

extraction of the Deepwater procurements from the Integrated Coast Guard System team and brought the Lead Systems Integration functions back in-house.

Additionally, Admiral Blore updated the Coast Guard's Major Systems Acquisition Manual, published an Acquisition Human Capital Strategic Plan, and developed 30-year air and surface asset recapitalization plans that will guide the service's ongoing effort to effectively plan future capital needs.

I believe that under the leadership of Commandant Thad Allen and Admiral Blore, the Coast Guard has positioned itself to more effectively manage its acquisition efforts and to produce assets that will significantly enhance the Coast Guard's mission readiness.

To ensure that these and other needed acquisition management reforms are solidly established, I introduced legislation during this Congress—the Coast Guard Acquisition Reform Act of 2009, H.R. 1665—which builds on and institutionalizes the many reforms that Admiral Blore has introduced.

This measure will strengthen the Coast Guard's ability to manage complex acquisition projects and I look forward to its full consideration and passage by the House.

Admiral Blore has had a long and distinguished career in service to our Nation. He is an accomplished Coast Guard aviator; this fall, he will relieve Vice Admiral Vivien Crea as the Coast Guard's Ancient Albatross—the service's longest-serving active duty aviator.

I know Admiral Blore to be a man of unyielding integrity who has forthrightly presented to me and to the Congress the full extent of the problems he has confronted. I also know him to be an effective and deliberate manager who has diligently addressed the problems he faced and who leaves a modern acquisition organization that reflects his dedication to excellence.

I am honored to pay tribute to Admiral Blore in the United States Congress and on behalf of the Representatives and staff who have been fortunate enough to work with him. I wish him, his wife Vera, his son David, and his daughter Anna the very best.

RECOGNIZING THE CONGREGATION OF THE ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH FOR ITS DEDICATION TO OUR COMMUNITY

**HON. JOHN S. TANNER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 2009*

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the St. John Missionary Baptist Church congregation on the recent dedication of its rebuilt church, restored following a fire that tragically destroyed the building shortly after the church's 100th anniversary celebration in January of 2006.

At the beginning of the 20th century a group of men and women, former slaves and sons and daughters of slaves, began to congregate and conduct church services in Haywood County, Tennessee, which I am honored to represent in this chamber. The first church building of St. John Missionary Baptist Church was a small log building erected on land given to the congregation by Deacon Charlie Wilkerson and was known as simply St. John's "across the river."

On November 16, 1904, papers were drawn up to purchase 33 acres of land from W.H. Ford approximately one and a half miles from Dancyville, Tennessee. The deed was filed on January 20, 1906, with the church paying \$425 for the land. Marion Sweet and William Graves served as master carpenters for the new structure, and they, along with the tireless effort of countless others, laid the foundation and built a frame structure that served as a place of worship for numerous years.

Throughout the 20th century, the congregation continued to grow in number as well as in presence within West Tennessee and became known throughout the area for its leadership, dedication to God and love of fellow man. The congregation continued to improve the structure of St. John Missionary Baptist Church with expanding facilities to aid in worship and assist with the growing number of congregants. The frame church was bricked in the late 1950's with additions and renovations through the latter portion of the 20th century.

Tragedy struck on September 20, 2006, when the building was destroyed by fire. Undeterred, the congregation held meetings at Raul's Funeral Home in Brownsville and soon began the process of rebuilding their historic church.

The congregation's ability to rebuild the church is both a testament to their dedication to worship as well as their commitment to what the church has represented to our community for more than 100 years. From their humble beginnings in a small log church building near the corner of Highway 76 South and the Qualls Road intersection to the beautiful church they have just restored, St. John Missionary Baptist Church has served as a symbol of hope, faith and devotion. We know that tradition will continue under the leadership of my friend and an outstanding public servant, Reverend Johnny W. Shaw.

Madam Speaker, we hope you and our colleagues will join me as we congratulate the St. John Missionary Baptist Church on the dedication of its new church, and thank members of the congregation for all they do to help West Tennessee.

CONGRATULATING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS BLAKE SIMMS AND SERGEANT FIRST CLASS CHAD STACKPOLE

**HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 2009*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sergeant First Class Blake Simms and Sergeant First Class Chad Stackpole, winners of the 2009 Best Ranger Competition, a rigorous contest at Fort Benning, Ga., between elite two-man teams.

Simms and Stackpole won a home-court victory, as they hail from Benning's 4th Ranger Training Battalion.

The Best Ranger Competition started out as a contest between the best two-man teams at Fort Benning in the early 1980s but quickly expanded Army-wide. It easily rates as one of the toughest, most physically demanding competitions in the world. Contestants endure extreme demands of their physical, mental and technical abilities as Rangers, and they must

deliver at levels that far exceed the expectations of average soldiers.

Today, the competition pits the best of the best against each other. It's an honor to simply win a spot in the contest, making Simms and Stackpole's accomplishment all the more extraordinary. The event lasts three days and teams face elimination unless they complete all events, which include marksmanship, climbing a 60-foot rope and long, wet hikes. It's easy to see why of the 49 teams that entered only 24 finished all courses.

Both Sergeant First Class Blake Simms and Sergeant First Class Chad Stackpole have been awarded many medals, including the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Valorous Unit Award and many others.

Simms, from Columbus, GA, joined the service after high school in 1999. He has served one tour in Iraq and also participated in the humanitarian aid to New Orleans following the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Simms had competed in the Best Ranger Competition twice before. He is married with two children.

Stackpole, from Bowling Green, KY, has served since 1998 and has deployed to Iraq twice. He and his wife Andrea have two children. Stackpole has competed in the competition twice with a 5th place finish last year.

Sergeant First Class Blake Simms and Sergeant First Class Chad Stackpole have dedicated their lives to the service of this nation and have dedicated years of their lives to fighting on the front lines of the war on terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq. With a combination of hard work, dedication and talent, they have proven on the field of battle and on the field of competition that they rank amongst the best soldiers in the U.S. Army—the greatest fighting force in the history of the world.

Madam Speaker, I call on the U.S. House of Representatives to join me and the people of Georgia's 3rd Congressional District in honoring the service and applauding the stellar achievements of Sergeant First Class Blake Simms and Sergeant First Class Chad Stackpole. They are a tribute to Fort Benning, the U.S. Army Rangers, and the United States.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. GARY G. MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 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 2010 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 2997

Account: Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Operations

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

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 20895, Fountain Valley, California 92728  
Funding Secured: \$134,000

Description of Request: In the arid climate of Southern California, it is critically important to provide a coordinated effort to conserve water resources by controlling water usage. In particular, Orange County's growing population requires extensive conservation measures to adequately provide sufficient water resources for its residents. Funding for the Irrigation Controller Installation Program would allow for the installation of a smart irrigation controller system that uses innovative technology to regulate the amount of water that is delivered based on weather conditions, soil, slope, and type of landscape. Supported by local government entities and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, this computerized landscape sprinkler system will save the residents of Orange County 30,000 acre-feet of water every year, directly benefiting more than two million Orange County residents. This program has direct national significance by relieving pressure from imported water sources such as the Colorado River Aqueduct and the San Francisco Bay Delta. In addition, its implementation will help reduce urban runoff, preventing pollutants from reaching natural waterways and the ocean.

CONGRATULATING ARJUN  
KANDASWAMY

**HON. DAVID WU**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 2009*

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to Arjun Kandaswamy for his accomplishments in the Oregon State Geography Bee and in the National Geographic 21st Annual Geography Bee.

Arjun is an exceptional middle school student who participates in Oregon's Summa Program for gifted students. After winning the State of Oregon Geography Bee, Arjun represented Oregon in the National Geographic Bee, one of the most difficult in the nation. At the age of fourteen, Arjun topped 53 students from across the nation and earned second place and an accompanying college scholarship.

I, therefore, again gladly extend my congratulations to Arjun and wish him a bright academic future and continued success in all his endeavors.

CONGRATULATING THE CLARKSON  
UNIVERSITY RACQUETBALL  
TEAM UPON WINNING THE 2009  
NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE  
RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. JOHN M. MCHUGH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 2009*

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Clarkson University Golden Knights upon winning the 2009 NCAA Division II Racquetball National Championship, their second national championship since 2005. I am proud to represent Clarkson University and the community of Potsdam.

In April, Clarkson University won the Division II National Championship in Tempe, Ari-

zona, which involved 330 players representing more than 50 colleges and universities. The Golden Knights did so by having the highest combined total of the men's and women's team points, which were attained by defeating competing players in individual matches.

The Clarkson men's team included Marco B. Fontana, Joseph V. Kapas, Justin A. Konopaske, Brian C. Robertshaw, Brian T. Straub, and Joseph E. Tabor of Nicholville, New York, which is located in New York's 23rd Congressional District. The women's team was comprised of Michelle E. Turk and Rachel D. Weiss, captain of the combined teams. Professor Norbert Ackermann has served as the team's advisor for more than a decade.

Madam Speaker, it takes a tremendous amount of dedication, hard work, perseverance, and teamwork to win a national collegiate championship. Thus, I am pleased to extend my congratulations to these young men and women, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the entire Clarkson University Golden Knights racquetball team for this very significant accomplishment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PAUL C. BROUN**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 2009*

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, July 8, 2009, I missed the following votes: rollcall Nos. 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, and 488. If I had been able to make these votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 481 and 488. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 480, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 2009*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I unfortunately missed two recorded votes on the House floor on Wednesday, July 8, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 480 (On agreeing to H. Res. 610) and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 481 (on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1275).

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 8, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2997) making ap-

propriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2997, the FY2010 Agriculture Appropriations bill, which makes important investments in agricultural research; conservation, rural development, and nutrition programs; as well as a number of other programs that support agriculture and rural communities in our nation.

I am very grateful to the Committee, and especially to Chair ROSA DELAURO, for support of many of my high-priority requests and for recognizing the special challenges faced by Hawaii farmers.

Yesterday as we were getting ready to begin debate, I was surprised to learn that another member had filed an amendment to eliminate funding for one of my Hawaii requests included in the final bill. The amendment would have eliminated a \$153,000 earmark, titled Agricultural Diversification in Hawaii, to assist Hawaii farmers succeed in growing and marketing new crops to replace sugarcane and pineapple. It was a bit disappointing because the amendment was drafted by a member from Texas, a state that enjoys far more substantial federal support for its farmers in the form of direct payments and other agricultural services than Hawaii.

Ultimately, the member from Texas decided not to offer his amendment. If he had, I would have offered the following defense for this important program.

Hawaii is the most geographically isolated state.

Hawaii imports 85 percent of the food consumed by residents and visitors and is estimated to have a 4–7 day food supply in the event of a shipping disruption of any kind.

Our major agricultural industries of sugar and pineapple production have declined precipitously in the last 15 years. Of our last two sugar companies, one announced it was going out of business last year. Our longstanding leaders in pineapple production have moved their fruit production operations out of the state. As a result, Hawaii has been making a difficult transition from plantation to diversified agriculture.

Increased food production for local and export markets is a key component to addressing food security in Hawaii.

Most of the research done in mainland university and research institutions does not have much relevance in Hawaii. We grow different crops and have a year-round growing season, which means year-round pest and disease issues.

There are no large national agricultural organizations to lobby for the interests of papaya, pineapple, banana, or coffee farmers. Rice and cotton growers in Texas can find support from growers in other states who will make sure that their needs are understood and met.

The Hawaii Agricultural Diversification program has evolved over time from identifying alternative crops to replace sugarcane and pineapple, to assessments on aquaculture crops, to the current emphasis on tropical fruits.

The overall tropical fruit industry in Hawaii comprises nearly 1300 farmers who produce crops for tropical fruit markets with an annual farm gate value of more than \$30 million.