

those who are dangerously close to becoming homeless. They have dedicated time to educating the public and elected officials on how to do more to provide low-income housing and have worked with the community and the county to create the Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. Their work has provided an invaluable service to the community.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring these individuals and their dedicated service to the community. Their commitment is deserving of not only the prestigious Human Rights Award, but of our respect and deep appreciation.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 2009*

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: JOHN R. CARTER

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: STAG

Requesting entity: City of Temple, TX

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

Description: \$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 total price for this project is \$2 million. The requesting entity will provide the required funding match. Construction of this piece of utility infrastructure will benefit taxpayers by providing wastewater service to Industrial Park tenants. Wastewater services are critical to the services required for a growing economy.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

### HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 24, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2892) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. NADLER of New York. Madam Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 2892, the Homeland Security Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2010.

While the bill provides vitally necessary funds to secure our nation's safety, it also contains a troubling provision regarding people who are currently detained at the Guantanamo

Bay facility. This provision would prohibit the use of any funds in the bill to provide any immigration benefits to any Guantanamo detainee. Examples provided by the bill of such benefits include "a visa, admission into the United States, parole into the United States, or classification as a refugee or applicant for asylum." The language does include the proviso that nothing in this provision prohibits detainees from being brought into the United States for prosecution.

Now, I want to prosecute and punish anyone who has sought to harm the United States or is responsible for attacks on the United States and its people. But, we do not know that everyone in Guantanamo fits into this category. There are likely people still imprisoned at Guantanamo today who are there, not because they are a threat, but because our government can not figure out what to do with them. As you know, the Bush Administration already released many people from Guantanamo who were wrongly detained there and our courts have ordered the release of others who apparently were not linked to any terrorist organization and pose no threat to the United States. There were, and possibly still are, innocent people being detained by our government at Guantanamo Bay.

It is shameful for our country to deny a visa to an innocent person who we have determined is no threat to the United States, who the United States wrongly imprisoned for years, who may be prosecuted if returned to his own country, and who the United States may not be able to send to any other country. Frankly, if they are innocent of any crime and pose no threat to the United States, they should be allowed to come to the United States. In addition, I do not see how we can deny them asylum if we determine they have a legitimate fear of persecution if sent anywhere else.

Because the Homeland Security bill provides such critical funding to first responders all over the country, and especially to my city of New York, I can not justify voting against it. Funding for these services is desperately needed.

However, I want to warn my colleagues about the dangers of reflexively adding provisions to every appropriations bill that may end up further harming innocent people who were mistakenly imprisoned by our government. If you want to make a political point that you oppose terrorists, fine. But, you have to allow for the fact that until we know for sure that all of the people remaining at Guantanamo are terrorists, it is not right to punish everyone who is there just to make a political point. We have a moral obligation to do better.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

### HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 24, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2647) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense; to prescribe military personnel

strengths for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the fiscal year 2010 National Defense Authorization Act, and I want to thank my good friend Chairman SKELTON for his leadership in crafting an excellent bill.

This bill gives not only gives our service men and women the tools they need to keep our nation safe, but it also makes valuable investments in programs and projects that support our military families, increase oversight of our war efforts and further critical non-proliferation efforts. It recognizes the sacrifices made not only by our troops, but by their families as well, providing a 3.4 percent pay raise, expanded TRICARE coverage, and \$1.95 billion for military family housing. This measure will increase oversight and accountability by requiring the President to report on U.S. goals in Afghanistan and Pakistan and our redeployment from Iraq. It also adds \$2.5 billion to programs designed to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons, one of the most urgent threats the world faces today. Finally, the bill strengthens our nation's missile defense capabilities, by increasing funding for systems vital to protect against real threats while balancing technology development to face the needs of tomorrow.

I am particularly pleased with the steps taken in this bill to ensure that contractor waste, fraud and abuse is brought to an end and that we have an efficient and fair system for meeting critical defense needs. During the Armed Services Committee's mark-up, I offered an amendment, which was adopted by voice vote, to alter the OMB Circular A-76 process for determining which activities are inherently governmental functions and vital to our national defense. My amendment will ensure the A-76 process is fair for our government workforce and provide the Obama Administration a chance to address past failures of the A-76 process.

This legislation also addresses the need to enhance our military's cybersecurity capabilities. Cyberspace is a growing component of the modern battlefield, and we must ensure our forces are prepared for the wars of tomorrow. I applaud the efforts of the Secretary of Defense and the services to meet the growing threat of cyberattacks. I am concerned, however, that individuals with critical cyber skills are not making a career in the uniformed services. We need to do everything in our power to recruit and retain talented and experienced individuals, and that is why I offered an amendment during committee consideration that requires the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress a report assessing the challenges to retention and professional development of uniformed and civilian cyber operators. I am pleased that this requirement is now included in the bill before us today. This report will help define numbers of personnel, recruitment and retention incentives, policy impediments, and methods to improve interagency and academic outreach to individuals with critical cyber skills.

Finally, I also want to give praise to Secretary Gates, Chairman SKELTON and Chairwoman TAUSCHER for working with our military commanders to shape a budget that protects the U.S. and our allies from real ballistic missile threats. The bill provides \$9.3 billion for missile defense, supporting critical programs that are tested and operational and eliminating