

CONGRATULATING DELANO AND THE MATH AND SCIENCE ACADEMY IN WOODBURY, MINNESOTA

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two schools from my state of Minnesota. Both Delano High School and the Math and Science Academy in Woodbury have been recently recognized as "Blue Ribbon Schools" by the U.S. Department of Education. The Blue Ribbon Program honors public and private middle, junior and senior high schools that demonstrate academic superiority, especially with minority populations.

This is a great honor to the teachers, faculty and administration of these schools. And, in particular, Delano's Principal Matthew Schoen and Woodbury's Director Paul Simone, should be exceedingly proud of their efforts. Their dedication to foster a positive learning environment encourages families and students across the nation. Through the Blue Ribbon School program, other educators have a set of "Best Practices" in classroom tactics, school programming choices and administrative strategies like none other.

These schools are shining stars in America's education system. It is my honor to recognize two of these schools, Delano High School and the Math and Science Academy in Woodbury, before this Congress today. I encourage every school in America to look at these Blue Ribbon winners not only as a resource but also a reminder of what our schools can be.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 111TH CONGRESS ON BEHALF OF VETERANS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to acknowledge the significant bipartisan accomplishments made by the 111th Congress for our veterans and their families. Our Armed Forces sacrifice a tremendous amount for this country. In light of such commitment and dedication to our nation, the House has worked feverishly to provide the resources and support America's warriors need before, during, and after their service.

In this Congress, one of the House Armed Services Committee's finest achievements was unanimously passing H.R. 2647, the 2010 National Defense Authorization Act. Designed to restore our military's readiness and improve the quality of life of our service members and their families, the bill would provide a 3.4 percent pay raise for service members, strengthen efforts to expand mental health care for troops, and improve military housing. On June 25, 2009, H.R. 2647 passed the full House by an overwhelming margin.

Additionally, the House has worked to ensure the health of our veterans and their families. Among other initiatives, we have approved legislation to expand and improve VA

health care services for the 1.8 million women who have bravely served our country, voted to increase veterans' disability payments to reflect cost-of-living increases, and approved a bill I introduced that would expand military retirement and VA disability benefits to disabled military retirees with less than 20 years of service. In June, the House approved the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act, authorizing Congress to approve veterans' medical care funding one year in advance to better anticipate and meet the demand for veterans' health care services. And, in February, the House approved my resolution designating 2009 as the "Year of the Military Family" to recognize the sacrifices and contributions of over two million military families.

The dedication of our men and women in uniform makes our nation strong and keeps us free; we cannot forget the debt we owe to those who serve so nobly. While there certainly remains work to be done, I am proud of the achievements this Congress has made on behalf of our nation's warriors and their families.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. NATHAN DEAL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks one of my municipalities received as part of Bill 3288, the "Department of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for 2010."

Requesting Member: Congressman NATHAN DEAL

Bill Number: H.R. 3288

Account: TCSP—Transportation & Community & System Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The State of Georgia, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District 100 West Oglethorpe Avenue P.O. Box 889 Savannah, GA 31402

Description of Request: CG funding of \$33,725,000 is necessary to begin construction of the SHEP. While the Record of Decision will not be signed until mid-2010, these funds can be used for final pre-construction monitoring and engineering design of the channel and mitigation components for the project.

Additionally, these funds will be needed immediately after project approval for negotiation of the Project Partnership Agreement. Construction contracts cannot be awarded prior to the completion of this agreement.

ACKNOWLEDGING EDGAR HAGOPIAN'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIS COMMUNITY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Mr. Edgar Hagopian, a compassionate humanitarian and public advocate who has worked tirelessly on behalf of his fellow citizens.

Edgar grew up in metro Detroit. As a teen in the 1950s, he began working for his father, Haroutn Hagopian, who ran a cleaning business. Edgar worked hard under the leadership example set by his father. Buoyed by the devotion and support of his wife Sarah, the Hagopian Family of Companies grew and earned a reputation for excellence in business. Presently, Edgar serves as Chairman of the Hagopian Family of Companies, which encompasses Hagopian & Sons, Incorporated, Hagopian World of Rugs, Hagopian Cleaning Services, Incorporated, Hagopian Fire & Flood Services and The Ghiordes Knot. The Hagopian name has long been associated with carpet cleaning and fine Oriental Rugs and their cleaning slogan, "expect the best, expect the purple truck", can be heard over local airwaves daily.

As 2009 marks the distinct recognition of 70 years in business, it is with great gratitude and appreciation that I recognize Edgar Hagopian. His leadership stands as a fine illustration of Southeast Michigan ingenuity and innovation. He has assertively fostered economic growth, created jobs and inspired hope in a state ravaged by mass unemployment. Additionally, Edgar has been involved in numerous charitable organizations and his generosity is well known throughout the community.

Edgar and his wife Sarah have worked to promote Armenian culture and unite the metro Detroit Armenian community. They have worked to help build a stronger Armenia by bridging the cultural gap and bringing people of all ethnicities and traditions together. Mr. Hagopian has spearheaded both large and small projects, each with qualitative impacts felt across all spectrums of life. Moreover, he has long worked tirelessly to better inform people of the Armenian Genocide on both a local and national level. These efforts resulted in the passing of Michigan Public Act 558 (2002) "Armenian Genocide Remembrance Days" signed into law by Governor John Engler.

Madam Speaker, Edgar Hagopian is a spirited political activist, caring benefactor, compassionate citizen and cultural icon whose generosity has shaped the lives of countless people in our community. We are all indebted to the countless sacrifices and contributions he has made to strengthen the social fabric of our society. He personifies a legacy of distinction. Madam Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Hagopian and recognizing his years of loyal service to our community and country.