

constituent, the late Ellen Laner of Mission Hills, Kansas, who passed away on September 28th.

Ellen Laner led a long and productive life, which served to make Johnson County, Kansas, a much better place for her neighbors and friends. Ellen was a committed and passionate community volunteer who also was very politically engaged. She was named Citizen of the Year by the United Community Services; twice named Volunteer of the Year by the Johnson County Mental Health Association; received the Hannah B. Solomon Award from the National Council of Jewish Women; awarded the Stand Up, Speak Out Award from the Mainstream Coalition; helped in the establishment of Johnson County Community College and served as a member of its Board of Trustees; had many years of service in the Kansas League of Women Voters, eventually serving as President; was very active in the establishment and growth of the Mainstream Coalition and served as President; volunteered as a Board Member of the Johnson County Library Foundation; was an active volunteer for Planned Parenthood of Kansas City and Western Missouri, working as its Resource Development Director and for a short time was its Executive Director; and was a founder of the Johnson County Coalition for Prevention of Child Abuse, now known as Sunflower House.

Ellen Laner was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, the daughter of Noland and Isabel Blass. She came to the Kansas City area in 1950 after her marriage to S. Harvey "Bud" Laner, who preceded her in death in 1980. She was a member of the New Reform Temple and Oakwood Country Club, and loved golf, bridge, dogs, and professional sports. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Joel and Marsha Laner, and their three children, Allison Laner, Blass Laner and Duncan Laner of Kansas City, Missouri. She also is survived by her brother and his wife, Gus and Patricia Blass of Little Rock, and their children, Gus Blass, III, and his wife, Becky; by her sister Constance Blass O'Neill and her husband, Chris; her sister-in-law, Barbara Phillips of Little Rock and her children, Beverly Wittenberg and Peter Phillips and her great-nieces and nephews.

Ellen Laner's civic accomplishments range far and wide, and our community owes her a great deal for her leadership in making Johnson County the strong and caring community that it is today. I was a part of the same generation of many young women, educated in colleges across the Nation in the 1960s, who ended up in Johnson County as the wives of the young men who worked in various professions and businesses in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Motivated by the political turbulence of the 1960s, we wanted to do more for our community and Nation, in addition to raising our families. Ellen's leadership in the League of Women Voters inspired both men and women to use our education to volunteer, seek public office, and take leadership roles in improving our government, our libraries, and our public schools, and the lives of those who were not as fortunate as us. Many of the women who have served Johnson County so exceptionally well as mayors, city council members, school board members and legisla-

tors were motivated, supported and inspired by Ellen Laner.

Madam Speaker, we were fortunate to know Ellen Laner, and we are so very grateful for what she contributed to our lives. I am grateful to this House for giving me the opportunity to share this tribute with my fellow Members of Congress and with the American people.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Military Construction, Army Reserve National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: New York National Guard.

Address of Requesting Entity: 330 Old Niskayuna Road, Latham, NY 12110.

Description of Request: \$2.955 million will be used for the establishment of an additional Civil Support Team. This team, located within the New York City metropolitan area, ensures that the top terrorist target in the country, New York City, has an immediate and prepared asset, ready at a moments notice, if a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, high explosive, CBRNE, incident were to occur.

LETTER TO REPRESENTATIVE McCOTTER FROM THE LITHUANIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, AUDRIUS BRŪZGA

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to place into the RECORD a letter from Ambassador Audrius Brūzga of Lithuania regarding House Concurrent Resolution 255.

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Washington, DC, September 29, 2008.

Congressman THADDEUS McCOTTER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN: I am aware that on September 25, 2008 the United States House of Representatives passed the House Concurrent Resolution 255: Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the United States commitment to preservation of religious and cultural sites and condemning instances where sites are desecrated.

I write to express my astonishment and utter surprise that such a Resolution was submitted for vote at the time when the process of finding a solution to the issue of the former Šnipiškės Jewish cemetery is at its final stages and all the interested parties are in agreement of the necessary steps and actions.

You may well be aware that on June 25 through July 5 geophysical investigation was carried out by a contractor company from

Israel Geotec on 14 chosen areas. Alongside with the geophysical investigation, archaeological investigation was carried out by the Lithuanian Cultural Heritage Department.

On September 22nd, based on the results of the said investigations the Lithuanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Petras Vaitiekūnas, Head of the Government working group for the preservation of the former Jewish cemetery in Šnipiškės, presented recommendations to the Government of Lithuania on further steps regarding the preservation of the former Šnipiškės cemetery. One of the recommendations of the working group is for the competent Lithuanian institutions—Vilnius City Municipality, Governor Administration of Vilnius County, the Ministry of Culture—with the participation of the representatives from the Jewish community and the owners of the territory of former cemetery—to organize an open international competition for the monumentalization of the former Šnipiškės Jewish cemetery site.

Furthermore, the former Jewish cemetery in Šnipiškės has gained legal protection in compliance with the decision of the Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture. The Register of Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Lithuania guarantees the permanent preservation of the former cemetery site.

During the whole process, the Lithuanian Government has demonstrated commitment to resolving the controversy over former Jewish cemetery in Šnipiškės by involving Lithuanian and international experts, historians, geophysical survey experts, cartographers and archeologists, and International Jewish communities, as well as allocating appropriate resources for research and analyses. The Government of Lithuania has worked closely and will continue to work with the representatives of the Committee for the Preservation of Jewish Cemeteries in Europe and with other Jewish organizations, in search of a mutually acceptable solution.

Mr. Congressman, Jewish culture, history, sacred sites and traditions are part of Lithuania's national heritage. Sadly, during the period of Nazi and Soviet occupations (1940-1991) much of this has been lost or decimated. It takes time and painstaking efforts to undo the damage. Allow me to assure you that the Government is committed to the preservation of all of the cultural heritage in Lithuania and is doing so in a manner which is consistent with rule of law and justice. It is disappointing when this is not appreciated by the colleagues in the U.S.

Lithuania and the United States are close allies. We share the freedom agenda and we stand together in defence of our shared values. I am certain that we will continue to cherish our strong bonds of partnership.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

AUDRIUS BRŪZGA,
Ambassador.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IMMIGRATION OVERSIGHT AND FAIRNESS ACT, H.R. 7255

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, on any given day, roughly 30,000 immigration detainees are held in a mix of federal, state,

local and private detention facilities. Explosive growth in the number of non-citizens in immigration detention across the country has resulted in sometimes shameful conditions of confinement and repeated incidents of detainee abuse.

Although federal immigration authorities adopted detention standards in 1998 and 2000, you wouldn't know it today. These non-binding standards, which cover access to medical care, the separation of violent and non-violent suspects, and access to a lawyer, have not been enforced.

It is long past time that Congress make the federal government abide by its own detention standards. That is why today I am introducing the Immigration Oversight and Fairness Act of 2008.

The bill establishes long-overdue legally binding detention standards for all immigration detention facilities.

The Immigration Oversight and Fairness Act also establishes legally binding standards for Customs and Border Patrol stations which, though not technically detention facilities, house immigrants for a few hours or a few days before their transfer to immigration authorities.

Finally, the Immigration Oversight and Fairness Act treats those detainees who a judge determines are not a flight risk or a threat to society in a more humane and rational way. Under this bill, these individuals would be placed in a proven program of supervised release instead of in a detention facility where the federal government must expend enormous resources to feed, house and watch over them.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to the House considering these critical reforms of the immigration detention system in the next Congress.

ATCHISON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to the Atchison County Courthouse which will recognize the 125th Anniversary of the Courthouse on October 28th, 2008. A special ceremony will take place to honor the history and tradition of the County Courthouse that has existed since 1863.

The Atchison County Courthouse is located in the county seat Rock Port, Missouri. Atchison County is named after former United States Senator, David Rice Atchison. The Courthouse is home to various county government offices and is the location Atchison County residents venture to conduct county business.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing the Atchison County Courthouse, an architectural blessing to the citizens of Atchison County. It is truly an honor to serve my home county, Atchison County Missouri in the United States Congress.

IN HONOR OF DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT ASSEMBLYMAN GENE MULLIN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, as happens too often in this age of legislative term limits, the state of California is losing a wise, dedicated and accomplished public servant. Assemblyman Gene Mullin, who was first elected on November 5, 2002 to represent the 19th District of California, will retire at the end of this year.

Assemblyman Mullin represents a district that I, too, once served. I know the people there and I know that no one could serve them better than Gene. I cannot overstate my fondness and admiration for this man. He went into public service for the right reason: To serve. Any conversation with Gene is never about Gene. While many are called "selfless", with most it's just a word. Gene truly does put others first—constituents, family, students, even strangers. All who come into contact with him know that when Gene Mullin gives you his word, you can take it to the bank.

Gene served his community long before they chose him to represent them in the legislature. For 32 years, he taught government and coached basketball at South San Francisco High School. In the 1970s, he was tapped by city leadership to serve on the town's Planning Commission, where he was instrumental in attracting Genentech to the city in 1976. This started a bio-tech boom in South San Francisco and is a major reason why the city is on better financial footing than other municipalities. In 1979 the City Council named Gene Mullin "Citizen of the Year."

In 1995, Gene Mullin joined the South San Francisco City Council, where he served for seven years, including two terms as Mayor. Upon his election to the Assembly, Gene quickly made a name for himself as a quick study, hard worker and consensus-builder. He retires as Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Education and previously served as Chair of the Committee on Housing and Community Development.

Assemblyman Mullin has worked to ensure education funding for students and teachers. He authored bills to restore the \$500 million borrowed from the California State Teachers Retirement System and has pushed programs to assure the quality of child care services. He has also been instrumental in efforts to provide affordable housing for all Californians.

Prior to his government service, Gene was a gifted and much-loved educator. Not only do many of his students still mention him as a favorite teacher and role model, but he was honored as San Mateo County's Teacher of the Year in 1991 and the California Teachers Association's 1996 State Teacher of the Year in Politics.

Gene Mullin graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of San Francisco in 1960 and holds a Lifetime Secondary Teaching Credential, also from USF.

Madam Speaker, our state is in serious need of dedicated and intelligent public servants in our legislature. Gene Mullin will be sorely missed in Sacramento, but our loss is his family's gain. A dedicated father, husband and grandfather, Gene can now spend more time with his lovely and vivacious wife, Terri, his two children, Jennifer and Kevin, and three grandsons, Austin, Jonathan and Colton.

Gene has lived his entire life in the Bay Area and we are all richer because of it.

HONORING SISTER JUDY GARSON FOR HER LEADERSHIP OF THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE ASSUMPTION FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Sister Judy Garson for her 24 years of service with the Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services. Sister Judy has been an extraordinary leader, ably directing the expansion of the services provided by the Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service and ensuring that the organization continues to be a vital force in the community. After nearly a quarter of a century in dedicated and effective service to others, Sister Judy Garson is embarking on a well-deserved retirement.

The devotion of the Little Sisters of the Assumption to the well-being of families with children in East Harlem is truly remarkable. Since its founding five decades ago this year, the Sisters' Family Health Service has offered community-based health services to historically underserved local residents of "El Barrio". Through a broad range of services, including parenting classes, summer day-camp trips for children in the community, and day-care services, the Little Sisters of the Assumption have made an enormous and enduring difference in countless lives.

In her nearly quarter century of service at Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services, Sister Garson has seen its full-time staff expand from 30 to more than 60 employees. Under her guidance, the Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services has evolved into a highly successful, independent organization that will continue to serve the East Harlem community for generations to come. During her distinguished tenure at the Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service, Sister Judy Garson has been at the forefront of the valiant effort to combat HIV and AIDS in a community that has widely been considered an epicenter of this lethal epidemic. With courage and compassion, she reached out to those suffering from HIV and AIDS at a time when misinformation and a lack of public awareness created an impenetrable stigma around those infected with the virus. Her educational outreach offered a shining example of her distinguished and effective service.

Perhaps the most remarkable facet of Sister Garson's 24 years of service with the Little