

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. BARTLETT. Madam Speaker, I submit the following. Funding of \$1,500,000 is necessary to allow an expedited development of the ASCC (Sea Truck) for military/disaster relief use and the fielding of the system. Sea Truck supports the Army's need for low-cost, logistics support equipment with critical distribution and sustainment capabilities. These unmanned, self-propelled support units can be deployed from offshore logistics and commercial ships to the beach for sustainment operations. Sea Truck is composed of 90 percent commercial off-the-shelf nondevelopmental hardware and technologies that are compatible with current commercial and military supply support systems. The Sea Truck Propulsion Module contains commercial navigation sets that allow the system to autonomously traverse to desired locations and has the capability to self-redirect to alternate landing sites to meet the dynamics of changing theater conditions.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FINANCIAL RELIEF ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I am a co-sponsor of H.R. 22, the "United States Postal Service Financial Relief Act," and I urge my colleagues to support the bill. H.R. 22 which will allow the Postal Service to pay, for a temporary period of time, the health premiums for current postal retirees from the \$32 billion held in reserve in Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund, rather than from general operating revenue.

The Postal Service is in the midst of a revenue crisis of huge and historic proportions, despite its extensive efforts to reduce costs. This situation is due in part to the high fuel prices of last summer, but most due to the precipitous decline in mail volume brought about by the deepening recession. In comparison to mail volume and revenue totals in May 2008, the Postal Service reports that volume in May 2009 declined by 19.9 percent, while revenues for the same period were 14.5 percent below last year's figures. The Postal Service is currently on track to lose over \$6.5 billion for Fiscal Year 2009 and the future looks similarly bleak.

It is only an inflexible law that requires the Postal Service—alone amongst Federal agencies—to shell out billions of dollars to prefund retiree benefits, regardless of economic or financial conditions. The first step on the road

to stability and recovery is to change that inflexible law, at least temporarily, by passing of H.R. 22.

I doubt that H.R. 22 will solve all the Postal Service's problems—postal management and postal employees will still have to do their part to find additional savings. But I am certain that without this bill the continued viability of the Postal Service is in serious jeopardy.

I wish to emphasize that this bill does not eliminate the Postal Service's obligation to prefund retiree health benefits; the Postal Service will continue the annual prefunding payment of roughly \$5.4 to \$5.8 billion; H.R. 22 simply gives the Postal Service the temporary flexibility to make those payments from the surplus funds now held by the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund. In addition, since the Postal Service's contribution to the fund is projected to always be greater than the premiums flowing out, this action will in no way jeopardize the ability of the Trust Fund to grow to meet future needs.

I am aware that initial estimates from the Congressional Budget Office suggest that this bill will have a budgetary impact because CBO expects the Postal Service will reduce its aggressive costcutting efforts if it receives relief from its retiree health obligations. I disagree with this conclusion. The Postal Service has aggressively cut costs in recent years. In fact, because of the hard work of postal employees across the country the Postal Service is on pace to reduce costs by a record \$5.9 billion in Fiscal Year 2009. There is no evidence to suggest this trend will not continue. As for the immediate funding for this relief, it will come from an existing pool of money, not appropriated funds—making this an intergovernmental transfer—with zero cost to the Federal Government.

H.R. 22 has the support of over 315 Members of Congress. It is critical to the future survival of the United States Postal Service, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support the bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JONATHAN YANNEY

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true American hero. On August 18, 2009, our nation lost a brave soldier when Army Private First Class Jonathan C. Yanney died in Arghandad, Afghanistan, in support of operation Enduring Freedom at 20 years of age. He died of wounds sustained when his military vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

PFC Yanney grew up in Norwood and Litchfield, Minnesota, but his father resides in Grapevine, Arkansas. Although I never had the honor to meet PFC Yanney, on behalf of

the state of Arkansas, I extend my utmost condolences to his family, friends and all who knew him for this devastating loss.

PFC Yanney was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 5th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, Washington. He carried out his duties with pride in his country and without reservation and each of us owes him our eternal gratitude for his selfless sacrifice.

A young, decorated soldier, Yanney's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Badge, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Bar, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Weapons Qualification Badge Bar—Weapon Rifle Expert, and the NATO Medal.

My deepest thoughts and prayers are with his mother, Jane; his father, Russ; his brother, Josh; and, the rest of his family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time.

Today, I ask all members of Congress to join me as we honor the life of Army Private First Class Jonathan Yanney and his legacy and all those men and women in our Armed Forces who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country.

CONGRATULATING MOBILE POLICE CHIEF PHILLIP GARRETT ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to honor the long and distinguished career of Phillip Garrett on the occasion of his retirement as chief of the Mobile Police Department.

A 38-year veteran of the Mobile Police Department, Chief Garrett rose from the rank of cadet to the city's top cop. Mobile's Press-Register recently praised his service to the city saying, "With the retirement of Police Chief Phillip Garrett, Mobile is losing a career cop who displayed quiet competence and professionalism in managing the department."

Chief Garrett has received many commendations and recognitions throughout his career, including the Chief's Commendation from former Chief Sam Cochran, the Life Saving Award from the Mobile Police Department, and the Medal of Valor from the Mobile Police Department. He was also recognized for his outstanding performances on Competitive Promotional Exams, and in 2004, he was recognized as the top scorer on the Competitive Promotional Exam for Major.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated law enforcement officer and friend to many throughout

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