110th Congress that the Democratic majority decided to include in this spending bill. While they are projects of merit, I did not seek out support for their inclusion in this Congress.

Bureau of Reclamation—Water and Related Resources

Rancho California Water District  
\$50,000

The bill included funding through the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee for the Rancho California Water District, which will provide for additional recycled water reuse of 16,000 acre feet (AF) per year by converting water district's west side agriculture area to recycled water systems (1 AF equates to approximately 326,000 gallons or enough water to supply two families for one year). It will also increase use of annual seasonal storage in Vail Lake reservoir by 10,000 AF per year by constructing 48-inch pipeline to transport raw water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) to store in Vail Lake. It will also convert majority of agricultural delivery system from treated water potable system to recycled and raw water non-potable system by building delivery system for raw water relieving 5,000 AF/year of treated water demands

GSA  
San Diego Courthouse, California  
\$110,362,000

The bill also included funding through the Financial Services Appropriations Subcommittee for the San Diego, California Courthouse Construction Project. Construction funds for the San Diego courthouse project were originally appropriated, as requested by the General Services Administration (GSA) and the Judicial Conference of the United States, in FY 2006. The San Diego Courthouse is a critical project for the region considering that the existing courthouse is an extremely busy border court, which processes hundreds of prisoners on a daily basis. The additional funds would be used to expedite completion of this project.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2009*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, April 22, 2009, I inadvertently voted "aye" on roll No. 198—Motion to Instruct conferees regarding S. Con. Res. 13. I had meant for my vote to be recorded as "no."