

TRIBUTE TO MR. R. STEPHEN  
BEST

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2009*

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Steve Best, on the occasion of his retirement as Fire Chief of the Chesapeake Fire Department.

Chief Best's contributions to the safety and health of the City of Chesapeake's citizens cannot be overstated. Chief Best modernized and diversified Chesapeake's fire and emergency personnel services to meet the wide-ranging challenges of modern life.

Chief Best began his fire fighting career as a sixteen-year-old volunteer with the Deep Creek Volunteer Fire Department. That experience led to professional firefighting with the Chesapeake Fire Department upon graduating from high school in 1974.

Working his way up through the ranks, Best worked as Fire Inspector and Fire Marshal for Chesapeake. He was promoted to Assistant Fire Chief, then Deputy Fire Chief until April 1998 when he became Chesapeake's Fire Chief and Emergency Services Coordinator.

Chief Best has ensured the Chesapeake Fire Department is able to respond to specialized situations involving hazardous materials, technical rescues, marine incidents, and foam firefighting. He greatly assisted in equipping every Chesapeake fire engine and ambulance with Advanced Life Support Equipment to save precious time in beginning life saving procedures. Best's fire department embodies a sense of community by offering programs such as child safety seat installations, fire station tours, and fire extinguisher training.

During his professional career, Chief Best continued to pursue educational opportunities. In addition to an Associate's Degree in Fire Science, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Governmental Administration, and a Master's Degree in Business Administration, Chief Best graduated with a Juris Doctor Degree from the Regent University School of Law in May 2008.

At home, Chief Best and his wife Sheree reside in Chesapeake. They are the proud parents of two sons. Chief Best teaches Sunday School at Deep Creek United Methodist Church and has served in many leadership roles on the Church Council. He has also served as a board member of the Boys and Girls Club of Southeast Virginia, Chesapeake Division, the Chesapeake Public School Foundation, and the YMCA Board of Management.

Chief Best deserves the gratitude of all of Chesapeake's residents for his innumerable accomplishments that have improved the quality of life here. Madam Speaker, please join me and the citizens of Chesapeake in offering our sincere congratulations to Chief Best on his exemplary service and a retirement well deserved.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-country derivatives markets, and for other purposes:

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Chair, I strongly support the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and urge my Colleagues to vote for this bill.

I'm proud to chair the Populist Caucus. One of our founding principles is to fight for America's working families. For the past eight years, our economic policies have put the interests of Wall Street ahead of Main Street. Wall Street and big bank executives exploited loopholes and gambled with our money, which last year led us into the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. And while some big banks continue to accept excessive compensation and bonus packages, America's middle class families are still struggling.

The firms that received more than \$350 billion in federal TARP funds increased executive compensation by an average of four percent last year. This is outrageous and unacceptable. This legislation will provide shareholders of public companies an annual vote on executive compensation and help reign in excessive executive compensation.

The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act will hold Wall Street and big banks accountable by ending the practice of "too-big-to-fail," so that America's taxpayers and middle class families are never again forced to pay off Wall Street's gambling debts. It will manage financial crises by requiring banks and other financial institutions worth at least \$50 billion in assets to foot the bill for any bailouts in the future.

As we rebuild our economy, we must implement common-sense rules so that big banks and Wall Street don't jeopardize this recovery at the expense of hard-working Iowa families. This bill protects consumers from predatory lending abuses and finally brings transparency and accountability to an out-of-control financial system. It is about time that we put Main Street ahead of Wall Street. Thank you for taking up this important legislation.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2009*

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to Republican Leadership standards, I am submitting the following information regarding projects I received funding for as part of as part of the conference report to the Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 3288), which were not included in House-passed appropriations bills:

Requesting Member: Congressman VERNON J. EHLERS

Bill Number: H.R. 3288

Agency: Department of Health & Human Services

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)—Health Facilities and Services.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Cherry Street Health Services

Address of Requesting Entity: 550 Cherry St., SE., Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Description of Request: The bill provides \$400,000 for Cherry Street Health Services for facilities and equipment. Cherry Street (community health center), Touchstone Innovare (mental health services) and ProAction (substance abuse/mental health treatment) are developing an integrated care system in which patients in need of both mental health and physical health care will be involved in an integrated plan of treatment in which both medical and mental health professionals from different agencies work together in the same office space to complete a plan of treatment, a valuable use of taxpayer funds. In order to provide services to an increased number of patients, the three agencies are building a 92,000 sq. ft. building that will house the operations of the three organizations. The medical, dental and vision care equipment requested will be used in the operation of a federally qualified health center for the treatment of low-income patients most of whom would otherwise not have access to primary health care services.

Requesting Member: Congressman VERNON J. EHLERS

Bill Number: H.R. 3288

Agency: Federal Transit Administration

Account: Buses and Bus Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The Rapid

Address of Requesting Entity: 300 Ellsworth Ave., SW., Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49503

Description of Request: The bill provides \$1,948,000 for the Rapid's Wealthy Operations Center Expansion in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The funding was requested by the Rapid. This project is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it will allow the Rapid, the region's largest public transportation service, to expand to accommodate growth needs over the next 30 years.

HONORING MS. EDNA FRADY FOR HER DECADES OF SERVICE TO THE CITY OF FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2009*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Edna Frady for her decades of service to the City of Falls Church, Virginia and its people. Moving to Falls Church at an early age, Edna has spent virtually her entire life in the community she has known and loved for over six decades. Through her charitable work and civic involvement, Edna, or "Boss" as she is known by many, has left an indelible mark on the City.

A tireless community activist, leader, friend, and role model, Edna Frady has made a life-long commitment to improving the lives of others. The list of organizations she has served

over the years is extensive. The Citizens for a Better City, Village Preservation and Improvement Society, League of Women Voters, Women's Club of Falls Church, Falls Church Lions Club, Falls Church Education Foundation, Falls Church Arts Council, and Falls Church Cable Access, have all benefitted from her membership and constant support. Ms. Frady was also an active member of the Falls Church Chamber of Commerce, where she served as a member of the Executive Committee, and in 2000, was awarded the Chamber's "Pillar of the Community" award. In recognition of her lifetime of achievement, the Mayor and City Council of Falls Church are planning to proclaim December 14, 2009, "Edna Frady Day."

As heavily involved as Ms. Frady was with non-profit community service organizations, she matched that effort as a stalwart force in the Democratic Party. For two decades, she helped lead the Falls Church Democratic Committee, serving on both the 8th Congressional District Committee, and the Democratic State Central Committee. In honor of her commitment, Ms. Frady received the Democratic State Central Committee's "Grass Roots Award." In 2006, she was awarded the Falls Church Democratic Committee's "Marian Driver Award for Outstanding Service."

It's a true honor to recognize someone who so selflessly worked for the betterment of her community and fellow citizens. I know that even in retirement, Edna will continue to find ever more fulfilling challenges to assist those around her.

TRIBUTE TO STEVEN AND JULIE  
KARBER

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2009*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Steven and Julie Karber of Jefferson, Iowa, on being named the winners of the "Gary Wergin Good Farm Neighbor Award." This award recognizes Iowa livestock farmers who dedicate themselves not only to their professions and their community, but also to caring for the environment.

The state of Iowa is celebrating the Karber's achievements, but I feel that we in the U.S. House of Representatives should also recognize and commend the valuable professional and social contributions of Iowa's livestock farmers. Steve and Julie raise sheep in the Jefferson area of my district, but Steve is also an M.D. with an active practice. When the Karbers aren't promoting the sheep industry or handling the day to day demands of being a physician, they are actively supporting the local 4-H and are involved in other community organizations.

I commend Steve and Julie for their many years of loyalty and service to Iowa and to our country. It is an immense honor to represent them in Congress, and I know they will continue to serve as role models of the values of community service in this Country.

TAX EXTENDERS ACT OF 2009—

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2009*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation that will extend tax relief to millions of Americans, the Tax Extenders Act of 2009. This bill will extend 40 tax cuts which are due to expire at the end of this year, many of which are important to businesses and families in Central New Jersey.

New Jersey has the highest property taxes in the country. While property taxes are assessed on a local basis to fund local services and schools, I have attempted at the federal level to provide some relief to homeowners. Earlier this year, I reintroduced the Universal Homeowner Tax Relief Act (H.R. 2725) which would extend the property tax deduction for American homeowners who don't itemize on their federal returns. I helped write this initiative to create an additional standard deduction of \$500 for single filers and \$1,000 for joint filers for local real property taxes paid. I am pleased that the bill before us today extends this deduction for the 2010 tax year and provides needed relief to the 30 million homeowners nationwide and an estimated 600,000 New Jerseyans who are due to lose this benefit this year.

H.R. 4213 also includes \$17 billion in tax cuts that would help American businesses create and preserve jobs during these difficult economic times. It would extend the low-income housing tax credit exchange program which has invested more than \$3.7 billion in the construction of more than 49,000 low-income housing units nationwide. It will also invest \$3 billion to encourage economic development in economically distressed communities.

I especially support that H.R. 4213 would extend the research and development tax credit for an additional year. This tax credit is crucial in spurring private research and driving technological innovation and will support R&D at 11,000 American companies this year. This credit stimulates American made innovation and preserves and creates new high paying jobs in research and development. As important as the R&D tax credit has been, it has never been a permanent part of the tax code and has been allowed to expire several times, most notably in 2007. Congress should work to make this tax credit permanent in order to strengthen the incentive for businesses to invest in long-term research by giving corporate leaders certainty that their research investments will be rewarded year after year.

The Tax Extenders Act of 2009 also would extend the above-the-line deduction for qualified tuition and related expenses. This tax cut of up to \$4,000 helps parents offset the rising cost of higher education and keeps a college degree within reach of many middle class families. H.R. 4213 also would extend the teacher tax credit that allows teachers to deduct up to \$250 for purchasing classroom supplies for their students. More than 3.4 million teachers benefited from this tax credit this year.

The Tax Extenders Act ensures that these tax cuts do not increase the deficit by providing the U.S. Treasury Department with significant new tools to find and prosecute U.S.

individuals that hide assets overseas from the Internal Revenue Service.

I am always looking to extend tax relief to New Jersey families. This bill does that in a fiscally responsible way.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2009*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on congressionally-directed funding, I am submitting the following information regarding funding included in H.R. 3288, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman HAROLD ROGERS

Bill Number: H.R. 3288

Account: Housing and Urban Development—Economic Development Initiatives (EDI)  
Legal Name of Recipient: Appalachia Service Project

Address of Recipient: 216 Green Hill Drive, Chavies, KY 41727

Description of Request: Provides directed funding of \$460,000 to the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) in Chavies, Ky. ASP is a volunteer-based organization that works to build and repair homes for underprivileged people in the Appalachian region. In rural counties of Kentucky, significant poverty often prevents families from maintaining access to basic services like water and sewer and performing regular home maintenance. Since 1969, ASP has provided critical repairs to 13,000 homes in Central Appalachia and life-changing volunteer experiences to over 240,000 people. In 2008, the economic impact of ASP's activities across Kentucky was \$3.15 million, and ASP will combine this FY10 funding with private contributions to provide emergency home repairs for disadvantaged families in rural Kentucky.

CONGRATULATING ALIVIANE,  
INC.'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2009*

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Aliviane, Inc., as they celebrate their 40th anniversary. Based in my congressional district of El Paso, Texas, Aliviane is the largest and oldest drug abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment provider in the West Texas region.

Established in 1969, Aliviane provides a critical service to our community. Over the past 40 years, the organization has grown and now operates several licensed facilities that assist clients and their families with intensive residential treatment and supportive outpatient services. Aliviane's use of cutting-edge services and techniques has allowed the organization to meet the unique needs of its clients. Today, in large part because of Aliviane's pioneering efforts and commitment, behavioral health has become an essential part of primary health care in our country.

Aliviane has developed programs that have become national and international models and