

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2009

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to be present in the Capitol for two votes on Wednesday, September 16, 2009. However, had I been present I would have voted “yea” on H. Res. 746, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3221—the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009, and “yea” on H. Res. 260, supporting efforts to reduce infant mortality in the United States.

TRIBUTE TO DR. EZELL PITTMAN AND THE RIDGEWOOD FOUNDATION

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2009

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Ridgewood Foundation and its longtime tour coordinator Dr. Ezell Pittman. This Foundation was established to enhance the lives of residents in the Ridgewood community—physically, educationally and economically. Over the years, however, it has earned a reputation as being much more.

In 1990, the late Reverend Levi Chavous who was a good friend of mine and pastor of Ridgewood Missionary Baptist Church for forty years founded the Ridgewood Foundation in consultation with Ms. Glenice Pearson. Their mission was to help better the communities that surrounded their church.

The first challenge was to raise money for the Ridgewood Foundation. In 1993 Mrs. Deborah Breedlove, who served as the financial advisor, and the late Mrs. Mamie Floyd, a retired school teacher and community activist, organized a three-day trip to Potomac Mills in Virginia, the National Mall and the Frederick Douglas Museum in our nation’s capitol. The trip was such a resounding fundraising success that Dr. Ezell Pittman, a retired public servant, was enlisted to serve as the tour coordinator for the Foundation.

Funds raised by the organization were used to provide introductory computer classes for seniors, a hypertension and diabetes program in the Ridgewood community, and scholarships for students graduating from Eau Claire High School. In the early years, the trips were promoted by asking the executive directors of the Aiken, Columbia and Florence Housing Authorities and the Columbia Urban League to sponsor youth to travel with the Foundation.

Dr. Pittman took on his task of tour coordination with great zeal, and after the first Washington, DC area trip, subsequent four and seven-day trips were planned. Since 2001 four fundraising trips lasting fourteen days or

longer benefitting the Ridgewood Foundation have been undertaken from coast to coast. Under Dr. Pittman’s leadership, the Foundation has taken travelers to the 48 continental states, Eastern Canada and Mexico. The trips have included travelers from South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and New York.

After fifteen years and numerous trips, Dr. Pittman is relinquishing his position as tour coordinator for the Ridgewood Foundation. His service to the Foundation has been invaluable and his commitment over the last 15 years has been greatly appreciated.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and our fellow colleagues join me in commending Dr. Ezell Pittman for his service to the community of Ridgewood and to the Foundation that helps support its quality of life. The Ridgewood Foundation will continue its good works, and its members will continue to follow the wonderful example set by Dr. Pittman.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2009

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, as a leader on earmark reform, I am committed to protecting taxpayers’ money and providing greater transparency and a fully accountable process. The Conference Report on H.R. 3183, The Fiscal Year 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations Act contains the following funding:

Requesting Member: Rep. ZACH WAMP
Account: U.S. Corp of Engineers—Construction

Legal Name Requesting Entity: U.S. Corp of Engineers—Nashville District

Address: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District at 110 9th Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee

Description of Request: The Chickamauga Lock is a major economic engine in the Tennessee Valley region. Commodities passing through the lock have origins and destinations in 17 states in the South, Midwest and Mid-Atlantic regions, traveling an average 1,400 miles. Over the last several years, 2.5 million tons passed through the lock annually, and the forecasted traffic demand is expected to grow considerably. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers indicates that replacement of the existing lock is far more economical than continuing costly maintenance and repair. Funding in the amount of \$1 million is included for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to replace the Chickamauga Lock.

Distribution of funding: Construction 100%
Requesting Member: Rep. ZACH WAMP
Account: U.S. Corp of Engineers—Operations and Maintenance

Legal Name Requesting Entity: U.S. Corp of Engineers—Nashville District

Address: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District at 110 9th Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee

Description of Request: The current Chickamauga Lock has been in operation on the Tennessee River since 1940 and is a major economic engine in the Tennessee Valley region. As use of the lock is increasing, the infrastructure is severely aging, jeopardizing its ability to support additional traffic loads. An extensive maintenance program, well beyond what is normally conducted, is underway to extend the life of the current lock until the replacement lock can be built. Funding in the amount of \$3.775 million is required for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to fix and replace gates, pumps, piping and tension connections to the guide wall.

Distribution of funding: Maintenance 100%

KAZAKHSTAN’S MESSAGES OF SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN SAMOA IN AFTERMATH OF DEVASTATING TSUNAMI

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2009

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I submit the following messages of support from Secretary of State and Minister of Foreign Affairs Kanat Saudabayev and Ambassador Erlan Idrissov of the Republic of Kazakhstan in response to the massive tsunami that struck American Samoa on Tuesday, September 29, 2009.

SECRETARY OF STATE—MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN,

Astana, Sept. 30, 2009.

Hon. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR ENI: Please accept my sincere condolences on the death of so many people in the American Samoa after a powerful tsunami.

Victims of this calamity will be forever in our hearts. We feel the deepest sympathy for those who lost their loved ones and saw their communities shattered.

At this moment of great suffering for the proud people of American Samoa, Kazakhstan, the friend and partner of the United States, shares your loss. We hope the warmth of our feelings will help you as you work to rebuild their lives.

Yours sincerely,
KANAT SAUDABAYEV.

AMBASSADOR OF THE
REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN,

Washington, DC, September 30, 2009.

Hon. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR ENI: It is with great shock and deep sorrow that I learnt about the horrible disaster that claimed so many lives of your brothers and sisters in American Samoa.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

We mourn together with families of the victims of the dreadful tragedy. Please convey to them our sincere and heartfelt condolences.

I am confident that in the face of lingering danger and deadly challenge the American spirit, as always, will prevail and Samoans will overcome this tragic catastrophe. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Yours sincerely,

ERLAN IDRISOV.

CHINA'S MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN SAMOA IN AFTERMATH OF DEVASTATING TSUNAMI

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2009

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I submit the following message of support from Ambassador Zhou Wenzhong of the People's Republic of China in response to the massive tsunami that struck American Samoa on Tuesday, September 29, 2009.

EMBASSY OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA,
Washington, DC, September 30, 2009.

Hon. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR ENI: I am shocked to learn that American Samoa was hit by a devastating earthquake that triggered a powerful tsunami. I wish to extend my sympathy to you and the people of American Samoa for the severe casualties and all the damages it has caused. We are deeply grieved by the loss of so many lives and would like to extend our deepest condolences to the families of the victims. Our thoughts are with them at this moment.

I hope and believe that the people of American Samoa will rebuild their home and return to their normal life soon. We stand ready to provide any help you may need in this regard.

Sincerely,

ZHOU WENZHONG,
Ambassador.

SAMOA'S MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN SAMOA IN AFTERMATH OF DEVASTATING TSUNAMI

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2009

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I submit the following message of support submitted by Chargé d'Affaires Rona Meleisea on behalf of Ambassador Ali'ioaiga Feturi Elisaia of Samoa in response to the massive tsunami that struck American Samoa on Tuesday, September 29, 2009.

PERMANENT MISSION OF
SAMOA TO THE UNITED STATES,
New York, NY, October 1, 2009.

Hon. ENI HUNKIN FALEOMAVAEGA,
Representative for American Samoa, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN FALEOMAVAEGA: On behalf of Ambassador Elisaia and family, our officers and staff of the Mission, we wish to express to you, your staff and your respec-

tive families our sincere condolences on this grave tragedy. These natural disasters have affected our islands and its peoples, saddens those of us serving our Governments away from our homeland. Sorrow is felt and we are most saddened by the loss of lives and the destruction caused by these recent events.

We stand in unity and solidarity with the people of our islands. Our thoughts and prayers remain with all of our people, in particular, the families of the victims of the tsunami.

Respectfully,

RONA MELEISEA,
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

KOREA'S MESSAGES OF SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN SAMOA IN AFTERMATH OF DEVASTATING TSUNAMI

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2009

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I submit the following messages of support from Ambassador Han, Duk-soo of the Republic of Korea and President of the Democratic Party Chung Sye Kyun in response to the massive tsunami that struck American Samoa on Tuesday, September 29, 2009.

EMBASSY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF KOREA,
Washington, DC, September 30, 2009.

Hon. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN FALEOMAVAEGA: After seeing you under such pleasant and enjoyable circumstances last Saturday, I hardly expected to be writing to you today to offer my deep condolences.

When I heard of the tragic events in American Samoa and the devastation wrought by the tsunami, I was deeply saddened and my thoughts immediately turned to you and the safety of your friends and family.

In times such as these, it is important for friends to stand together, and I want to let you know that the Korean people stand with you in bereavement as we mourn together the losses of the loved ones. We support you as you bring comfort to the communities and families affected by this tragedy. Though this is indeed a terrible tragedy, I am confident that the people of American Samoa will always honor and cherish the memories of those who passed away, keeping their presence in their hearts.

My dear friend, if there is anything I can do for you, please let me know.

Sincerely,

HAN, DUK-SOO,
Ambassador.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2009.

Hon. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA,
Chairman of Asia and Pacific Subcommittee, House of Representatives.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE FALEOMAVAEGA: I am very shocked by the recent news about the tsunami that hit the territory of American Samoa.

I would like to express my deepest concern for the situation there and my most profound condolence to the people who experienced tragedies. There were also Korean casualties, Koreans that lived in the island.

Your friendship to our late President Kim Dae-jung is our friendship and our hearts are

with you and your people in this time of trouble.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, if there is anything we can do.

Once again, my deepest regret and condolence to the bereaved family.

Sincerely yours,

CHUNG SYE KYUN,
President of the Democratic Party
of the Republic of Korea.

FIJI'S MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN SAMOA IN AFTERMATH OF DEVASTATING TSUNAMI

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2009

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I submit the following message of support from Ambassador Winston Thompson of the Republic of the Fiji Islands in response to the massive tsunami that struck American Samoa on Tuesday, September 29, 2009.

EMBASSY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE FIJI ISLANDS,
Washington, DC, September 30, 2009.

Hon. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA,
Member of Congress, Rayburn Office Building,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ENI: No words can adequately express the sense of loss and anguish we feel at the devastation caused in American Samoa and Samoa by the recent tsunami. It is a terrible tragedy inflicted on innocent people.

On behalf of the Government and people of Fiji, I offer our deep condolence on the tragic loss of life. We hope and pray that the suffering will not be prolonged and that the people will be assisted to rebuild their lives in the shortest possible time.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the people of American Samoa and Samoa at this time.

Very Sincerely,

WINSTON THOMPSON,
Ambassador.

RECOGNIZING THE COUNTY OF ORANGE AS IT CELEBRATES ITS 275TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2009

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Orange County, Virginia as it celebrates its 275th anniversary.

Orange County is located northeast of Charlottesville, and is the birthplace of President Zachary Taylor and the home of President James Madison's estate at Montpelier. Award winning wineries and breathtaking views of the Blue Ridge Mountains can also be found here.

Orange County was a strategically important location during the American Civil War. Just north of the town of Orange, the Rapidan River was effectively the northern border of the Confederacy for several years. Consequently, the area witnessed countless troop movements, patrols, skirmishes, and encampments. In addition, the town of Orange served as General Robert E. Lee's headquarters during that time. In fact, General Lee worshipped

at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church on Caroline Street, which still stands today.

The county continued to thrive into the twentieth century, although fire destroyed much of the eastern part of the town of Orange in 1908. However, many of the buildings constructed shortly after the fire still remain. In fact, Orange was well-known for its silk mill, which produced many of the parachutes used

by U.S. troops during World War II. The silk mill finally closed in the 1970s, but the building still remains and is used by local businesses.

Orange County residents will celebrate and honor their heritage and 275 years of history with events and activities throughout the year. In conjunction with the Fall Fiber Festival at Montpelier, the Gordonsville Street Festival, and other county-wide events, the town of Or-

ange will have a Blues Festival on Main Street on October 3rd to mark the anniversary.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the fine citizens of Orange County as they celebrate this anniversary and wishing them the best for their continued growth and success.