

United States Navy, to the Central Intelligence Agency to Borough Hall, Robert Connor could always be found protecting and promoting the interests of the United States and Staten Island.

After attending Boston College and the U.S. Naval Academy, he was commissioned as an Ensign in the Navy in November 1940 and served on active duty throughout WWII, seeing action in both the Pacific and the Atlantic Theatres.

After the war, Connor entered the Central Intelligence Agency as an Operations Officer and was stationed at headquarters in Washington, DC and on foreign assignment. Following his CIA duty, Connor worked in the maritime industry in New York Harbor and other North Atlantic ports.

Returning home, Robert Connor first ran for public office in 1962. Although he was narrowly defeated in his bid for Staten Island's Congressional seat, he would never again be defeated in an election. The following year, he was elected as Councilman-At-Large to the New York City Council. From that position, Connor was a tireless advocate for improving the piers and harbors in the Port of New York.

In 1965, Connor was elected as Borough President of Staten Island, a position he held until 1977. Connor's tenure was marked by his commitment prudent management of government expenses and fiscal conservatism. He was dedicated to serving the people of New York, placing that goal ahead of any partisan ideology. Connor believed that neither political party had a monopoly on good ideas, and he was able to serve his constituents through close personal friendships with both Democratic and Republican elected officials.

In 1977 Robert Connor again returned to Washington, accepting an appointment as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy from President Carter. He served into the administration of President Reagan, primarily representing the Secretary of the Navy on visits to ships and stations throughout the world.

Although he left Washington in 1981, Robert Connor never lost interest in public service. He continued to advocate for maritime interests through various consulting jobs including the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and Barber Steamship Lines in Annapolis, MD. While there, he volunteered as a coach of the Naval Academy Sailing Squadron.

Robert Connor dedicated his life to helping others without ever asking anyone for anything in return. I am honored to stand here today to both recognize and honor the life of Robert T. Connor, Sr.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

### HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2009*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. 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. 3326, Department of Defense Appropriations Act FY 2010.

Name of Requesting Member: J. GRESHAM BARRETT

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account Number: 0601101E 2 Defense Research Sciences

Name and address of requesting entity: The entity to receive funding for this project is Clemson University, located at Clemson University, South Carolina.

Description of earmark including amount and spending plan: I am requesting \$1.6 million of funding for Clemson University Advanced Photonic Composites Research. This program will be used for development of the next generation of materials for use in optical and laser-based communication, health, automotive, and defense platforms. It will provide the necessary coordinated and concentrated effort to bring high information capacity, low power consuming optical technologies to the soldier. The research will continue to focus on novel active and passive materials and optical devices for advanced lighting, directed energy, sensing and switching, as well as ways to make their performance controllably adaptive, such that one technology may now be used for a myriad of applications. I certify that this project does not have a direct and foreseeable effect on the pecuniary interests of my spouse or me.

#### IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF FRANCIS "BUTCH" TAYLOR

### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2009*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, 100 years ago, Francis "Butch" Taylor was born in Akron, Iowa and shortly after, made the journey west with his family to California. While completing his graduate degree in Social Work at the University of California, Berkeley, he married Betty Lou Taylor. Intrigued by their common last name, they spoke, fell in love and married in 1940. A year later Butch was hired as the Assistant Field Director for the American Red Cross and assigned to the Presidio Army base in San Francisco.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Mr. Taylor was indispensable in keeping up with the rapidly increasing responsibilities of the American Red Cross as service to the military grew exponentially. In 1943, he was dispatched with 36 other Red Cross employees on a Liberty ship—part of a hundred-ship convoy to Algeria. Upon transferring to British troopships in the Mediterranean, the convoy was attacked by German planes, resulting in the loss of three Red Cross men and more than 1,100 American troops. Butch continued on to Bombay and Calcutta, India and eventually arrived in southern China, where he became Field Supervisor in charge of Red Cross Services to the armed forces in China.

After the Communists took power in China, Mr. Taylor returned home to California and became manager of the San Mateo Chapter of the Red Cross, later assisting in its merger with the San Francisco Chapter.

Madam Speaker, I owe a personal debt to this remarkable man. In 1965, when I was a teenage volunteer with the Red Cross Youth, Butch Taylor inspired me with his passion for public service and encouraged me to chart a similar course. Like so many others, my life would be very different were it not for Butch Taylor.

Upon his retirement from the Red Cross, Butch went to work for FEMA, serving the

Western Region—including Guam, Hawaii and Samoa—and assisted with floods in the Sacramento Delta and other local emergencies throughout the 1970s.

Butch and Betty Lou have two children, Mike and Trish, and a grandson, Mark. Butch continues to be involved with the Burlingame Rotary Club and still attends functions every Monday. Next year, Butch and Betty Lou will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary.

Madam Speaker, few men or women can say with absolute certainty that their service made the world a better place. Butch Taylor is one who can. And for that, we are all eternally grateful.

COMMANDER MARK DICKINSON

### HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2009*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Commander Mark Dickinson, a Minnesota native with St. Cloud and Big Lake roots, upon his retirement from the United States Navy. After 20 years of service, Mark is retiring from military service but will continue to serve his country as a civilian working for the Navy. I am proud to share Mark's distinguished career with this Congress today.

In 1989, Mark enlisted in the Navy and worked his way up to Petty Officer First Class serving on the USS Kamehameha, USS Nebraska and PCU Louisiana. As a commissioned officer, Mark served as Supply Department Head on the USS Maryland, which, under his leadership, won the Supply Blue "E" awarded to the finest supply department in the squadron and the prestigious Edward F. Ney Award for outstanding food service—something every sailor can appreciate!

Mark began work at Naval Reactors as Manager of Shipbuilding Contracts in 2003. In this role, he successfully oversaw the construction, repair and modification of nuclear powered ships and also helped negotiate the acquisition of private shipyard facility upgrades necessary to refueling and defueling operations of nuclear aircraft carriers. Mark's negotiation and implementation of cost incentive programs has set the Navy up to save more than \$850 million dollars. Since 2007, Mark has been the Deputy Director of Acquisition and this March he assumed his current responsibilities as Director of Acquisition at Naval Reactors where he continues to lead shipbuilding efforts.

It is with great honor that I congratulate LCDR Mark Dickinson on 20 years of dedicated service to the United States Navy. Madam Speaker, I rise so that this Congress may also pay tribute to Mark and wish him and his family all the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING STAFF SGT JASON  
DAHLKE

### HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2009*

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Staff Sergeant Jason

Dahlke, 29, who died August 29, 2009, while serving our Nation in Afghanistan on his sixth deployment in support of the War on Terror. Staff Sergeant Dahlke was a distinguished soldier serving with Company A, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

SSG Jason Dahlke was born on November 8, 1979, in Tampa and was raised in Jacksonville with his brother and three sisters. Prior to joining the Army, he attended the University of Central Florida where he graduated with a degree in Criminal Justice and married his grade school sweetheart Niki Marie Norvell Dahlke. Mrs. Dahlke recalls her husband as her "best friend" and "hero."

We should all remember SSG Dahlke's courage and his ultimate sacrifice for our nation. The freedom and liberty we enjoy and the peace in the world for others for which he fought are part of the great legacy that SSG Dahlke leaves behind. He was laid to rest at the new Jacksonville National Veterans Cemetery on September 5, 2009. SSG Jason Dahlke is the first American killed in combat to be interred at Florida's newest veterans cemetery.

SSG Dahlke will be remembered as a dedicated servant of the country he loved. During his time in the Army, SSG Dahlke received a Purple Heart and two Army Commendation Medals that he never mentioned to his parents. They only learned of their son's achievements by way of the internet. In one of his last conversations with his parents, SSG Dahlke told his family that he loved his job and that he would continue to do it as long as he could serve. Col. Michael E. Kurilla, 75th Ranger Regiment commander stated that SSG Dahlke "embodied the Ranger Creed and all that is good, noble and honored in our Rangers."

With the passing of SSG Dahlke, America has lost an outstanding citizen and a shining example of service to our Nation. He will be remembered as a patriotic American, a pillar of our community and a compassionate husband and a loving son.

To his wife Niki, his mother Deborah, his father Roger and his loving family and friends, we offer our deepest sympathy.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize SSG Jason Dahlke's contributions and to ask that all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing his heroic service in our Nation's Armed Forces.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT  
OF MR. JOHN "TOMMY" STEPHENSON

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2009*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Tommy Stephenson upon his retirement from the United States Postal Service.

Mr. Stephenson has serviced the same route for over 30 years, becoming an important part of the community in Southern Madison County, Northern Hardeman County, and Western Chester County, Tennessee. Over three generations of West Tennessee families have come to know and love Mr. Tommy. The humble spirit and cheerful whistle he brought to work each and every day has touched these families in many ways.

Most inspiring to me is the fact that Mr. Stephenson has endured a physical disability that limits the use of his right hand, yet he has always been able to adapt to the many changes these past thirty years. The type of dependability and dedication he has brought to his work is rare, indeed, and we honor him for it.

Please join me in celebrating Mr. Stephenson's achievement, and wishing him well upon his retirement.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF  
SUCCESS FOR AAHOA

**HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2009*

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the success of the Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA). Founded in 1989, the AAHOA has grown to nearly 10,000 members who own more than 22,000 hotels valued at \$60 billion. These small business owners have created or supported more than one million jobs. It is my understanding that their business acumen and dedication to the hospitality industry has made AAHOA a strong leader in the tourism sector of our economy.

It was my honor to attend AAHOA's national convention earlier this year, where its members celebrated 20 years of excellence and service to their respective communities. Many AAHOA members belong to their local chambers of commerce and network with pro-business associations. I share many of the concerns of AAHOA's membership, including card check, our spiraling deficit, excessive litigation, and the proposed expansion of government into the health care arena. This is not what our country needs. We need to allow private sector businesses, like AAHOA members, to do what they do best: grow the economy, create new jobs, and provide safe, reliable, and affordable hospitality for millions of travelers.

I want to recognize the officers and leadership of AAHOA for their service to the organization: Chairman Tarun S. Patel; Vice Chairman ChandraKant I. (C.K.) Patel; Treasurer Hemant D. (Henry) Patel; Secretary Alkesh R. (Al) Patel; past Chairman Ashwin (Ash) Patel; President Fred Schwartz; Washington District Regional Director and Co-Chairman of the Legislation Committee Paul (Prashant) Patel; Southwest Regional Director and Co-Chairman of the Legislation Committee Hitesh L. Patel; and Vice President for Fair Franchising and Government Affairs and General Counsel Laura Lee Blake.

I understand that the AAHOA donated more than \$100,000 for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, contributed more than \$25,000 for the victims of the Asian tsunami in 2004, they have helped open doors for investment opportunities in India, and they partnered with the United Service Organizations (USO) to create the "101,000 Room Nights for America" program, which provided complimentary rooms for deployed members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize AAHOA and the Indian American community and look forward to working together in the future.

CONGRESSMAN J. RANDY FORBES  
TRIBUTE TO MRS. HELEN  
DAUGHTREY

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2009*

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Helen Daughtrey, who was 80 years old when she passed away on Saturday, August 15, 2009. America lost a community icon, public servant, and devoted daughter, wife, sister, and mother with the death of Helen Daughtrey. Helen will be remembered for her strong voice for fairness, civic duty, equality, and justice.

A long-time resident of Suffolk, Virginia, Helen was active in a myriad of service groups that improved the lives of those in the community. She served as the NAACP's Vice President for the Suffolk Branch. Helen was also a member of the American Red Cross, the Suffolk Beautification Committee, the Order of the Eastern Star of Virginia, the International Black Women's Congress, and Chesapeake Silver Strands Senior Citizens Club.

Helen was perhaps best known for her leadership and tireless efforts to see through the community improvement projects at The Fairgrounds and the East Washington Street corridor. Helen also tirelessly championed the conversion of the 1921 Phoenix Bank, Suffolk's first African-American bank into a black history museum.

As a lifelong member of Metropolitan Baptist Church, Helen was a dutiful woman of faith. Her commitment to her community of faith was evident in her service on the Deaconess Board, and as a member of the Mass and Chapel choirs and the Harvesters' Missionary Circle. She also taught a Sunday school class and was the founder of the Afro-Centric Ministry.

Helen was a 1946 graduate of Booker T. Washington High School and remained involved in the alumni chapter. Helen was the proud wife of James Otis "Buck" Daughtrey. They had four daughters—Brenda, Rhonda, Sharon, and Ida. Helen deeply touched each one of her many friends in the community, and I am proud to count myself among them.

Helen Daughtrey was the personification of determination, volunteerism, and persistence. Her deep faith drove her efforts to improve her city and the lives of the people within it. Helen's contributions to the citizens of Suffolk will not be forgotten or easily replaced, and her work will live on for generations. I can say with certainty, that at another ceremony in Helen's honor that we cannot see with our eyes, Helen is hearing the words: "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

CONGRATULATING DR. REGINA  
BENJAMIN ON HER NOMINATION  
AS SURGEON GENERAL OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2009*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Regina Benjamin on her