

acres. This year's crops include vegetables, corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton, and peanuts.

Frank and his wife, Melinda, contribute their success on the farm to their six children who are instrumental in the operation of and activity on the farm. They have three sons: Jeremy, Ryan, and Jacob, and three daughters: Lindsey, Candice Gilbreath and Tabatha Hawthorne. Jeremy and wife, Araon, have three children: Eli, Layna, and Bailey. Candice and husband, Drek, have two children: Kade and Kaylee. Tabatha and husband, Jeff, have a daughter, Presley.

Frank and Melinda are very proud of their children for all their hard work and thankful for all the blessings they have received.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my sincere commendation to a family's tireless work, their dedication to family, faith and trade. They are a role model family for all of us. A deep sense of civic contribution and values has been instilled through all the generations of the Lowry family. It is my hope that this family's tradition continues for many more generations.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the Defense Authorization and Homeland Security Appropriations bills.

Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER

H.R. 2892

Homeland Security—FEMA State and Local Programs

Louisiana State University located at 156 Thomas Boyd Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803

National Domestic Preparedness Consortium. Louisiana State University's (LSU) National Center for Biomedical Research and Training (NCBRT), Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education is a founding member of the Consortium which consists of LSU, New Mexico Tech, Texas A&M University, U.S. Department of Energy's Nevada Test Site, University of Hawaii, Transportation Technology Center, Inc., and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Center for Domestic Preparedness. The National Domestic Preparedness Consortium shall identify, develop, test, and deliver training to State, local, and tribal emergency response providers, provide on-site and mobile training at the performance and management and planning levels, and facilitate the delivery of training by the training partners of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The current mission of the Consortium is to enhance the preparedness of federal, state, local, and tribal emergency responders/first receivers and teams, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to reduce the Nation's vulnerability to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction, terrorism and all-hazard high-consequence events by developing, delivering and assessing plans, training, technical assistance and exercises.

Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER

H.R. 2892

Homeland Security—FEMA State and Local Programs

Lincoln Parish Sheriff Department; 100 W Texas Ave., Ruston, LA 71270

Emergency Operations Center, Lincoln Parish Sheriff Department \$300,000. The funding requested will be used to construct The Lincoln Parish Public Safety Complex and Regional EOC. A Regional EOC in the northern part of the state will provide a fully capable emergency operation facility giving the state a much needed resource that can be utilized during any and all major emergencies throughout the state and bordering states. The Regional EOC located at the Lincoln Parish Public Safety Complex will provide a central location from which government at any level can provide interagency coordination and executive decision-making in support of incident response. The implementation of Regionalization will be established throughout the region and in the state of Louisiana. The project includes the construction of a 24,000 square foot; single-story building that will be designed to withstand hurricane force winds and will have a finished floor elevation above the 100-year flood elevation established for the area. The Regional EOC located at the Lincoln Parish Public Safety Complex will provide a central location from which government at any level can provide interagency coordination and executive decision-making in support of incident response. Region 8 is sitting in the middle of Region 6 & 7 with the major highways connecting to all parts of the state. Regions 6, 7 & 8 have a combined population of 1,180,558 or 27% of the state's population and 22,188 square miles or 43% of the land mass and 29 of the 64 parishes or 45%. This Regional EOC will be an ideal staging and holding area for emergency responders and resources. This will give the state a staging area for all emergency response agencies.

Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER

H.R. 2847

Department of Justice—COPS Tech

Louisiana Sheriff's Association, 1175 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Law Enforcement Technology and Equipment; \$300,000. This funding request is for equipment for a new project and is a one-time expense. This funding is for the proposed LSA Institute, which will serve as an education and training center for local and state law enforcement officers. This funding will serve dual purposes in providing critical technology such as video, audio and communication equipment used for training/education purposes and real life emergency responses. In addition, the LSA Institute will also serve as a hub for the Louisiana Sheriffs' Emergency Task Force, a task force comprised of deputies across the state who respond to emergency events when needed. The LSA Institute will be housed at 1175 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. The LSA is uniquely positioned to perform this function as it is governed by the Sheriffs, and it is the Sheriffs who have the greatest Constitutional responsibility for law enforcement and public safety at the local level, and who have the manpower necessary to cover such functions. Additionally, the long history of cooperation and coordination among LSA, the Chiefs of Police, and other local first responder agencies, as well as the state, make this project a logical next step toward providing this training (i.e. emergency re-

sponse, FEMA/DHS rules and regulations, etc.) and securing the resources necessary to respond to the next catastrophic event in a timely, well organized manner.

Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER

H.R. 2647

Department of Defense—APA

Army National Guard; 111 S. George Mason Dr., Arlington, VA 22204

UH-60A to UH-60L Upgrade \$20,400,000. The UH-60A to UH-60A recap program includes an airframe life extension, fleet-wide product improvements and the replacement of components with the latest UH-60L configuration. While performing this recapitalization, the addition of the UH-60L transmission and UH-60L 701D engines to complete the upgrade costs an approximate \$1.7M per aircraft.

Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER

H.R. 2647

Department of Defense—RDN

The Breast Foundation; 17050 Medical Center Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70816

U.S. Navy Vaccine Program \$4,000,000. The funding will be used for research, study and administration of cancer vaccines.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3082) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Chair, the increases in funding for veterans services contained in the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill are overdue and welcome. It continues increases in veterans' health care funding by providing \$53 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs. It also provides advanced appropriations for FY 2011 for medical accounts. I have long supported advance appropriations for veterans because it helps to stabilize funding instability and ultimately results in higher quality care for veterans. The bill provides \$3.2 billion, a 40 percent increase over last year, to combat homelessness. It provides \$4.6 billion for mental health care to help address the rising incidence of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in our newer veterans. It provides for the hiring of 1,200 additional claims processors to continue to work to eliminate the backlog of benefits claims.

Unfortunately, the bill also includes funds for building extensive infrastructure to support our military operations in Afghanistan. It is clear that this construction will support the expansion of ongoing operations in the region. This is particularly troubling because the Administration is still without an exit strategy for Afghanistan. Additionally, U.S. presence in the region has served to foment anti-American sentiment. I remain concerned that this combination of factors will not ensure U.S. "success" in the region but will ensure that the months and perhaps years ahead will be

deadly for our brave troops and for the Afghan people.

It is unacceptable to fund a more permanent presence in Afghanistan in a bill that gives our veterans services they need. Our veterans deserve more than we could ever repay. I must support this bill.

A TRIBUTE TO M. POPE BARROW,
JR., FOR 40 YEARS OF PUBLIC
SERVICE

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to an extraordinary individual, M. Pope Barrow, Jr., who is leaving the House after 40 extraordinary years of public service. It is the rare individual who commits himself to such selfless work and Pope has done so with great distinction.

Pope Barrow was appointed to the Office of Legislative Counsel of the House in 1968 and has served under eight successive Speakers. During this time, he has served as the Legislative Counsel for 12 years and Deputy Legislative Counsel for 4 years. Over the years, he has been involved in drafting practically every major piece of energy and environmental legislation passed by the House of Representatives. As a result, he has been instrumental in the creation of the Clean Air Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Solid Waste Disposal Act, and omnibus energy bills too numerous to mention.

Pope has worked extensively on legislation addressing public land law, mining law, as well as measures focused on parks, trails, and wild and scenic rivers. He also played a major role in writing the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, which was shepherded through the House by Phil Burton and the Alaska Lands Act working with Mo Udall and John Seiberling. Pope also played a major role in drafting the California Desert Protection Act, which created the Death Valley National Park, Joshua Tree National Park, and the East Mojave Preserve in my own congressional district.

It's worth noting that at a time of increased partisanship in the House, Pope Barrow has provided a consistently steady hand in maintaining the professional, non-partisan nature of the Office of the Legislative Counsel. It is also my understanding that he has literally transformed the Office of the Legislative Counsel through personnel additions and technological innovations to meet the incredible increased demands placed upon the office.

Beyond his professional legislative work, Pope is an avid outdoorsman who has literally kayaked and sailed the world. I am told that he has kayaked rivers in Chile, Canada, Alaska, California, Washington, Idaho, West Virginia, New York, Maine, Tennessee, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and many other locations, including hundreds of times running Great Falls in Virginia. He has also sailed the entire East Coast up to Nova Scotia and down to Key West, the San Juan Islands, San Francisco Bay, the Bahamas and Virgin Islands, the Windward Islands, the Leeward Islands, from St. Martin to Bermuda, off the coast of Croatia and Italy, and across the Atlantic Ocean from Martinique to Portugal. It is re-

ported that these sailing adventures were not entirely without incident. During one such adventure in the 1970s Pope and his dad lost one boat at sea off the coast of Florida and floated to shore in a bad storm. He has apparently been paying more attention to marine weather forecasts since that time.

Most importantly, Madam Speaker, Pope Barrow is a gentleman who dearly loves his three children and genuinely cares about the people with whom he works and the institution of Congress that he has called home over the last 40 years. Over the years, he has been a mentor to many and an inspiration to all of us who have had the pleasure of working with him. I ask that you join me and our colleagues in recognizing Pope for his commitment to meeting the needs of Members and staff and for his tireless service to the House. We all wish him calm seas and a steady breeze at his back as he begins the next chapter in his life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2009

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, July 9th and Friday, July 10th, 2009, due to unavoidable circumstances, I missed the following votes: rollcall No. 520, making appropriations for the Agricultural, Rural Development, Food & Drug Administration and Related Agencies programs for fiscal year 2010; rollcall No. 525, making appropriation for the Department of State, foreign operations and related programs for fiscal year 2010; and rollcall No. 529, making appropriations for military construction, Department of Veterans Affairs and related agencies for fiscal year 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all of the aforementioned votes.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies. Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2010, and commend Chairwoman DELAURO and the subcommittee for their hard work in crafting this bill. I urge my colleagues to support it.

This bill will increase funding to many important programs that American families rely on for their health and well-being, especially dur-

ing these challenging economic times. For example, the bill will provide \$61.4 billion in funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly Food Stamps), an increase of 15 percent above the funding currently available. With family incomes falling and unemployment rising, these funds are needed more than ever to enable low-income families to purchase food.

In addition, the bill provides \$16.8 billion in funding for child nutrition programs, an increase of 12 percent above the funding currently available, and \$7.5 billion for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program, a 10 percent increase above the currently available funding. These funds will enable children all over America to receive nutritious school lunches and breakfasts, and provide food packages containing nutritional supplements to children and pregnant and breastfeeding women who are nutritionally at risk because they lack the income to provide adequate nutrition.

The bill also includes \$180 million, 11 percent more than provided in the prior fiscal year, for the Commodity Supplement Food Program, to provide nutritious food to over a half million low-income women, infants, children, and elderly citizens struggling to make ends meet. The bill will expand this assistance beyond the 32 states currently receiving it, to six new states: Arkansas, Oklahoma, Delaware, Utah, Georgia and my home state of New Jersey. The Emergency Food Assistance Program and the Farmers Market Nutrition Program also receive substantial funding: \$50 million and \$20 million respectively.

And the bill contains substantial funding for international food assistance, including \$1.7 billion for the Food for Peace Program, 13 percent more than currently provided, and \$200 million for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, to provide food security and education and developmental support for the world's neediest children.

And I am particularly pleased that this bill includes the full amount of funding for most of the organic programs I had requested funding for. For example, it includes \$5 million for the Organic Transitions Research program, to facilitate the ability of farmers to convert to organic methods of production, \$20 million for the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative, and \$5 million each for the Community Food Projects and Hunger Free Communities programs, to facilitate the development of community gardens, community supported agriculture projects, farmers markets, and similar community food security projects.

Especially, I am also pleased that my amendment to the bill to protect and strengthen the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) organic standards was included in the Manager's Amendment to the bill on the floor today. It is incumbent upon us to ensure that the USDA Inspector General has the resources it needs to complete a thorough investigation, already underway, into whether or not current inspectors are ensuring that the most rigorous standards for certification are honored when determining if a product may bear the "USDA Organic" label. In addition, the Inspector General needs sufficient resources to investigate whether or not non-organic substances inappropriately remain allowed in small amounts in USDA certified products after organic alternatives have been