

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: OM,A

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fort Leavenworth, KS

Address of Requesting Entity: 881 McClellan Ave, Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$1,785,000 to correct air quality problems in the three-story, 93,000 SF National Simulation Center located in Building 45. Originally built in 1882, this former barracks was remodeled 15 years ago into a secure training facility, which due to its mission, could not have any windows. It houses a large amount of information technology which is used in conducting simulations. The number of personnel using the building during training simulations has increased substantially over the last several years. The HVAC system must be upgraded to handle the requirement to properly ventilate and cool the building given the larger heat load generated by the automation equipment and the high number of personnel. The existing HVAC equipment was installed during the last remodel and has reached its useful life expectancy. It is no longer capable of supporting the mission.

Earmark: 190th Air Refueling Wing Squadron Operations Facility

Requesting Member: Congresswoman LYNN JENKINS

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: OM,ANG

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Kansas Air National Guard

Address of Requesting Entity: 5920 SE Coyote Dr., Topeka, KS 66619

Description of Request: To provide an earmark of \$1,000,000 to remodel and upgrade the current Squadron Operations Facility to effectively meet the day-to-day requirements of the 190th ARW, which has increased in size and mission for the KC-135R tanker operation.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
JUDGE RAYMOND LAWRENCE
FINCH, TO THE FEDERAL AND
VIRGIN ISLANDS JUDICIAL
BRANCHES AND TO THE COMMUNITY OF THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Judge Raymond Lawrence Finch, a Jurist extraordinaire, who has served the Virgin Islands legal and judicial communities with diligence, competence and unflinching dedication for 33 years from the Bench.

Raymond Finch is a true "Native Son", a product of two Crucian Virgin Islands families: Bough and Finch; whose family members have been making outstanding contributions to the Territory of the U. S. Virgin Islands for more than four generations.

Raymond Finch is a product of the Virgin Islands public school system and a graduate of the Christiansted High School in 1958. He completed, on schedule, his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Minor in Economics, from Howard University in 1962; and his Juris Doc-

tor Degree in 1965, from the Howard University School of Law.

Entering in the U. S. Army as a First Lieutenant in 1966, he served honorably for three years, adjudicating claims of U.S. personnel and Vietnamese nationals. He was also an Advocate before the Elimination Boards, Article 15 Hearings and in Article 32 investigations. His exemplary service was awarded with the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and a Certificate of Appreciation from General William C. Westmoreland and the Army Chief of Staff.

Having served previously as a Law Clerk in the Municipal Court of the Virgin Islands, he worked as a Law Clerk upon his return to the Territory, in the firm of Hodge and Sheen. He was admitted into the Virgin Islands Bar in 1970 and became a partner in the law firm of Hodge, Sheen, Finch and Ross in 1971. For more than a dozen years he was an instructor at the University of Virgin Islands and the American Banking Association.

In 1976, then Virgin Islands Governor, Cyril E. King, appointed him Judge of the Municipal Court of the Virgin Islands. On September 1, 1994, after being nominated by President Clinton, Raymond Finch took the oath of office as Judge of the District Court of the Virgin Islands, and became Chief Judge of the District Court in August, 1999.

Raymond Finch the Law Clerk, to retiring District Court Judge Finch, has seen the remarkable evolution of the Virgin Islands Judicial system. The Municipal Court that he first served as a Law Clerk was the same Court to which he was first appointed as a Judge. During his judicial tenure, the Municipal Court became the Territorial Court, where it achieved its jurisdictional autonomy and recognition as the highest local court in the Territory and it is now the Superior Court. During Judge Finch's District Court tenure, the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands was established.

Accordingly, Finch's judicial career also evolved through his serving as Acting Presiding Judge, Territorial Court of the Virgin Islands; Judge, Appellate Division, U. S. District Court of the Virgin Islands; by Special Designation as Judge of the U. S. District Court of the Virgin Islands; U. S. District Court Judge and Chief District Court Judge for the Virgin Islands. During Judge Finch's tenure on the Bench, he was served by a group of Law Clerks, many of whom have gone on to distinguished and illustrious careers.

His demeanor has always been one of quiet reserve. He is one of those rare individuals that will listen attentively. There have been occasions where a court room participant miscalculated with uttering a statement, uncomfortably finding themselves in the vise of a first class mind. His tenure has produced excellent legal Opinions and Memorandums, along with Decisions that demonstrate inordinate wisdom and compassion. He has mastered the uncanny ability to clearly and concisely follow the dictates of law, weaving and intermingling, with the African West Indian derived customs, of Danish and American cultural and jurisprudential influence. No easy task. His pride and understanding of the Virgin Islands culture, heritage and its people, resulted in outstanding interpretations and implementations of law that appealed to all the adversaries.

His numerous community and professional involvements have been demonstrated through membership in the Virgin Islands Bar

Association; Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit; American Law Institute; American Judges' Association; American Bar Association; National Bar Association, and the Virgin Islands Law Enforcement Planning Commission. His wise acumen was sought as or contributed to, the Task Force Member of the Criminal Code Revision Project; Committee on Model Criminal Jury Instructions, Third Court of Appeals; Supervisory Board of Juvenile Justice & Prevention of Delinquency Committee; the Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands; and Board of Directors of Boy's Club, St. Croix Division.

At the recent unveiling of his official District Court Judge portrait, he showed a profound sensitivity when he thanked all that had gathered.

Judge Finch has one son and two daughters. Through marriage, an additional son and daughter.

The Virgin Islands and its people have been privileged to witness the passing of one that touched many, thereby making the world a better place.

HONORING DENNIS CUBA AND
DAVID PARSONS

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize two heroic police officers from my district and to reinforce the importance of swimming pool safety.

On the evening of Tuesday, July 7, City of Pembroke Pines police officers Dennis Cuba, a seven-year force veteran and David Parsons, a 25-year force veteran, arrived within one minute of receiving a call about a boy whose arm was entrapped in the drain of a hot tub.

There is no doubt that the quick response and professionalism of the Pembroke Pines Police Department saved five-year old Miguel Marin's life.

Officers Parsons and Cuba were able to revive Miguel, but only after several attempts to free him from the brute force and suction of the spa drain—the result of a faulty drain cover.

Unfortunately, not all of these stories have a happy ending. Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death to children under the age of five.

Hundreds of children across our country have died as a result of accidental drowning in swimming pools and spas.

In 2007, Congress passed the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, which aims to stop these senseless accidents.

In addition to encouraging the use of barriers, such as fencing to prevent children from wandering unsupervised into the pool, this law increases safety at public swimming pools and spas by requiring anti-entrapment drain covers. And yet even with these protections, we must remind parents to be vigilant and know where their children are at all times.

On behalf of the citizens of Pembroke Pines, I thank officers Parsons and Cuba for their heroic efforts and hope that we can learn an important lesson from this near-tragedy.