

Air Force sustainment funding system through the development and implementation of Centralized Asset Management (CAM). These efforts allowed the Air Force to make decisions within constrained funding, enabling warfighters to focus on their primary missions, and established a new level of credibility in warfighter support overall.

General Gabreski was a leader and inspiration to the Dayton community. During her time at WPAFB, she participated in many events, offering advice to women in leadership roles. She is a credit to the Air Force and a source of support and inspiration to many throughout the military and the Dayton community.

As General Gabreski culminates a distinguished career of more than three decades of Air Force service, I appreciate her dedication to her country, her outstanding performance as the highest ranking female officer in the Air Force, and her significant contributions toward strengthening our military.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CIVIL  
ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT OF 2009

**HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Civil Access to Justice Act of 2009. The purpose of this legislation is to reauthorize the Legal Services Corporation, which has not been reauthorized by Congress since 1977. Legal Services Corporation was established by Congress in 1974 to provide legal assistance to low-income people in civil matters. LSC directs and supervises the federal grants to local legal service providers who give legal assistance to low-income clients.

I am particularly pleased that we are introducing this bill, not only because it helps those in need, but because of my personal experiences with the program. Over 30 years ago, I was the founding Chairman of the Board of Peninsula Legal Aid Center, Inc., so I am aware of the need for resources to make a legal services program fully operational. In this bill, we are seeking to ensure that the Corporation has the resources required to help those in need.

The bill accomplishes several goals. It increases the authorized funding level for LSC to \$750 million. This is approximately the amount, adjusted for inflation, appropriated in 1981, which was the high watermark for LSC funding. LSC is currently funded at \$390 million—which, in current dollars, is well below the amount needed to fully fund the program. Currently, more than 80 percent of individuals who need civil legal representation do not have the means to obtain it. Families who need this assistance the most make less than 125 percent of the poverty line or about \$27,500 for a family of four. Nationally, 50 percent of these eligible applicants for legal assistance from federally funded programs are turned away mainly because these programs lack ample funding. Moreover, as the economy continues to decline, the number of individuals who will need legal representation will increase. We need to ensure that resources are available to provide legal services to those who cannot afford adequate representation.

The \$750 million authorized in the bill should be enough to ensure a minimum level of access to legal aid in every county in the country.

Although the program has not been reauthorized in over 30 years, appropriations bills over that time have placed restrictions on the activities that attorneys in LSC programs can provide. The bill lifts most of these restrictions, including collecting attorneys' fees, permitting legal aid attorneys to bringing class-action suits, and allowing lobbying with non-federal funds. In the spirit of compromise, the bill does maintain the prohibition on abortion related litigation and incorporates some limits on whom LSC-funded programs can represent, including prisoners challenging prison conditions and people convicted of illegal drug possession in public housing eviction proceedings. The bill also provides for more effective administration of LSC.

The Government Accountability Office wrote reports highlighting issues with the governance of LSC. In an August 2007 report, GAO found ". . . LSC has not kept up with evolving reforms aimed at strengthening internal control over an organization's financial reporting process and systems." That same report stated that "The current board has four committees, but none are specifically targeted at providing critical audit, ethics, or compensation functions, which are important governance mechanisms commonly used in corporate governance structures. Because it has not taken advantage of opportunities to incorporate such practices, LSC's Board of Directors is at risk of not being able to fulfill its role of effective governance and oversight."

Overall, the Civil Access to Justice Act of 2009 will provide relief to those who need civil legal representation. I would like to thank Judiciary Committee Chairman CONYERS and Representatives COHEN, WATT, DELAHUNT, LINDA SÁNCHEZ and HANK JOHNSON for their hard work and dedication to this cause. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor and support this important legislation to ensure that those who need civil legal representation are able to obtain it.

ARMY STRYKER FORCE IN  
AFGHANISTAN

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit to the RECORD the attached information concerning a constituent and a mother of a soldier that served in Afghanistan.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, October 8, 2009.

Hon. ROBERT M. GATES,  
Secretary of Defense,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: Last month I received a letter from a constituent and mother of a soldier that served in Afghanistan. She was concerned after learning that the 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team) had not been authorized the necessary Improvised Explosive Device Detection Dogs (IEDDDs) for its mission.

After forwarding her concerns to the U.S. Department of the Army, I received a re-

sponse from U.S. Army Central Command dated September 30, 2009 from Chief of Staff Colonel Stephen M. Twitty. The response stated "On August 14, 2009, the command submitted an urgent universal needs statement to their higher headquarters, United States Forces—Afghanistan for 75 IEDDDs with handlers for immediate fielding" and that the request was still pending at that time.

It is my understanding that after fifty-six days of operations since the urgent request was made by commanders in the field, the 5th Brigade has yet to receive the necessary IEDDDs. I am concerned that commanders on the ground are not receiving resources they are requesting. Please provide an explanation of the plan that is in place to ensure that our troops on the ground have the assets needed to keep Americans safe and detect IEDs.

If you have any questions, please contact my district director, Mark Bell. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter, and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

PATRICK J. TIBERI,  
Representative to Congress.

Enclosures.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, THIRD  
ARMY, UNITED STATES ARMY CENTRAL,  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT  
CHIEF OF STAFF, G1.

Fort McPherson, GA, September 30, 2009.

Hon. PATRICK J. TIBERI,  
Representative in Congress,  
Columbus, OH.

DEAR MR. TIBERI: Thank you for your recent letter to the Department of Defense on behalf of concerns.

The 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team) arrived in Afghanistan in July 2009 and deployed into sector in August 2009 with all assigned mine detection equipment. The brigade is not authorized Improvised Explosive Device Detection Dogs (IEDDDs) or K9 handlers in accordance with their Headquarters, Department of the Army approved Modified Table of Organization and Equipment, dated April 16, 2009. On August 14, 2009, the command submitted an urgent universal needs statement to their higher headquarters, United States Forces—Afghanistan for 75 IEDDDs with handlers for immediate fielding. That request is still pending at this time.

This command stands ready to provide any further assistance required by your office.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN M. TWITTY,  
Colonel (P), U.S. Army, Chief of Staff.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2009.

Re Army Stryker Force In Afghanistan.  
SGT MARK BELL AND JASON DOMINGUEZ IN  
PAT TIBERI'S OFFICE.

This last week, Army Stryker Force in Afghanistan was on the news. Their job is to sweep Afghan villages for IED's. They've lost 9 people in the last month. The point made was that they do not have bomb sniffing dogs or metal detectors. I actually watched a soldier trying to visually inspect a mud wall for an IED. This isn't the first time that I've seen such reports on the news or shows about the military.

If my information is correct, then those 9 lives lost cost the military 9 million dollars. This is outrageous. 9 families lost loved ones because their unit didn't have the proper equipment. Do you think that for 9 million, the Army could send dogs for every unit? Do I need to say Da.

I wrote you about the units needing dogs quite some time ago. Apparently, no one paid attention. If you're going to send the military, then you MUST equip them with

what they need. That includes dogs. I will be happy to raise the money to pay for them but I can't ship them to any unit. You can believe me when I say that I've tried. My son completed one year in Afghanistan and two in Iraq. I thank God every day for his return. Parents can purchase and ship lots of things. I can buy a bomb sniffing dog. I just can't ship the dog. And the dog needs a handler. It's not something that a unit soldier can learn on the job.

I want Stryker Force and every other unit to have two dogs with handlers. And I want it now. The military can do it. They just need the proper motivation. What will it take?

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF  
SIMI VALLEY'S 40TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 2009*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the City of Simi Valley's 40th birthday.

On September 20, 1969, the people who lived in the unincorporated Ventura County, California, communities of Simi Valley and Santa Susana voted 6,454 to 3,685 to incorporate. On October 10, 1969, the combined communities officially incorporated into the city of Simi Valley.

Simi Valley lies on the far eastern end of Ventura County. Ventura, the county seat, lies on the far western end. It is a long drive to obtain governmental approval, and the quest for local control is what drove incorporation.

Since incorporation, the people of the city have worked tirelessly to structure a safe, balanced, family-friendly and business-friendly community. It was done by embracing citizen involvement. Neighborhood Councils, the Youth Council and the Council On Aging were established as part of the government infrastructure, ensuring that residents of all ages have an opportunity to be heard and to be involved in government decisions at a grass-roots level.

Today, Simi Valley maintains more than 20 citizen advisory boards and commissions that advise the City Council on a variety of community issues.

Obviously, in any city differences of opinion arise. But unlike in some cities, Simi Valley's elected leaders have a well-earned reputation for discussing issues vigorously and then, once a vote is taken and the decision is made, having all sides come together behind that decision. I believe that is very much the result of empowering the community to shape the issues before they come to the City Council.

Madam Speaker, I am proud of my role in helping to shape Simi Valley. I served on the City Council as a member and appointed mayor, and as the city's first elected mayor, from 1979 to 1986. During that time, we began bringing jobs into what was then primarily a bedroom community, and there was much debate on how to accomplish that.

One of the issues that came from that debate was the creation of the city's first hillside ordinances, which we passed while I was mayor. The issue was framed by many as preservation vs. development. I was seen as being on the side of development. Then-Councilwoman Ann Rock was seen as being on the side of preservation.

Either side could have dug in their heels and accomplished nothing. Instead, working together, and with the help of many other conscientious people, Ann and I crafted an ordinance that worked for both sides. In the process, Ann and I also became dear friends. Ann has since passed away, but her handiwork can still be seen in much of Simi Valley.

Simi Valley shows the handiwork of many, many others, too. From the burgeoning farming community that incorporated in 1969, Simi Valley has grown into a balanced city of about 120,000 people with homes, schools and churches alongside upscale retail centers and clean industry. Since 1993, it has been among the top 10 safest cities in America, and topped the list several times. It is the home of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum and the gateway to Ventura County. I am proud of the city I have called home since before it was a city.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me wishing Simi Valley, California, a happy 40th birthday and congratulate its citizens on a job well done.

WATER TRANSFER FACILITATION  
ACT OF 2009

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 2009*

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, due to overwhelming response from water users in the Central Valley, I am compelled today to introduce additional letters of support for the Water Transfer Facilitation Act of 2009. The bill would grant authority to the Bureau of Reclamation to approve voluntary water transfers between sellers and buyers in the San Joaquin Valley and streamline environmental reviews for Central Valley water transfers.

The bill is supported by a great number of water users across the Central Valley, including the following: Friant Water Users Authority; San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Authority; Delta-Mendota Canal Authority; Westlands Water District; Metropolitan Water District; Glen Colusa Irrigation District; Northern California Water Association; Banta-Carbona Irrigation District; Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority; Association of California Water Agencies; Placer County Water Agency; Conaway Preservation Group; and Reclamation District 2035.

Thank you.

PCWA.

*October 6, 2009.*

Hon. JIM COSTA,  
1314 Longworth House Office Building, House of  
Representatives, Washington, DC.

Re Support of Central Valley Project Water Transfer Legislation.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COSTA: On behalf of Placer County Water Agency (PCWA), we thank you for introducing legislation authorizing and establishing a programmatic approach to promote and manage water transfers in California. We support your efforts and this legislation as a means of providing greater regulatory certainty for the management of Central Valley Project (CVP) water supplies for water users.

As you may be aware, PCWA has participated in water transfers in the past to help meet the needs of water users within the CVP and is intimately aware of the impacts

diminished water deliveries cause to farmers and communities. Because of PCWA's experience with previous water transfers, we also would like an opportunity to meet you and your staff to discuss additional regulatory improvements to Reclamation law that would streamline future transfers.

Because of below average precipitation and regulatory requirements placed upon the CVP and its water users through the requirements established by the recent National Marine Fisheries Service biological opinions for endangered smelt and salmon, the impact to water users is severe. Your legislation will provide much needed relief in the form of a flexible and useful tool that will allow water to be transferred from willing parties to those in need within the State of California.

We look forward to working with you and your staff in the coming months in this important legislative effort, and appreciate your leadership in advancing this legislation and addressing California water issues so important to our collective future.

Sincerely,

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY,

GRAHAM L. ALLEN,

*Chairman, Board of Directors.*

CONAWAY PRESERVATION GROUP,

*Woodland, CA, Oct. 2, 2009.*

Re Support for water transfer legislation:

Hon. JIM COSTA,

*House of Representatives,*

*Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COSTA: On behalf of the Conaway Preservation Group, LLC (CPG), thank you for introducing legislation authorizing and establishing a permanent long-term program to promote and manage water transfers in the Central Valley of California. We support your efforts and this legislation as a means of providing greater flexibility in the management of Central Valley Project (CVP) and other water supplies to help meet unmet needs critical to the future of the State of California.

As you are aware, the devastating impacts of diminished water deliveries to the CVP as a result of three years of below average precipitation have been made even greater by the various regulatory restrictions, including the requirements established by the recent federal biological opinions for endangered fish under the ESA. Your legislation will provide immediate, much needed relief in the form of a flexible and useful tool that will allow water to be transferred from willing parties to those in need within the CVP. Further, the language in your legislation directing the Bureau of Reclamation to work with other federal agencies to develop the necessary long-term environmental documentation addressing impacts of a water transfer program on the ESA-listed Giant Garter Snake is a critical and necessary near-term next step.

CPG owns the Conaway Ranch in Yolo County. The Conaway Ranch property covers more than 17,000 acres on the west side of the Sacramento River between the cities of Davis and Woodland. Conaway Ranch has been operated for many years to meet goals of agricultural production and waterfowl/wildlife habitat. Approximately 40 percent of the Ranch is located within the Yolo Bypass and the remainder lies west of the bypass. Conaway Ranch's water rights and Bureau of Reclamation Settlement Contract are held by CPG. CPG's Settlement Contract water is a major contributor to the Conaway Ranch water supply during its annual summer operational term of April 1 through October 31.

We look forward to working with you and your staff in the coming months in this important legislative effort, and appreciate your leadership in advancing this legislation