

CONGRATULATING THE YES PREP PUBLIC SCHOOLS-NORTH CENTRAL CAMPUS ON THEIR 2009 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the YES Prep Public Schools-North Central Campus in our district for their dedication to academic excellence that has earned them the honored distinction of being a Blue Ribbon School in 2009.

Since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Schools Program has honored many of America's most successful schools, and I am proud of YES Prep Public Schools-North Central Campus for all of its hard work towards and dedication to achieving the high academic standards that have earned them this award. The Blue Ribbon Award honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are academically superior or have made dramatic gains in student achievement and helped close achievement gaps among minority and disadvantaged students. This year 314 schools earned this coveted award.

YES Prep Public Schools-North Central Campus is a school that strives to increase the number of low-income Houstonians who graduate from a four-year college prepared to compete in the global marketplace and committed to improving disadvantaged communities. Under the supervision of Principal Mr. Mark DiBella, YES also works to develop students who are active in the community. YES stands for Youth Engaged in Service and students dedicate one Saturday each month to community service projects. YES also requires that students participate in longer school days, college research trips, summer school and summer opportunities—80 percent of YES' student base is comprised of economically disadvantaged individuals, and their motto is 'to do whatever it takes' to improve themselves and their horizons through educational resources provided through the school. YES Prep Public Schools-North Central Campus serves as an example that through hard work much can be achieved.

They are an inspiration for all schools in the Houston area, and I congratulate the administration, teachers, parents, and students at YES Prep Public Schools-North Central Campus on this great accomplishment.

HONORABLE RECOGNITION OF COACH ROCKY RAWLS, BRONTE, TEXAS 2009 NATIONAL COACHES APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Coaches Appreciation Week and to acknowledge the accomplishments and dedication of one coach in particular: Coach Rocky Rawls of Bronte, Texas.

Coach Rawls has been coaching in Bronte, Texas for the past 26 years. After growing up in Dimmitt, Texas and playing basketball for the late Kenneth Cleveland, Coach Rawls grew to love the game of basketball and decided to make it his career. He graduated from Dimmitt High School in 1978. He then went to Howard Junior College in Big Spring, Texas to play basketball for the Hawks. After 2 years in Big Spring, Coach Rawls left for Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas to finish out his college education, and, of course, to play ball. He graduated from Southwestern University in May of 1983. Just months after his graduation from college the superintendent of Bronte High School gave Rocky a call and offered him a position as head basketball coach. The rest, as they say, is history.

This past season Coach Rawls accomplished a feat few basketball coaches accomplish at any level. He earned his 500th career victory against Bronte's rival, Robert Lee. Even more impressive is the fact that Coach Rawls has won all 500 games at one school. Bronte has been his home his entire coaching career.

This past season, Coach Rawls helped the Bronte Longhorns go 25-3 and finish the season ranked sixth in the state, also sweeping eventual state champion Roscoe throughout the season. Subsequently, Coach Rawls was deservingly named Coach of the Year by the San Angelo Standard Times.

Coach Rawls and his wife, Terri, have 3 sons. Logan, a student at Angelo State University, and twins Dakota and Kerwin, now juniors at Bronte High School, have all played ball for their dad. Bronte has been the home of a long and successful career for Coach Rocky Rawls, who after winning 500 ballgames I hear thinks it just might be a great place to stay and win 500 more. Asked when he might retire, Coach Rawls has joked that "not until they ask me to coach girls," which after also stepping in as head football and boys track coach at various times, happens to be the only thing he hasn't coached at Bronte.

Coach Rawls has instilled invaluable leadership skills in the many students who have called him "Coach." He has incorporated the important values of self-discipline and perseverance into every practice, and ensured that the beliefs and conduct they learn on the court becomes a part of their daily lives as well. By example, Coach Rawls has instilled the importance of faith, family and community in the many lives he has touched throughout his years in Bronte. It is my great pleasure to extend my personal congratulations to Coach Rawls on his remarkable achievement of 500 victories, as well as express my sincere respect and appreciation for the positive impact he has had on the lives of many of the boys from Bronte, Texas. As an educator and a coach, he has had a hand in molding so many of them into men we can all be proud of.

Madam Speaker, I myself, as a former athlete in both high school and college recognize that we owe men and women like Rocky Rawls a great debt of gratitude. On behalf of current, former and future student athletes, whose lives will forever be founded in the ideals and work ethics of competitive athletics, I say, "Thank you."

CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, an observance of the culture, traditions and contributions of the Hispanic community.

Started over 40 years ago, this month-long celebration from September 15 through October 15, observes social, political, and cultural advances of Americans descending from Spain, Mexico, South America, the Caribbean and Spanish-speaking countries of Central America. As the largest ethnic or race minority in the United States, people of Hispanic origin have made great strides to become among our nations finest medical professionals, legal scholars, scientists, business owners, civic leaders, artists, educators, and students. The year 2009 will be remembered as a historic year for many reasons, including the appointment of the first Hispanic to the Supreme Court, Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

As a Representative of an area with a large Hispanic population, I recognize that the influences of this culture are interwoven into the fabric of our nation. The establishment of Hispanic Heritage Month was a catalyst for the founding of many important organizations promoting development and advancement for the Hispanic community, including the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute. This month presents an opportunity to remind the country of the achievements we are capable of as a diverse nation and an opportunity to show our youth their potential. As the fastest growing demographic group, it is important to not only recall past accomplishments, but to look to the future as well.

Celebrations will be held across the United States this month to recognize the contributions of the Hispanic community, and I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. 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. 3183—Energy and Water Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Bill number: H.R. 3183
Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Construction
Amount: \$500,000
Project: Florida Keys Wastewater Improvement Project
Requested by: City of Key West, City of Marathon, Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District

Federal funding of this project is needed to continue moving forward with the initiative outlined in The Florida Keys Water Quality Improvements Act, which authorized \$100 million

for water quality improvements in the Keys. For several years there has been growing concern that the near-shore waters of the Florida Keys have been deteriorating due to inadequate wastewater and storm water facilities. These are the waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and home to the only living coral reef in the continental United States.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3183

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Operation and Maintenance

Amount: \$4,500,000

Project: Intracoastal Waterway, Jacksonville to Miami, FL

Requested by: Florida Inland Navigation District

The Intracoastal Waterway (IWW) is a critical part of Florida's eastern-shore economy and therefore its timely dredging is of serious importance. The Waterway annually: transports over 1 million tons of commercial cargo and over 500,000 recreational vessels; increases property values by \$38.4 billion; and provides \$7.9 billion in economic output which includes \$2.6 billion in personal wages and 124,857 jobs. Studies by FIND, the local sponsor of the IWW, have shown that these benefits would be reduced by 50 percent if the Waterway were not properly maintained.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3183

Account: Department of Energy, EERE Account

Amount: \$1,000,000

Project: Going Green Initiative

Requested by: Miami Children's Museum

This project will allow the Museum to preserve and protect the world's natural resources using environmentally advanced, sustainable, and renewable and/or recyclable materials and systems in the building. In addition, it will allow the Museum to educate its audience about its environmentally friendly building and high-performance features through a variety of hands-on programs and project based activities for classroom and home continued learning.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3183

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Construction

Amount: \$600,000

Project: Miami Harbor Channel Dredging

Requested by: Miami-Dade County, Florida

This funding request is for the General Re-evaluation Report Implementation, Preconstruction, Engineering, and Design for the dredging of Miami Harbor. The funding was authorized via 2007 (H.R. 1495) for preconstruction, engineering, and design of the recommended project. This will address the federal share at 100% of the anticipated costs for plans and specifications preparation.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3183

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Operation and Maintenance

Amount: \$777,000

Project: Miami River Dredging

Requested by: Miami-Dade County, Florida

This request is for the final phase of the Miami River Dredging Project to restore authorized depth and width to the navigation channel. This project, funded by the Army Corps of Engineers with a coalition of local sponsors led by Miami-Dade County, removes

contaminated sediments from the Miami River—Florida's 4th largest port with an economic value of \$4 billion. Since it was improved for navigation in the 1930s, the river has never received comprehensive maintenance dredging. Sediments have accumulated in the margins of the federal channel making it narrower and shallower, thereby limiting activities of freighters that utilize ship terminals along the river. Dredging and disposal of the contaminated sediments is expected to improve navigation and enhance the environmental quality of the River and downstream portions of Biscayne Bay.

Pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the Congressional Record regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3283—Department of Education Appropriations, 2010.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3283

Account: HHS-HRSA

Amount: \$500,000

Project: Construction of a new behavioral health facility for the homeless

Requested by: Camillus House

Camillus House, Inc. is requesting support of costs to relocate and expand its main center of operations located in downtown Miami. This funding would supplement funds already provided through HRSA for design and architecture services for this project. The requested will be used entirely for construction costs. Camillus House, Inc. services include basic emergency services such as food and shelter, substance abuse and mental health treatment, primary health care, housing, and career development at 15 sites around Miami-Dade County.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3283

Account: HHS-HRSA

Amount: \$500,000

Project: Information Technology Infrastructure

Requested by: Jackson Health System

Jackson is a fully integrated health care system with 3 major hospitals, 12 primary care centers, 16 school-based clinics, a mental health facility, 2 mobile health vans and a major health plan. Jackson is the primary safety net provider in Miami-Dade County and one of the busiest emergency rooms in the Nation. Jackson's Advanced Clinical Knowledge System (JACKS) has been implemented at Jackson Memorial Hospital and helps with patient scheduling improving efficiencies and reducing redundancies in the delivery of care. The Public Health Trust, the board that governs Jackson Health System, has approved expansion of this system to our other 2 hospitals in opposite ends of the county, Jackson South Community Hospital and Jackson North Medical Center. The expansion will ensure continuity throughout all of their hospitals.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3283

Account: Department of Education, FIE

Amount: \$300,000

Project: United Way Center for Excellence in Education

Requested by: United Way of Miami-Dade

The Center for Excellence in Early Education improves the quality of early care and education by modeling and providing best practices in early care and education and collaborates with local, state and federal agen-

cies to ensure sustainability of its work. Through its unique composition, the Center offers informative, applicable training on early education and pilots effective programs that help teachers educate, parents understand and providers/owners care for our youngest citizens, locally, regionally and nationwide.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3283

Account: HHS-HRSA

Amount: \$200,000

Project: Health Center Equipment Upgrades

Requested by: Miami Beach Community Health Center

To expand children's comprehensive health services including health care. To provide preventive and comprehensive primary care to all adult patients including health care. To provide comprehensive primary care and referrals for specialty care for patients with HIV/AIDS including health care. To continue to provide comprehensive total quality management program for all clinical programs. To update and implement recruitment and retention protocol for staff and for the replacement of a roof.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3283

Account: Department of Education, FIPSE

Amount: \$300,000

Project: Science and Computer Advancement Center for Elementary Education

Requested by: St. Thomas University

To extend its outreach to the community by offering a professional development program to advance the teaching of science and technology in elementary schools in Miami-Dade County. St. Thomas University will partner with Title I elementary school teachers and other schools in northwest Miami-Dade in the vicinity of the STU campus to raise level of quality, student success and student enjoyment of science and computer learning in elementary schools. They will involve elementary school teachers from these schools in science and computers to improve teaching effectiveness through continuously offered workshops, seminars, college credit courses and online courses. Improve existing science and computer curriculum at the elementary level to result in raising the level of science teaching in the middle and high schools.

Pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the Congressional Record regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3326—Department of Defense Appropriations, 2010.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3326

Account: RDT&E—Navy

Amount: \$2,800,000

Project: Instrumented Underwater Training Systems

Requested by: Florida Keys Community College

The Instrumented Underwater Training Systems (IUTS) program benefits the Department of Defense by providing mission critical training to the Navy and other agencies responsible for securing personnel and assets in maritime domains. In response to the persistent threat to forward-deployed service personnel and assets, and the continued threat of attack on critical infrastructure and ports, the IUTS program ensures effective techniques are used by divers to identify and mitigate potential threats and hazards and ensures the safety of response divers and personnel. A

fully implemented IUTS program will protect personnel, assets, and critical infrastructure at both domestic and forward-deployed locations.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3326

Account: RDT&E—Defense Wide

Amount: \$4,500,000

Project: Transformer Technology for Combat Submersibles

Requested by: STIDD Systems

This request will enable USSOCOM to conduct a formal technology design, development, documentation and demonstration of the TTCS. One prototype craft will be designed, fabricated, tested and evaluated for technology transition into either the USSOCOM SDV or SWCS programs of record.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3326

Account: RDT&E—Army

Amount: \$1,500,000

Project: Minority Student Neuroscience Research Consortium

Requested by: St. Thomas University

The Department of Veterans Affairs spends over \$320 million annually on direct costs for SCI. Other related costs for medications and rehabilitation may run in the billions of dollars. The lifetime costs for an injured person can run up to more than 1.5 million dollars. The goal of this program is to develop treatments for SCI repair through axon regeneration and functional recovery for our injured veterans.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3326

Account: RDT&E—Army

Amount: \$3,000,000

Project: Center for Ophthalmic Innovation

Requested by: University of Miami

Severe ocular injuries from combat encountered in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan represent a significant and frequent source of lifetime visual disability and is of immediate concern to the DOD. Approximately 10–17% of war casualties are due to eye trauma. The Center for Ophthalmic Innovation is successfully working to lessen the morbidity of traumatic ocular injuries in military operations, as well as to explore newer modalities to assist in the visual restoration of the injured personnel.

Pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the Congressional Record regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3170—Financial Services Appropriations, 2010.

Requested by Rep. ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3170

Account: Small Business Administration

Amount: \$100,000

Project: Institute for Community and Economic Development

Requested by: Barry University

The Barry University Institute for Community and Economic Development must continue to expand its reach and leverage its new Entrepreneurial Institute, dedicated to poverty elimination through the development of entrepreneurial skills in the community. The Institute delivers research-based education and training to minority and women-owned business enterprises and those providing leadership in the non-profit sector in South Florida. Expansion of the Institute will offer more small businesses, family businesses and community-based/non-profit organizations to meet the challenges related to the present economic downturn.

Requested by Rep. ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3170

Account: Small Business Administration

Amount: \$300,000

Project: Institute for Intermodal Transportation

Requested by: Miami-Dade College

The Intermodal Transportation Training Center allows MDC to effectively meet the training requirements of all forms of transportation, and transportation related activities. The planned location of the Intermodal Transportation Center is at the Miami International Airport (MIA), which would situate the School in close proximity to the Miami Intermodal Center (MIC) currently under construction. This location would serve as a benefit to both the MIC and the school as a trained and skilled workforce is developed by the School to meet the ongoing employment needs at the MIC. Courses at MIA are set to begin January 2010.

Miami Dade College is uniquely positioned to provide this training through an Institute for Intermodal Transportation (IIT). MDC has a foundation for the coursework and training through its various departments and schools. A number of the educational programs are in aviation under its Eig-Watson School of Aviation. Additional related programs which would support the IIT are Miami Dade College currently offers 3 baccalaureate programs with numerous tracks. Over 200 associate degrees and career training certificates are available and could have application to the Intermodal Institute.

Pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the Congressional Record regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3288—Transportation Appropriations, 2010.

Requested by Rep. ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3288

Account: DOT, Bus and Bus Facilities

Amount: \$1,000,000

Project: Transit Facility and Bus Passenger Access Lane Construction along US 1

Requested by: City of Key West, FL

Key West needs to construct a new full scale transit facility to house their buses and bus equipment. The city also needs to construct bus apron access to as many as 44 bus stops along US 1, which have been part of the JARC shuttle services in operation since August 2005.

Requested by Rep. ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3288

Account: DOT, Bus and Bus Facilities

Amount: \$250,000

Project: Bus Shelter Replacement

Requested by: Bal Harbour, FL

Many elderly and working age citizens utilize public transit to travel to and/or from Bal Harbour Village. The bus shelters currently in place are deteriorating and do not provide adequate shelter from the elements. As the economy declines, more people depend upon public transportation. Replacing the current shelters/benches will provide more adequate facilities for those waiting for public transportation in the hot sun, wind and rain.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 699 H. Res. 744—Privileged resolution regarding Congressman JOE WILSON.

Had I been present, I would have voted “nay”.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE FROM THE TEXAS AGRILIFE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER AT LUBBOCK

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the 100 years of work and dedication of scientists at the AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Lubbock. In 1909, The Lubbock Agriculture Experiment Station #8, now known as Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Lubbock, was established by the Texas Legislature in response to the passage of the Hatch Act by Congress in 1887 to create agriculture experiment stations. Since its inception, researchers and staff at the Center have worked to address the High Plain's most pressing agricultural issues of the day including improvement of crops with emphasis on seed development, crop pest and disease management, cropping and efficient water systems, and harvest methods.

During its 100 years of service, the Center has provided the region's producers and economy with significant contributions that include the following: the first hybrid grain sorghum in cooperation with the Chillicothe Station, greenbug resistant grain sorghum, improved cotton cultivars, improved cotton harvest equipment, improved boll weevil control techniques, methods and equipment for increasing irrigation efficiency, drought tolerant variety development, conservation tillage strategies, farming systems, precision agriculture methodology and risk management strategies.

The Lubbock Extension Center is one of the largest off-campus centers in the Texas A&M University System. It serves as headquarters for agents in the 20-county South Plains Extension District 2 and includes offices for 22 Research Scientists. The Center is composed of a research farm at the Lubbock site, two research farms in the northern part of the South Plains near Halfway, Texas; one substation at Pecos, Texas; a cotton research farm in Dawson County in cooperation with Lamesa Cotton Growers and a peanut research farm in Terry County in cooperation with Texas Peanut Board.

The research is used by Extension Specialists and the Extension Agents to educate producers on the methodologies of the most recent and innovative production techniques. The benefits of this program can be seen across the spectrum for agriculture on the South Plains ranging from reduced industry impact on the environment to the profitability producers enjoy from their trade. This model