

## EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5658, which provides funds for the Sonobuoy Flight Vehicle. I am requesting funding in the FY09 Defense Authorization bill, Navy RDT&E account for the Sonobuoy Flight Vehicle, manufactured by Sparton Electronics, located at 5612 Johnson Lake Road in DeLeon Springs, Florida 32130.

The deteriorating condition of the aging P-3 Orion fleet and the recent termination of the S-3 Viking program have resulted in fewer manned airborne ASW platforms available to the Navy's surface forces. While full operational capability of the new P-8 Poseidon is not expected until 2017-2020 or beyond, Navy surface combatants are in urgent need of a low cost, organic system to rapidly deploy acoustic sensors at a distance from the force. SFV capability will be critical where there is a deficiency in organic airborne ASW assets, or in the littoral in situations where a hostile coastline poses a threat to manned ASW aircraft.

This is the first year funding will be needed to begin the research and development phase of this project. There will be no cost share, as this project is being developed for the Navy. Requested government funding of \$2.6M for the Sonobuoy Flight Kit will achieve the following: 1. Detailed design of SFV and system components. 2. Land-based flight trials verifying overall system performance, including range, speed, and endurance of the SFV. 3. Complete a production tooled design capable of supporting LRIP testing. 4. Design and fabricate a compact ship-based launch mechanism for use on LCS or other surface combatants.

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**HONORING THE MEMORY OF BEN  
BUERGER**
**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, Mobile County and indeed the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the memory of Mr. Ben Buerger.

Since 1956, "Mr. Ben" owned and operated Ship and Shore Supplies Inc. on Dauphin Island; his store was truly the heartbeat of the island. His business sold everything from groceries to plumbing fixtures, building supplies and boating needs. He may be best known for riding out 1979's Hurricane Frederic in his store, which was one of the most devastating hurricanes ever to hit the central Gulf Coast. Following the storm, "Mr. Ben" set up temporary quarters on the island and worked to provide a consistent supply of necessities to the island's residents when they needed them the most.

"Mr. Ben" was always there to give a helping hand. For example, in 1959, when the lift span to the old Dauphin Island Bridge became stuck, he used his own boat to ferry stranded

tourists and others to the mainland for free. In recognition of all of his efforts on behalf of the people of his community, Mobile's Press-Register awarded "Mr. Ben" the M.O. Beale Scroll of Merit in 1963 and in 1968.

To say that Ben Buerger was active in the Dauphin Island community is an understatement; he was truly an ambassador for the island. He served as president of the Dauphin Island Businessman's Association, president of the Dauphin Island Volunteer Fire Department and president of the Mobile County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department. "Mr. Ben" also served in the U.S. Navy and was a veteran of World War II.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Ben Buerger will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Barbara Buerger; his daughters, Karen Rebecca Moore and Kathryn Barker; his step-daughter, Michele Oliver; his sister-in-law, Caroline Buerger; his granddaughter, Kari Howell; his great-grandson, Nathan Howell; and his step-grandchildren, Anjel Clark and Alex Oliver—as well as the countless friends and fellow islanders he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

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**PAYING TRIBUTE TO DOUGLAS K.  
RAMSEY**
**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor my good friend Douglas K. Ramsey by entering his name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today I pay tribute to Douglas K. Ramsey, for his service to the United States of America during the Vietnam War.

Mr. Ramsey is truly an American patriot. Following graduate studies at Harvard University, Mr. Ramsey entered the United States Air Force and served two years as a lieutenant in the field of communications intelligence.

In 1960, following his service in the United States Air Force, Mr. Ramsey joined the United States Department of State and was assigned to the Bureau of Intelligence and Research. Mr. Ramsey arrived at his duty post in Saigon, Vietnam, on May 3, 1963. While working for the State Department's diplomatic effort in Vietnam, Mr. Ramsey served in a number of capacities, including Assistant Provincial Representative in Hau Nghia.

On January 17, 1966, Mr. Ramsey was captured by a Viet Cong ambush party while transporting food and medical instruments to assist refugees and evacuees. During his time in Viet Cong custody, Mr. Ramsey suffered from malaria as well as neglect at the hands of his captors. He was finally released on February 12, 1973.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Douglas K. Ramsey. He is truly an unsung hero and an American patriot. In these times when we often recognize the members of our armed services for their sacrifice and dedication in defense of America, we must also pause and

reflect upon the service of our men and women in the diplomatic corps, who also risk their lives in defense of our way of life. I thank Mr. Ramsey for his service to America and the Boulder City community, and wish him the best in his future endeavors. As we celebrate Memorial Day this weekend, I urge my fellow Nevadans to pay tribute to the service of our fellow citizens in defense of freedom and democracy.

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**TRIBUTE TO KORYNE KANESKI  
HORBAL**
**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two of my constituents including one of the most remarkable women I know—and the extraordinary things she has done and continues to do. Koryne Kaneski Horbal of Columbia Heights, Minnesota, is a tireless force for equality who defines the word trailblazer.

She has served as Chairwoman of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) Party, founder of the DFL Feminist Caucus, and a Member of the Minnesota Democratic National Committee (DNC) where she started the DNC's Women's Caucus. President Jimmy Carter named her Ambassador to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women where she served for four years. During that time she, and noted author and feminist, Gloria Steinem, became good friends and have since worked together on many projects. Koryne has been a contributing writer to MS. Magazine, and now serves as a consultant to Augsburg College, in Minneapolis. In recognition of Koryne's contribution to society, Augsburg College established the Koryne Horbal Lecture Series to continue opening the windows of opportunity for young women and men that reflect Koryne's commitment to a gender equal society. Fittingly, next month Koryne Horbal will receive a "Humane With Respect" honorary college degree from Augsburg College that she didn't have the opportunity to acquire in her younger years.

Koryne is a loyal and dear friend—and a loving grandmother. If you asked Koryne, of all her renowned accomplishments; all the barriers she's broken down; all the glass ceilings she's shattered; all the myths she's proven wrong; what she is most proud of? Undoubtedly, and without hesitation, she would say loving grandmother—to a young man named Bryce Horbal whom she has raised since infancy. Bryce is a 13 year old honors student at Columbia Heights Middle School in my district. This young man, who towers over his grandmother at over 6 feet, reflects the values that have shaped his young life—instilled in him with a nurturing and loving hand by his grandmother. Almost three years ago, this young man wrote a poem that shows us why the accolades and accomplishments Koryne has achieved pale in comparison to the grandson she has raised. Bryce Horbal is a young man of whom much will be expected.

Madam Speaker, Bryce Horbal's poem:

"I am the homeless man who lives on the corner of main street asking for spare change holding a bottle of scotch in my hand;