

will be added to this memorial so that his legacy is properly remembered and cherished.

No words can adequately make up for the loss of a dedicated officer and devoted husband and father. But as an inscription at the Memorial reads, "It is not how these officers died that made them heroes; it is how they lived."

I thank my colleagues for this opportunity to honor to life and service of Officer Philip Davis.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF MR.
JOSE LAGOS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of humanitarian and compassionate activist, Mr. Jose Lagos. Mr. Lagos died of cancer on November 30, 2009 at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, Florida at the age of 45. My heartfelt condolences go out to his family and friends at this most difficult time.

Emigrating from his home country of Honduras, Mr. Lagos spent his life working to improve South Florida's immigration policies. He was born on April 11, 1964 in the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa, where he attended a Catholic high school. In 1985, Mr. Lagos and his family relocated to Miami where he enrolled at Miami-Dade Community College. He went on to earn an Associate's Degree in business administration. In 1990, Mr. Lagos began working on immigration issues as the executive director of an association that helped medical school graduates from other countries obtain their physician's licenses.

Mr. Lagos was a true leader and unifier. South Florida is a mosaic of different immigrant cultures and, unfortunately, many Federal immigration policies have proven to be more divisive than effective. Mr. Lagos worked to overcome these obstacles. As director of the non-profit Unidad Hondurena, Spanish for "Honduran Unity," Mr. Lagos bridged ideological gaps and created powerful synergies throughout the immigration community. He led vigorous grassroots efforts to advance the rights of fellow Hondurans and Hispanics, including protesting fee hikes for temporary work permits and citizenship applications, alerting immigrants to scams, and organizing charities. Mr. Lagos understood the power of unity and also strongly supported efforts to gain Temporary Protected Status, TPS, for Haitians.

One year ago, Mr. Lagos was diagnosed with cancer. Throughout his treatment, however, his spirit never wavered. He continued to speak on behalf of those who came to our country seeking the American dream. This past summer, Mr. Lagos exhibited his dedication and courage outside a church in Little Havana by rallying others to protest the suspension of international aid to Honduras. This is the mark of a true hero, a champion of the people.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Jose Lagos will be remembered in South Florida for his message of unity. He celebrated and embodied our great nation's rich immigrant heritage. The loss of Mr. Lagos is indeed a loss for us all, and for the battle for fair immigration reform.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2009

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, on December 10, 2009, our national debt was \$12,079,739,352,131.13.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,441,313,605,837.33 so far this year.

According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the forecast deficit for this year is \$1.6 trillion. That means that so far this year, we borrowed and spent an average \$4.4 billion a day more than we have collected, passing that debt and its interest payments to our children and all future Americans.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

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-counter derivatives market, and for other purposes:

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Chair, I rise to express my concerns over the legislation before us. H.R. 4173, The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, takes steps to address many of the problems that created our current financial crisis. However, I am alarmed at a number of provisions that weaken the bill.

The creation of a Consumer Financial Protection Agency is long overdue. Consumers need a strong advocate to protect them from the many questionable and confusing financial products offered. However, provisions put in by the banking industry to preempt meaningful state regulation threaten the strong consumer protections we are fighting for. Federal rules promulgated by this agency should set a floor of protection, not a ceiling.

Title III, pertaining to regulation of derivatives, could have been improved by amendments offered that banned certain abusive derivatives from being traded and offered better transparency to the swap market. Unfortunately, those commonsense amendments were defeated. Other amendments that created more loopholes in the derivatives markets were unfortunately included.

I was also disappointed that several amendments I cosponsored were denied an up or down vote. The Inslee/DeFazio/Hinchey "Too Big to Fail" amendment set a cap on the size of bank liabilities for financial institutions. Instead of relying on regulators to protect us from financial firms laden with risky investments, this amendment simply breaks up companies with excessive liabilities. The Hinchey/Inslee/Conyers/DeFazio/Tierney amendment

would restore key protections from the Glass Steagall Act including the separation of commercial and investment banking.

Furthermore, I opposed the Republican Motion to Recommit because it struck all financial reform from the bill, and would have ended the TARP program at the most inopportune time. I have long opposed the TARP program because it bailed out Wall Street for excessive risk taking at taxpayer expense. Now that Wall Street has been bailed out, the major problem facing Americans is rising unemployment. We should redirect the remaining TARP funds to real job creation on infrastructure because that will get people back to work quickly, rebuild critical infrastructure, and these jobs cannot be exported overseas. Wall Street got its bailout, now it's time to jumpstart American job creation.

I was a strong opponent of financial deregulation legislation in the 1990s. This undermined our financial regulators and gave Wall Street the opportunity to make the risky speculative bets that it lost big on. Reversing this trend is essential; therefore I plan to vote in favor of this legislation to move the process forward. I am eager to see what emerges from the Senate as they continue their debate on financial reform. I am hopeful that this legislation moves us back to responsible regulatory oversight. It is important that we rein in the cowboy capitalism that has too long prevailed in our financial markets.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2009

Mr. LOBIONDO. Madam Speaker, as per the requirements of the Republican Conference Rules on earmarks, I secured the following earmarks in H.R. 3288.

Requesting Member: Congressman FRANK LOBIONDO (NJ-02)

Bill Number: HR 3288

Account: Air Force, Military Construction, Air National Guard

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: 108th Air Refueling Wing

Address of Requesting Entity: McGuire AFB, NJ

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$9.7 million for construction of properly sized and adequately configured facilities to house the base engineer administrative, maintenance, and training functions, and readiness (disaster preparedness). Facilities support daily activities associated with maintaining/repairing base infrastructure and facilities for the ARW, and mobility requirements for the 108th Civil Engineering Squadron (CES) and readiness requirements.

IN HONOR OF JULIUS E. COLES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a man who, for more than 40 years, has dedicated himself to