

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EARMARK DISCLOSURE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I wish to make the following disclosure in accordance with the new Republican Earmark Transparency Standards requiring Members to place a statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD prior to a floor vote on a bill that includes earmarks they have requested, describing how the funds will be spent and justifying the use of federal taxpayer funds.

Requesting Member: Congressman TOM LATHAM.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: MilCon, Air National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Iowa Air National Guard.

Address of Requesting Entity: 7700 NW Beaver Drive, Johnston, Iowa 50131.

Description of Request: Appropriation of \$5.6 million for the construction of a new Vehicle Maintenance Facility and remodeling of the existing Communications Facility located at the 133rd Test Squadron in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Updating facilities at the 133rd Test Squadron is of the utmost importance and highest priority for the Iowa National Guard. This project is approved on the U.S. Air Force Future Year Defense Plan (FYDP), and has been assigned the number HEMT039066. The facility is significantly short of space due to the expansion of the unit's mission, manning and resources. Since it is the only unit designated to test future Command and Control (C2) projects for the U.S. Air Force, the performance of the 133rd Test Squadron is vital to Air Force missions. A detailed financial plan based on form DD 1391 required by the Department of Defense for military construction projects follows.

COST ESTIMATE

ITEM	U/M	Quantity	Unit cost	Cost (\$000)
Vehicle Maintenance/Comm Training Facility.	SF	32,369		4,171
Vehicle Maintenance Area.	SF	7,000	210	(1,470)
Age Addition To Comm Area.	SF	2,600	186	(484)
Upgrade Communications Area.	SF	22,769	91	(2,072)
Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Measures.	SF	32,369	2	(65)
Lead Certification.	LS			(80)
Supporting Facilities				864
Pavements	LS			(115)
Utilities	LS			(150)
Site Improvements/Parking.	LS			(100)
Communications Support.	LS			(100)
Pre-Wired Work Stations.	LS			(130)
Temporary Trailers.	LS			(220)

COST ESTIMATE—Continued

ITEM	U/M	Quantity	Unit cost	Cost (\$000)
Demolition/Asbestos Removal.	SF	3,270	15	(49)
Subtotal				5,035
Contingency (5%)				252
Total Contract Cost				5,287
Supervision, Inspection And Overhead (6%).				317
Total Request				5,604
Total Request (Rounded).				5,600

10. Description of Proposed Construction: New Construction: Reinforced concrete foundation and floor slab with steel-framed masonry walls and sloped roof structure. Includes overhead crane/hoist, all utilities, pavements, fire protection, site improvements, and support. All interior wall, ceilings, interior finishes and pre-wired work stations. Alteration: Rearrange and extend interior walls and utilities. Provide anti-terrorism force protection measures. Demolish three buildings (304 SM) and landscape the site. Air Conditioning: 60 Tons. Requirement: 32,369 SF Adequate: 0 SF Substandard: 22,769 SF

Project: Vehicle Maintenance and Communications Training Facility (Current Mission).

Requirement: The base requires an adequately sized, properly configured, and environmentally safe vehicle maintenance facility for operations and training. Vehicles to be repaired and maintained include cars, trucks, sweepers, and snowplows. Functional areas consist of maintenance bays, paint bay, office area, parts/tool storage, battery shop, vehicle dispatch, fuel dispensing facility and wash rack. An adequately sized and properly configured facility is required for the operations, maintenance, and training in support of a 132-personnel combat communications squadron responsible for tactical communications-electronics systems. Functional areas include the command section, communication systems (i.e. satellite, base, and network), communications center, combat support, secure storage, deployment control center, classrooms, physical fitness center, dining area, and medical training.

Current Situation: The vehicle maintenance functions are accomplished in a facility that has reached the end of its useful life. Facility maintenance and repair of the mechanical and electrical systems are no longer cost effective due to the lack of replacement parts. The facility is significantly short of maintenance, office, and training space due to the expansion of the unit's manning and resources over the years. Maintenance and repair operations on larger vehicles must be done outside because they do not fit in the small bays. The facility has numerous safety, health, and environmental hazards. The communications and electronics facility portion of this project will reconfigure and renovate existing spaces while adding to the complex to alleviate facility shortfalls. Mission accomplishment and Status of Readiness and Training System (SORTS) levels are de-

graded as there is no adequate space to properly store civil engineering equipment, generators, and equipment assets to be deployable within response time criteria given winter conditions. The 133rd is accomplishing part of the test mission requirements in a facility on the other side of the airport driveway. This requires them to take valuable time and manpower to get to the support functions such as medical and supply items. The area is 12 percent short of the required space needed to support the mission. Several Control and Reporting Center (CRC) testing events have been located in building 102, which has been identified to be demolished. This facility requires roof repairs and electrical and mechanical upgrades to meet code requirements. The space is not functionally set-up to house a test squadron, which causes interruptions in training/testing requirements. They do not have the space to test, maintain, train and repair equipment that they are required to support. The office space is not properly configured. The Aerospace Ground Equipment (AGE) facility (building 101) is not functionally efficient as an AGE shop with its current layout. Equipment is stored outside due to lack of covered storage space. The administrative area is congested and not properly configured. The existing forced air heat system is inefficient and requires repair. The existing floor drains are not connected to an oil water separator. The majority of the base infrastructure system is over 40 years old and has been upgraded only as part of new construction. Parts of the system that have not been upgraded are deteriorated due to age.

Impact If Not Provided: Operations and training suffer from lack of up-to-date and adequate facilities. The overcrowded and antiquated facility seriously degrades the unit's capability to maintain a safe, operationally ready fleet, and severely limits the unit's ability to train. Continued safety and environmental problems with possible violations of federal and state environmental statutes. Quality of life is negatively impacted affecting morale, recruiting, and retention.

Additional: This project meets the criteria/scope specified in Air National Guard Handbook 32-1084, "Facility Requirements" and is in compliance with the base master plan. These facilities are "inhabited" buildings and meet the standoff distance requirements. There is minimal threat and the level of protection is low so minimum construction standards have been applied. All known alternatives options were considered during the development of this project. No other option could meet the mission requirements; therefore, no economic analysis was needed or performed. The following buildings will be demolished as a result of this project: 101 (214 SM), 104 (45 SM), and 105 (45 SM) for a total of 304 SM.

Vehicle maintenance area: 7,000 SF = 650 SM.

Age addition to comm area 2,600 SF = 242 SM.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Upgrade communications area: 22,769 SF = 2,115 SM.

Demolition/asbestos removal: 3,270 SF = 304 SM.

OFFSHORE DRILLING

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, with today's high price of gasoline, I would like to insert into the RECORD an article reprinted in the Baytown Sun which highlights the need for offshore drilling in our country.

[From the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Jun. 24, 2008]

OFFSHORE DRILLING

The legendary Willie Sutton robbed banks because, as he famously explained, that's where the money was.

The United States should take a cue from the late Sutton. It needs to expand drilling for oil and natural gas in offshore waters because that's where many of the nation's biggest untapped petroleum deposits probably can be found. At a time when gasoline prices have soared to the once-unthinkable level of \$4 per gallon, the country is more vulnerable than ever in terms of its exceptionally heavy reliance on foreign oil.

President Bush urged Wednesday that Congress remove a 27-year-old moratorium on offshore drilling. The ban includes waters off the East and West Coasts and in the eastern Gulf of Mexico off southwest Florida. Bush also called for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska and areas of the western continental United States with large oil-shale deposits.

Annual U.S. oil production is about 1.8 billion barrels. The Interior Department estimates that up to 10 times that amount—about 19 billion barrels—is potentially recoverable in offshore areas that currently are off-limits to drillers, according to a McClatchy Newspapers report on Bush's proposal.

Democrats called the proposal a gimmick that will backfire on the Republicans.

The Star-Telegram Editorial Board long has supported significantly expanded offshore drilling. We also favor drilling in a limited portion of the Arctic refuge that constitutes only about 8 percent of that vast preserve, which is roughly the size of South Carolina. We're also open to considering expanded drilling in some areas of the Western U.S. . . .

. . . Congress probably won't give serious consideration to lifting the moratorium until after a new president takes office in January. Even if the moratorium were lifted today, motorists shouldn't expect any near-term relief from record-high fuel prices. Major offshore oil and natural gas projects generally take several years to complete and are very expensive. The price tag for a gigantic offshore oil production platform in extremely deep waters could exceed \$1 billion. Likewise, if the Arctic refuge suddenly were opened to drilling, it could be 10 years before oil was produced.

Nevertheless, adopting such policies to expand future oil and natural gas production could contribute to lower energy prices further down the line.

In 2007, 26.8 percent of U.S. oil production and 14.2 percent of natural gas production came from offshore wells.

An exciting discovery by Chevron and two partners in the Gulf of Mexico in late 2006 il-

lustrates the potential for big fields offshore. A test oil well, dubbed "Jack 2," was drilled 175 miles off Louisiana to a total depth of 5.3 miles (19 times the height of New York's 102-story Empire State Building), making it the deepest well successfully tested in the Gulf. It flowed at a prolific 6,000-plus barrels a day and was drilled in a promising geological trend known as the Lower Tertiary, which runs about 200 miles east to west and 30 to 40 miles north to south, Chevron spokesman Mickey Driver said. The area potentially could yield 3 to 15 billion barrels and become the largest domestic oil find since Alaska's Prudhoe Bay discovery in 1968, according to media reports.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR. BARBARA ANN TEER

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of one of my district's most important leaders, Dr. Barbara Ann Teer, who left this world on July 21, 2008.

Dr. Teer was born on June 18, 1937 in East St. Louis, Illinois to a family of teachers and leaders dedicated to community development. After graduating from the University of Illinois with a degree in dance, she moved to New York City to pursue a career as a dancer, actress, and director. As a performer in New York City, she found work in such shows as 1961's *Where's Daddy?* and 1966's *Kwamina*.

Dissatisfied with the options available to her as a black performer in a predominately hegemonic artistic field, she founded the National Black Theatre, NBT, so that African Americans could meet, share and discuss their creative ideas. She immersed herself in what became a forty year venture that would change the cultural landscape of the performing arts world.

As a cultural visionary she believed in the fundamentals of self-love and spirituality. In 1983, her commitment to and vision of free expression led her to expand the NBT and to purchase a 64,000 square foot building on 125th Street and Fifth Avenue. The new building not only allowed her to house one of the largest New Sacred Yoruba Arts Collection in the Western Hemisphere, but through the artwork she was able to continue the objective of the NBT to provide a place of inspiration and self-expression through spirituality.

With the National Black Theatre, Dr. Teer created an exceptional institution that to this day continues to inspire cultural appreciation and transformation, social change, freedom of expression, historic relevance, self-empowerment, and futuristic innovation.

Dr. Teer dedicated her life to creating a platform that would allow people to experiment through trial and error so that they could achieve a spiritual aura that would allow them to fully express themselves through the performing arts. Through all her tremendous efforts and achievements, Dr. Teer has been duly honored, receiving countless awards and numerous Honorary Doctorate Degrees.

Although Dr. Barbara Ann Teer has passed, her life's work will continue to affect those who are searching for a way to break free from a world that sometimes limits their ability to express their minds and souls. Dr.

Barbara Ann Teer was a visionary, a cultural icon. She will be greatly missed, but not forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO PEGGY BANG

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Peggy Bang of Mason City, Iowa, on being named the 2007-08 Higher Ed Art Educator of the Year by Art Educators of Iowa.

Peggy is celebrating her 35th year as an art educator, the last 23 of which have been spent at North Iowa Area Community College, NIACC, in Mason City, where she is the current visual arts instructor. After spending the early years of her career teaching elementary art, Peggy earned an MS from Bank Street College in cooperation with Parson School of Design in New York.

Peggy, who was a founding member of the MacNider Art Museum foundation, has been a board member of the museum for the past 21 years and is the current Vice President. She also played an important role in the restoration of the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Stockman House in Mason City and was the first coordinator for the statewide Youth Art Month.

Over the years, Peggy has contributed greatly to her community through her involvement in art, inspiring many students along the way. I am honored to represent Peggy Bang in Congress, and I wish her the very best as she continues to serve as a mentor and role model to the students and instructors at NIACC and the Mason City community.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, in compliance with Republican Conference earmark disclosure requirements, I would like to submit the following statement for the RECORD.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599, The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs FY09 Appropriations bill.

Account: Military Construction/VA; Department of Defense; Air National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Connecticut Air National Guard located at Bradley International Airport, Connecticut.

Address of Requesting Entity: Bradley International Airport, Schoephoester Road, Windsor Locks, CT 06096.

Description of Request: Along with the entire Connecticut House Congressional delegation, I received a \$7,200,000 earmark for construction of an engine shop at Bradley International Airport to support the unit's assigned mission of providing an engine Centralized Immediate Repair Facility capability and also provide the capability for a Joint Cargo bed-down. The engines maintained will support the mission operations of A-10 aircraft equipped units in the Air Force and the Air National Guard.

Federal funding will be used to construct the new engine facility, which is required to support 78 PAA equivalents, in addition to parts storage, additional engine storage, shipping and receiving, personnel training and administrative support areas.

The current facility lacks adequate space and engine docks to conduct intermediate engine repair. It does not have adequate parts storage areas, shipping and receiving capabilities and administrative and training areas for the increased manpower necessary to handle the over 3-fold increase in assigned workload. The existing facility also lacks adequate parking and existing base road violates the anti-terrorist force protection standoff requirements.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL IANNUZZI

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, in recognition of 24 years of devoted service to the United States Air Force and the United States of America. Beginning with his graduation and commissioning from Pennsylvania State University, Col. Iannuzzi has been an extraordinary pilot, leader, husband, and father. A Veteran of OIF, OEF, Southern Watch, Allied Force, Desert Shield and Desert Storm, he has played a vital role in a revolution in military operations unlike any in the history of warfare. In the course of his career he has lived throughout the United States and overseas. As such, he understands on personal and professional levels the vital role the United States plays in shaping world events. As a squadron CO he had enormous influence on thousands of young men and women who will forever remember his strength in difficult situations, and use his example to shape their decisions in response to life's challenges. However, Colonel Iannuzzi's greatest accomplishment is his family. His many achievements would lack full meaning without the love of his wife Maria and three children. Absent their inspiration and support, the long deployments and many separations would have been unimaginable. For 24 years Col. Iannuzzi has stood watch for his family and his country. I represent all Americans, and particularly your friends and neighbors in Delaware County, when I say thank you for a job extremely well done, and welcome home!

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC
RECOVERY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3221, the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act.

This bill provides a long-awaited helping hand to many of our hard-working citizens, and I commend Chairman BARNEY FRANK and my House colleagues for diligently working with the Senate and the administration to craft a bill that helps individuals and neighborhoods

struggling with foreclosure, in addition to ensuring that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac remain on solid footing.

Owning one's own home is the epitome of the American Dream. Unfortunately, too many people have found themselves struggling after becoming trapped in complicated, poorly-explained mortgages with exploding interest rates. Already, I have received a call from a homeowner hoping this bill will help him refinance into a mortgage that won't eat up the bulk of his income. With gas prices rising, food prices rising, and wages stagnant, most homeowners just don't have the money to cover a mortgage payment that jumps by 30 or 50 percent.

According to the Center for Responsible Lending, one in 35 Texas homeowners could face foreclosure in the next 2 years—almost 1,400 of them in my district. While this bill won't help all those homeowners, it will help many. By providing an avenue for people to remain in their homes, paying an affordable mortgage, we help not only those individuals, but the neighborhoods that would otherwise be left to deal with abandoned and vacant homes.

As too many neighborhoods and cities are discovering, this housing crisis affects more people than just those who lose their homes. It affects their neighbors, whose property values are in decline as their neighborhoods empty out. It affects cities that must provide services yet are losing property tax revenues. Cities and towns are on the frontlines of this crisis, and this bill gives them an important tool to help neighborhoods recover, by allowing them to purchase and rehabilitate foreclosed homes and resell them at cost. I applaud all my colleagues in the House for passing this important legislation.

TOM LANTOS AND HENRY J. HYDE
UNITED STATES GLOBAL LEADERSHIP
AGAINST HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS
AND MALARIA RE-AUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008 (H.R. 5501) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to provide assistance to foreign countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and for other purposes.

I would first like to thank Honorable HOWARD L. BERMAN for introducing this important legislation. The devastation of the HIV/AIDS disease does not discriminate, and impacts the lives of us all. Recent reports from the United Nations state that more than thirty-three million people globally have been infected with HIV/AIDS.

This legislation takes a comprehensive approach to combating global infectious diseases, specifically HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis by providing funding for the prevention, education, testing, and treatment. I support and applaud the substantial funding that

H.R. 5501 provides to fight infectious diseases around the world. I am happy to see that this bill authorizes \$48 billion in spending over five years for AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. The bill would also authorize operational research and health workforce strengthening initiatives, and would eliminate the ban on HIV positive visitors and otherwise qualified immigrants from entering the United States.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic has erased decades of progress in improving the lives of families in the developing world and has claimed over 20 million lives since its inception. By supporting H.R. 5501, the U.S. government has taken another major step in keeping its commitment to the global AIDS response.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL KEITH
LOVEJOY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor COL Keith Lovejoy of the United States Army. Colonel Lovejoy, who is retiring, has been the Garrison Commander of Fort Benning in the Second Congressional District of Georgia, which I am privileged to represent.

Keith Lovejoy is a native of California. He holds a bachelor of arts from Norwich University, and a masters in personnel administration from Central Michigan University. He also has completed several intensive and challenging military training graduate courses, including one at the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Colonel Lovejoy, who is retiring after a more than 30-year career of service to the United States, has held a variety of troop and command positions both in the United States and overseas. The bases across the country where he has served include Fort Lewis, Washington; Fort Riley, Kansas; Fort Polk, Louisiana; Fort Hood, Texas; and now, Fort Benning, Georgia.

In between his postings at Army bases, Colonel Lovejoy also taught those who also sought to serve. From 1989 through 1993, he served as the Assistant Professor of Military Science at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia.

Over the years, Colonel Lovejoy has become a very decorated officer. He is a recipient of the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Medal with seven Oak Leaf Clusters, the Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals. His many awards speak for themselves about his commitment to our country.

Colonel Lovejoy is married to the former Carol Jean Barber of Columbus, Georgia. They have two children: Justin, a recent graduate of Kansas State University and now a First Lieutenant stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and Jessica, currently a student at Auburn University.

Through many postings, and many assignments in different places that I am certain placed strain on himself and his family, Colonel Lovejoy, in every sense, epitomizes the meaning of the phrase "service above self."

Madam Speaker, it indeed is an honor and a privilege to know this great man who not only shows the qualities of a dedicated soldier, but also does what is best for his country.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
O'SULLIVANS ON THEIR 50TH
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Owen Michael O'Sullivan on the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Owen and Geannine O'Sullivan were married 50 years on June 14, 2008. They raised 4 children and have 12 grandchildren.

Owen was born in 1935 in New York City, NY, where he lived with his parents, two brothers and a sister. He graduated from Cardinal Hayes H.S. in 1953 where he studied trombone and further developed his love of music. After attending what is now known as the School of Visual Arts in NYC, Owen was drafted into the Army where his musical skills helped him become a member of the U.S. Army Band.

Geannine Bernard O'Sullivan was born in New York City in 1935. Subsequent to completing high school, Geannine was admitted to the Fashion Academy in NYC. After successfully graduating, she worked as a designer and illustrator in the city. Here she learned how designs turned into the reality of actual production. To this day, she still uses her talent and skills in the design and hand sewing of beautiful St. Nicholas dolls.

Owen met Geannine on a blind date before going overseas. However, they remained pen pals until his return in 1956. They eventually moved to Morris County, NJ, where Owen, having started in the printing industry, opened his own advertising agency, Graphicus 14. His agency grew, as did their family. Four children later, the agency became O'Sullivan Advertising/Public Relations located in Morristown, NJ. Geannine became president of Special Occasion Dresses for Children.

Owen and Geannine, devout Catholics, also gave back to their community. Their endless charity and community involvements, as well as their strong values, were known in many organizations such as the Junior Chamber of Commerce, interfaith groups and Catholic church groups. One of Owen's proudest achievements was when he was made a Knight of Malta. Presently Owen and Geannine are active on the board of the Caring Basket Gala of Assumption College for Sisters. Owen is the Charter Chairman and Geannine is a strong backup and Committee member. Over the last 7 years, they have raised over \$630,000 and helped save the college.

Nothing, though, was more important in their lives than their sense of family. "Family always comes first," they always said, and that was demonstrated almost daily throughout their 50 years together.

Congratulations again to Owen and Geannine O'Sullivan. Their story is reflective of the American dream, the children of immigrants, working hard and playing by the rules

to create better lives for themselves and their children. As a result, they have made their community, their church, New Jersey, and our Nation a better place to live for future generations.

THE NEED FOR OFFSHORE
DRILLING

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, with today's high price of gasoline, I would like to insert into the RECORD an article from the Baytown Sun which highlights the need for additional domestic resources through offshore drilling.

[From the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Jun. 20, 2008]

OFFSHORE DRILLING

Led by President Bush and Sen. John McCain, a growing number of politicians say they are willing to drop strict environmental protections to allow more offshore drilling for oil. Our response: "what took y'all so long?"

It's pretty clear to most of us on the Sun editorial board that when it comes to energy, what we really need is to produce more, use less, and find new sources of power.

This nation cannot afford to put off serious energy reform any longer. Let's start with more domestic drilling by lifting the 27-year-old federal ban on offshore drilling. The moratorium applies to all federal waters, which extend three miles from the coastlines.

However, offshore drilling is no panacea. It certainly doesn't provide a short-term answer to the high gasoline prices that have angered Americans. It would take up to five years to start pumping significant amounts of oil from new wells.

But it's a step in the right direction. Working Americans rightly believe their government has a duty to finally assure the energy security of this country.

All across this state and nation, people are hurting. Small farmers, truckers, and taxi drivers are unable to cover costs. Small business owners are struggling to meet payroll. The cost of living is rising, and the value of paychecks is falling. All of this is in large part because the price of oil is too high, and the supply of oil is too uncertain.

The American people have had enough of high gas prices and our government's unwillingness to take care of us.

According to the U.S. Department of the Interior and Congressman Ted Poe, there are approximately 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and more than 86 billion barrels of oil yet to be discovered along the Outer Continental Shelf in the lower 48 States. That is enough oil or natural gas to:

Maintain current oil production for 87 years and current natural gas production for 68 years;

Produce gasoline for 116 million cars and heating oil for 47 million homes for 15 years;

Replace current imports from the Persian Gulf for 59 years;

Produce sufficient natural gas to heat 75 million homes for 60 years;

And supply current industrial and commercial needs for 29 years or supply electricity generating needs for 55 years.

We are the only country in the world that does not fully cultivate their oil and natural gas resources. There is absolutely no good

reason why we cannot expand current offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico to the coasts of Florida, California and the eastern seaboard.

TRIBUTE TO MARVIN HAMMOND

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, Marvin Hammond, a longtime friend, has now retired for the second time, first from Knoxville Utilities Board, and now from the Hallsdale-Powell Utility District.

I did all sorts of odd jobs as a boy—selling programs and refreshments at ball games, mowing yards—but my first hourly-pay job was as a groundskeeper at Holston-Chilhowee Ball Park in East Knoxville.

I was 15, and I made \$1.00 an hour. My first boss was a 19-year-old named Marvin Hammond. He worked under Coach Raleigh Johnson, but Marvin was the one who told me what to do.

From that time in the early 1960s, I have thought of Marvin Hammond as one of the finest men I have ever known.

He went from his job as manager of Holston High School athletic teams to a position as a trainer in the Cincinnati Reds Farm System and got to know many of the all-time great baseball players, such as Pete Rose and others.

He spent most of his career as an executive with the Knoxville Utilities Board. He was one of the most popular and respected employees of KUB.

I remember my first race for Congress in 1988 when he was driving me and some other people on a campaign swing to some distant parts in our district.

One of the other campaigners, jokingly but pretending to be serious, complained about his "huge" utility bill. Marvin, very concerned, said, "Lance, How much was it?" When Lance replied "\$36," Marvin almost ran off the road.

I remember another time when I was a judge, Marvin found that I was Cubmaster of a Cub Scout troop. He told me he could get several canoes from another church and he knew some people who owned a dairy farm 45 miles away with a big lake on it.

He spent his whole day getting the canoes, helping the boys tour the farm, do the canoe rides, cook out, and then load everything back up for the return.

When I was first starting my law practice and needing to make some money, Marvin told me he was head of off-campus instruction in Knoxville for Walters State Community College.

He hired me, for \$500 a semester, to teach political science, I believe for three semesters. Many of the students were police officers, which also helped me in my law practice.

So, you can see, Madam Speaker, that Marvin Hammond has had a big influence on my life. I am very grateful to him.

But he has helped so many people over the years, and I am certain he has made his community and the Nation much better by all he has done.

Sandra Clark, another longtime friend and the publisher of the Halls Shopper News, has

written a column in tribute to Marvin Hammond. I would like to have it reprinted in the RECORD and call it to the attention of my colleagues and others.

[From the Shopper-News, July 21, 2008]

MISSING MARVIN

If ever there was a man who opted to wear out rather than rust out, it is Marvin Hammond.

He's retired again, but don't count on it sticking with Marvin.

A crisis in Maynardville left folks without water over the Fourth of July holiday. City officials asked Hallsdale-Powell Utility District for help, and Hammond was quick to respond. "Hook them up," he said, "and we'll work out the paperwork later."

"One man told me he had a shower for the first time in 10 days," Hammond said last week.

Utility districts network in order to sell water across systems when necessary. Maynardville Utility District had not tapped into HPUD's new water plant on Norris Lake. There are issues with water pressure and leaks up there, but these are engineering concerns—fixable.

Hammond had the vision to build a new water plant on Norris Lake and to expand the one on Melton Hill Lake. Hallsdale-Powell customers won't be running out of water. And Hammond leaves the district in a position to sell water to our neighbors.

Hammond was named president of HPUD in 2000. He took the title president emeritus last week as Darren Cardwell was elevated to the top job. Cardwell is just the third leader of HPUD, the district built by general manager Allan Gill of Powell.

Hammond, who earlier had retired from KUB, found a district with money in the bank and low rates; he left a district in debt with substantially higher rates.

Construction foreman Greg McCloud said it best: "Hallsdale was getting bigger (more customers), but we were not getting better."

Hammond set out to improve customer relations and to build partnerships with regulatory bodies such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. He replaced much of the 150 miles of 2-inch galvanized water line and looked for leaks that were draining off 39 percent of HPUD's treated water. He hired engineers and consultants to upgrade the wastewater system and put a halt to violations at the treatment plant.

Engineer Nick Jackson said no violations have been reported for 25 consecutive months, and HPUD will receive the Water Environment Association operational excellence award this week at the WEA conference in Knoxville. The award covers a 2-state region of Kentucky and Tennessee.

Hammond is credited with development of a long range strategic plan which includes expanding HPUD's service area.

In 1999, HPUD served 21,780 customers with physical plant assets of \$66 million.

Today, the district serves 28,200 customers with physical plant assets of \$144 million.

Sometimes we just get lucky.

Halls and Powell residents were blessed with the leadership of Allan Gill—a man with military bearing who brooked no nonsense and built a water system through grit and willpower.

Likewise, we were blessed with the leadership of Marvin Hammond—a man with vision for the future and the courage to raise the rates to pay for progress.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the important research it is doing. The federal government's investment in NIH research regularly pays tremendous dividends to the American taxpayer. Federal funding supports NIH—to conduct biomedical research at its Maryland campus as well as research conducted at hundreds of medical centers, independent research laboratories, and colleges and universities across the country. Today, I would like to highlight research being done at NIH to alleviate the economic and personal suffering caused by Alzheimer's disease.

Alzheimer's disease, one of the most frightening memory-robbing disorders, interferes with the lives of 2.5 to 5 million older Americans, including over 200,000 people under the age of 65. Individuals with Alzheimer's disease may have trouble recalling addresses, major events, and the names of their own family members. Making meals and managing finances can become difficult. Over time, problems with memory and thinking get even worse. Alzheimer's disease costs the United States almost \$150 billion in medical care and lost productivity each year. With an aging population, this number will continue to grow larger and larger. By the year 2030, Alzheimer's disease is predicted to affect 7.7 million people in the United States over the age of 65. By 2015, Medicare costs for beneficiaries with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias are expected to more than double from \$91 billion in 2005 to \$189 billion.

Fortunately, research funded by the NIH has helped generate new treatments that can aid memory loss. Studies determined that a brain afflicted with Alzheimer's disease contains decreased levels of acetylcholine, a chemical that aids in memory and thought. Based on this finding, researchers developed several medications now available, termed cholinesterase inhibitors, which attempt to maintain normal levels of acetylcholine and can aid memory, thinking, and functional abilities in some people with Alzheimer's disease. While the effects of these drugs tend to be fairly short-lived and they do not stop the progression of the disease, they can be very helpful to some patients with Alzheimer's disease.

Moreover, great progress has been made in understanding the brain abnormalities that underlie Alzheimer's disease, thanks to research involving genetics, biochemistry, and cell biology. Researchers are on the threshold of developing new treatments that target these flaws in an effort to preserve brain circuits and help maintain memory function in patients with Alzheimer's disease. New drugs are being developed that target different biological pathways, which, following years of basic science research, have also been implicated in memory. With continued study, scientists believe a variety of improved treatments will be able to aid more people with memory impairments for longer periods of time and perhaps prevent the onset of Alzheimer's disease or slow its progression.

We have so much more to learn about the brain, and NIH-funded researchers nationwide, including in my own state of Idaho, are working to understand how it functions and to identify potential new therapies and treatments. That national research commitment gives the millions of people suffering from Alzheimer's disease, and the millions more who care for them, hope that treatments for this devastating disease are on the horizon.

TRIBUTE TO ALISON CHAMBERS AND ELLIE SAVERY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of two young citizens, Alison Chambers and Ellie Savery, in rescuing two boys in West Lake Okoboji in Iowa.

On Tuesday, July 15, at 1:30 p.m., Alison and Ellie noticed two swimmers calling for help in the choppy waters of West Lake Okoboji. The young women, trained lifeguards and swimmers on the Fort Dodge, Iowa High School team, reacted immediately and swam 25 yards out to the stranded swimmers. Moments later, the young women returned the two boys safely back to the dock. Many of the bystanders praised Ellie and Alison for their heroic rescue after they got out of the water.

The diligent effort of these young women is a testament to the bravery and compassion of Iowans; willing to do whatever is necessary for a neighbor in need. I commend them for their heroism and cooperation. I am honored to represent both of them in the United States Congress, and wish each of them health and happiness in the future.

RECOGNIZING LONNIE AND LIBBY WILLIAMS UPON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of Lonnie and Libby Williams Upon their 50th wedding anniversary.

Libby Barnes and Lonnie Williams began their courtship in 1956 in Milton, Florida. The two were introduced by Ms. Williams's cousin and immediately started dating. The couple recalls with fondness the "Toot N Tell It" drive-in restaurant they often frequented and remembers the days when their friends would congregate at the restaurant and "just talk."

At the time, Milton was still a small town—not the burgeoning city it is today—and, as the couple reminisces, "there wasn't a lot to do." Unperturbed by these geographic restrictions, the couple took advantage of the religious opportunities in the area and often attended the Pace Assembly of God Church together. After dating for 2 years, the couple was married on August 22, 1958.

The Williamses have been blessed with a wonderful, large family. With four children and

eight grandchildren, Lonnie and Libby Williams are constantly active and reminded of their good fortune. The couple cites their faith as the center point of their relationship and advises that the secret to marital bliss is to "never go to bed angry."

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Williams on their 50th wedding anniversary. They are truly an outstanding family and an asset to the First District of Florida.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

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

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN M. McHUGH.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Account: Military Construction, Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Congressman JOHN M. McHUGH.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2366 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515.

Provide an earmark of \$6.9 million for Project Number 57711 to construct a fire station at Fort Drum, New York. The entity to receive funding for this project is Fort Drum, located in Watertown, New York 13601. The funding will be used for military construction to help meet installation health and safety requirements.

CELEBRATING CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Caribbean-American Heritage Month and the wonderful implications it has for how far this country has come. To have a month in which we solely celebrate the contributions of those who have been oppressed and were deemed unequal by the very country they helped to build is recognition by the Congress of the United States that this great country is better and brighter because of their presence. Caribbean-American Heritage Month has given us the opportunity as a nation to recognize the everyday heroes in the Caribbean community that bring their hope, joy, and immeasurable talents to America.

When celebrating Caribbean-American Heritage Month in June we have the opportunity to more clearly illuminate the great economic disparities that are a reality in the Caribbean. The inception of this special month-long celebration has created an exclusive platform to zero in on Caribbean-specific issues like economic development, health, and education.

Caribbean-American Heritage Month recognizes and celebrates the many wonderful people of Caribbean heritage who have gone unrecognized for their immense contributions to this wonderful country. For that, I salute Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

TRIBUTE TO ALLAN ATKINSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Chief Administrative Officer of Winneshiek Medical Center, Allan Atkinson, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to the medical center and Northeast Iowa.

For 25 years, Allan has worked in healthcare administration, spending the last ten years at Winneshiek Medical Center in Decorah, Iowa. His long-term vision and teamwork approach has helped WMC grow and improve tremendously by offering an expanded range of services, experiencing a five-fold patient increase, and undertaking a \$17 million expansion and renovation project.

With his many years of experience in healthcare administration, Allan brought valuable knowledge and ideas to the table and credits the hospital's Board of Trustees for being such a great team. Their group effort has generated more quality healthcare options to Northeast Iowa, and I offer Allan and the Board my utmost congratulations and thanks.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Allan Atkinson for his service to WMC and Northeast Iowa. I consider it an honor to represent Allan in Congress, and I wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

BIRDSEYE QUASQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, this year marks the 125th anniversary of the founding of the town of Birdseye, in Dubois County, Indiana. This rural community of approximately 500 citizens represents the epitome of Hoosier values and, like many small communities across the United States, forms the bedrock of our Nation.

The city's ceremonial observance of this anniversary will be held beginning Thursday, August 21, continuing through August 24. A number of celebratory events have been planned, including musical performances, a farm machinery show, a queen contest, parade and children's activities. I look forward to celebrating Birdseye's Quasquicentennial with its residents and supporting some of these events during the celebration.

The foundations of Birdseye began much like other frontier communities as a trading crossroads in the early 1800s. For many years, this crossroads did not have a formal name, but by 1846 migration west had produced enough settlers in this rugged wilderness area to necessitate a Post Office. Benjamin Goodman, a popular minister and postmaster in nearby Worth (later renamed Schnellville), was asked to help select the site for the new office. Upon finding a site he liked, he commented, "It suit Bird's eye to a T-Y-tee." The phrase so struck the other frontiersmen that they named the Post Office and community "Birdseye."

It wasn't until 1880, however, that the community took on a more formal appearance as a town. Seven property owners—Enoch and Martha Inman, Elbert and Mary Baxter, John and Sarah Pollard, and Scott Austin—gathered together and laid out a plat, each donating a portion of their land to divide into streets and lots.

This platting proved to be well timed. The expansion of the Louisville, New Albany, and St. Louis Airline Railroad through the community in 1882 created an economic boom, growing the small community's population. By 1883, the community incorporated and held its first town board meeting on December 26, with William Koerner serving as board President.

The early settlers of Birdseye were a hardy bunch. The main source of power was the horse or mule and fields had to be cleared of timber, rocks and other natural debris. The soil, although fertile, was often "corned to death" by early farming practices, forcing settlers to use early fertilizers or let the field lay fallow. Citizens relied on each other to help harvest crops, build homes and storage buildings or care for one another in an emergency. Despite changes through the ages, this community spirit persists today and is the foundation of daily life in Birdseye.

The town's history, written and edited by L.L. Tussey for the Quasquicentennial and sponsored by the Birdseye Volunteer Fire Department and the Birdseye Park Board, recalls many of the town's more popular family and community stories. The book contains stories of small, one-room schools from the area and notes the common occurrence of baptisms in the nearby Anderson River. It recalls the annual Birdseye Reunion, when young boys would dress in their finest "church clothing" to present themselves to young ladies. They would often purchase tickets for their sweetheart to ride the steam swing—a version of our modern merry-go-round—at the event. An essay included in the book by Sereina Comstock remembers Birdseye's thriving sorghum industry. Known worldwide for its "smooth texture" and sweet taste, it was the town's fundamental cash crop at the turn of the 20th century. Farmers processed the sorghum into syrup, graded it according to color, and then sold the product both locally and abroad using the railroad as a distribution network.

Then there are stories like the one about Carl Neukam, written by his grandson Josh Neukam. A tribute to his grandfather, Josh wrote about Carl's service with the 151st Airborne Unit during the Korean War, his strong work ethic with companies such as Jasper Novelty, J.H. Hines, Jasper Desk, and Kimball International, and his love and dedication for his wife Helen Whaley. It tells his unique life stories, such as the time he worked for the State Highway Department and battled for 72 hours straight against a winter storm or his recollection of returning from Korea only to have his plane catch fire. Carl's life may never be highlighted in any history books or be made into a movie, but it is nonetheless a quintessential example of a true American story and of a regular American hero.

Birdseye has grown over the years and seen many changes and improvements to the town. The creation of a Volunteer Fire Department in 1968, the establishment of a municipal park in 1983, and the opening of a new town hall this year are representative of the town's growth and development.

Many more stories from Birdseye serve as a testament to its strong Hoosier values and warm community spirit. But the greatest treasure Birdseye possesses is the people of this small Indiana community. Regardless of the challenges they face or the difficulties that lay ahead of them, they illustrate the best qualities of rural America.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent this community in Congress. I want to congratulate Birdseye on its Quasiquicentennial, and look forward to seeing how this unique and wonderful town thrives for decades to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION FACILITIES AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, my colleagues and I join together today to introduce the "Smithsonian Institution Facilities Authorization Act of 2008".

I thank my colleagues, including Committee on House Administration Chairman BRADY and Ranking Member EHLERS, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Ranking Member MICA and Subcommittee Chairwoman NORTON, and the Congressional Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, for their efforts to move this important legislation forward. I also thank the Smithsonian Institution for its effort on behalf of the legislation and welcome the new Secretary, Dr. G. Wayne Clough. I look forward to working with Secretary Clough as the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure works to address the enormous repair and maintenance backlog of the Smithsonian Institution facilities and ensure that its facilities meet the highest standards of energy efficiency and conservation.

The bill authorizes the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to design and construct laboratory space to accommodate the Mathias Laboratory at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center ("SERC") in Edgewater, Maryland. The bill also authorizes the Board of Regents to construct laboratory space to accommodate the terrestrial research program of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute ("STRI") in Gamboa, Panama. The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will consider the Smithsonian Institution Facilities Act on July 31. The Committee will also consider S.J. Res. 35, which provides for the construction of the Very Energetic Radiation Imaging Telescope Array System (VERITAS) project in Arizona. Earlier this year, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure reported H.R. 5492, to authorize the Board of Regents to construct a greenhouse facility at its museum support facility in Suitland, Maryland, favorably to the House, and the House passed the bill by voice vote on March 11, 2008. The Committee hopes to bring S.J. Res. 35 to the House in early September. With passage of these bills, the House of Representatives will have completed action on the Smithsonian Institution's construction program for this fiscal year.

Section 2 of the bill authorizes the Board of Regents to design and construct laboratory

and support space to accommodate the Mathias Laboratory at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, Maryland. The bill authorizes \$41 million to design and construct the facility. SERC is a global leader in the study of ecosystems in the coastal zone. The 52,000-square-foot replacement laboratory will be connected to the existing structure to provide an operationally efficient and environmentally sustainable laboratory facility for SERC's research programs. The project will eliminate the use of temporary, unsafe trailers, address substandard, inefficient laboratory facilities, and will substantially reduce the facility's energy use and maintenance costs.

Section 3 of the bill authorizes the Board of Regents to construct laboratory space to accommodate the terrestrial research program of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Gamboa, Panama. The bill authorizes \$14 million to construct the 53,283-square-foot facility. STRI is the principal United States organization devoted to research in tropical biology. Tropical biology is critical to finding untapped resources to add to the important supply of food, pharmaceuticals, and fiber of tropical regions. STRI has outgrown the space available at its current facilities and this bill provides for construction of a new lab in Gamboa, Panama, on the east bank of the Panama Canal. Gamboa is protected by geography from the encroachment of civilization and pollution. The terrestrial research program is critical to understanding the role that tropical plants and soils play in global climate change models and for enriching knowledge of tropical biodiversity.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the "Smithsonian Institution Facilities Authorization Act of 2008", and I look forward to working together with my colleagues on these and other Smithsonian Institution issues.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congresswoman KAY GRANGER.

Project name (as it appears in the bill): Security Forces Building/Combat Arms Addition.

Amount received: \$5 million.

Bill number: H.R. 6599.

Account: Air National Guard.

Legal name and address of entity receiving earmark: 136th Airlift Wing, Texas Air National Guard, JRB NAS Fort Worth, 200 Hensley Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76127-1672.

Description of how the money will be spent and why the use of federal taxpayer funding is justified: The Air Force has increased its need for Security Forces personnel. That has resulted in an increase of Security Forces personnel at the 136th Airlift Wing. Current space and facilities are inadequate (the building is less than 50 percent of the authorized and required size). The project is programmed for FY11 but needs to be constructed earlier to accommodate the training and readiness of the 136th Airlift Wing's growing force of Security Personnel and their role in the Global War on Terror. According to the Future Year De-

fense Plan, 96 percent of the amount received would go toward contract costs while the remaining 4 percent accounts for contingency, supervision, overhead, and inspection costs.

Description of matching funds: Matching funds are not required for Military Construction projects.

TRIBUTE TO THE HUMBOLDT PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Humboldt Public Library on its 100th year anniversary. The Humboldt Public Library serves over 4,500 residents of Humboldt, Iowa as well as a number of residents of the surrounding areas in Humboldt County.

In 1908, the city of Humboldt completed its public library with the assistance of an Andrew Carnegie grant. From 1912 to 1963, Mrs. Nellie Pinney served 51 years as the longest serving librarian. At the time of her retirement, the library was circulating 3,500 books a year. Forty-five years later, the Humboldt library has expanded its circulation to 85,000 items to better serve the diverse interests of its citizens and the advanced technology of modern times.

Throughout the many years the Humboldt Public Library staff has thrived to meet the needs of the people in the area by providing excellent information, educational resources and encouraging citizens to read. I congratulate the Humboldt Public Library on this historic anniversary. It is an honor to represent Library Director Nikki Ehlers, the library board of trustees, and all of the Humboldt Library staff in the United States Congress, and I wish the Humboldt Public Library continued success well into the future.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I submit the following: H.R. 6599—The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs FY09 Appropriations bill. Mr. JERRY LEWIS (CA-41): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Republican earmark guidance, I am submitting for the record the following project that has been included in H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs FY09 Appropriations bill. This project was authorized in H.R. 5658—the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Requesting Member: Congressman JERRY LEWIS

Bill Number: H.R. 6599

Account: Military Construction—Navy

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Marine Corps Base Twentynine Palms

Address of Requesting Entity: 73549 29 Palms Hwy., Twentynine Palms, CA 92277.

Description of Request: Phase I of the Life Long Learning Center (LLLC) project at the

Marine Corps base Twentynine Palms provides a facility to help Marines and their families fulfill their educational goals. The project will replace older, undersized facilities with a 17,000 square foot, three-story building which will include classrooms, office spaces, a computer room and other supporting infrastructure. When completed, the LLC will facilitate more than 40 higher education classes with an anticipated enrollment exceeding 1500 students per term. The Marine Corps supports this project as it would dramatically improve the quality of life for our soldiers.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards adopted by House Republicans, I am submitting the following earmark disclosure and certification information for an individual project appropriations request that I made and which was included within the text of H.R. 6599, the "Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009."

Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP (UT—01)

Bill Number: H.R. 6599—"Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009"

1 project was included at my request which qualifies as an earmark under Republican Conference guidelines, as follows:

1. Project: Three-Bay Fire Station, Military Construction

Project Amount: \$5.67 million

Account: Air Force, Military Construction (MILCON)

Requesting Entity: Congressman ROB BISHOP

Receiving Entity: Hill Air Force Base; Air Force Materiel Command

Address: 75th Air Base Wing, Hill AFB, Utah 84056.

Project Description and Justification: Construction of new, 3-bay fire station next to the main runway is necessary to correct for violation of Air Force fire protection regulations regarding response times. New facility is necessary to provide adequate fire protection for aircraft, as well as industrial operations on East side of runway in support of vital national defense missions. This project was already approved in the Air Force's Five-Year Defense Plan as being necessary to meet military safety requirements. MILCON projects are inherently necessary as having been requested and reviewed by the applicable military service in the first instance. Congress merely readjusts prioritization of project funds in any given fiscal year based on showing of emerging or critical needs.

Matching Funds: Not applicable (Federal entity).

Detailed Spending Plan: \$5.67 million in appropriated dollars will be expended by Hill Air Force Base Civil Engineer Division pursuant to existing Military Construction statutes and regulations under an open bidding competitive

process with the private sector, for the construction of a 3-bay Fire Station complex. Additional questions regarding this project may be addressed to: U.S. Air Force, Hill Air Force Base Public Affairs Office (801) 777-5201.

RECOGNIZING MR. ERIK RUSSELL AS A RECIPIENT OF THE 2008 COLORADO AEROSPACE EDUCATION FOUNDATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the ongoing career of Mr. Erik Russell as recognized for the 2008 Colorado Aerospace Education Foundation Teacher of the Year Award. His commitment to education in the areas of Science, Technology and Mathematics (STEM) has made a tremendous impact on the 4th graders that he teaches at Odyssey Elementary School in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

As the program director for the Engineering is Elementary Program, Mr. Russell has set the standard for future STEM educators. Mr. Russell's dedication to STEM education has garnered more than \$10,000 in grants and donations. From rocketry to Lego robotics and weightless flights to symposiums, his work to bring innovative ideas and real world applications to the classroom clearly ranks him among the best in the education profession.

Mr. Russell's work extends beyond the classroom to the local military, the aerospace industry, and the Air Force Association. His noteworthy accomplishments have also been recognized by the Wall Street Journal.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. Eric Russell. I applaud his selfless dedication to students and to the future of STEM education.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SAFE KIDS USA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Safe Kids USA, a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, for its work to make our children safe when traveling in motor vehicles. Safe Kids USA and its long time partners, General Motors and Chevrolet, were recently honored by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) for completing their one millionth child safety seat check.

Unfortunately, auto crashes are the leading cause of death for children in the U.S., making it critical that child safety seats be properly installed. Safe Kids and its partners work to train parents and caregivers in the proper installation and use of child safety seats through nationwide car seat checkup events, and on June 12 this year they reached the milestone

of one million child safety seats checked for proper installation.

Child safety seats have to be installed correctly to insure the safety of our children, yet statistics show that four in five seats are not installed so they properly protect the child riding in the seat. Correct seat installation is essential.

A Safe Kids inspection provides hands-on training for parents and caregivers in how to use child safety seats the right way. I have hosted and attended car seat checkup events in Michigan where trained technicians worked one-on-one with families to help them learn how to safely transport their children.

I am sure that the one millionth milestone reached by Safe Kids has likely resulted in hundreds of lives being saved. Certainly that prompted the NTSB to honor Safe Kids, GM and Chevrolet with its prestigious Safety Leadership Award, celebrating their collaborative efforts to improve child occupant protection.

The one million seat inspection was achieved by the more than 600 state and local Safe Kids coalitions and chapters, staffed primarily by volunteers, throughout the country. The Safe Kids coalition network is very active in my home state of Michigan, and I encourage all of my colleagues to participate in a Safe Kids/GM child safety event in their own states where they will see firsthand how the non-profit and corporate sectors can work together to advance a lifesaving public health safety message.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Safe Kids USA, General Motors and Chevrolet on their extraordinary achievement. They are truly deserving of our respect and admiration.

TRIBUTE TO BARB RIEMENSCHNEIDER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Barb Riemenschneider for her ten years of volunteer work with the kindergarten class at Page Elementary School in Boone, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for her dedication and commitment to the youth of Iowa.

"Grandma Barb" has contributed her time and talents to improving children's lives through education and mentoring. Ten years ago when Barb's granddaughter began kindergarten, Barb began volunteering at the school. Every Friday, she has assisted Rosanne Brown's class with number and letter skills, playing board games, and listening to students read. Her willingness to do the little things built trust with the students and created a positive experience.

Barb leaves her volunteer job having made a lasting impact on many students, and she will be dearly missed by Rosanne and the children at Page Elementary. I consider it an honor to represent Barbara Riemenschneider in the United States Congress, and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

CARIBBEAN TOURISM OFFICIALS
TACKLE ISSUE OF AIRLINE
SERVICE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD a July 15, 2008 New York Carib News article entitled: "CARICOM Heads Tourism Talk."

The article speaks of the challenges that the tourism-based Caribbean economy is facing due to high oil prices and a "17 percent cut-back on airline services from the United States." Caribbean officials are meeting the challenge of protecting their most profitable industry by gearing up to market the Caribbean as a brand by "looking at the Caribbean as a single space." There have also been talks of combining the regional civil aviation authorities.

Increasingly, Caribbean officials are recognizing the need to unite some of their services in order to increase the viability of their tourism industry in the midst of rising oil prices. One of the discussions and outcomes of the successful New York CARICOM Conference was the possibility of Jet Blue, the popular discount airline, providing service to the Caribbean. With Jet Blue, the Caribbean can regain the much needed air service that is being lost due to high oil prices.

CARICOM HEADS TOURISM TALK

ST JOHN'S, ANTIGUA, CMC—Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders began deliberations focusing on the tourism sector that has been a key contributor to their countries' economies.

There are concerns that recent global developments, such as the rising cost of fuel and changes in flight schedules by US-based airlines, could undermine the viability of an industry that provides thousands of jobs for Caribbean nationals.

The leaders will hear special presentations by St. Lucia's Tourism Minister and Chairman of the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) Allan Chastenet and his Antigua and Barbuda counterpart, Harold Lovell, on efforts to make the sector more competitive in light of the new threats, including a 17 percent cutback in airline services from the United States, the region's main tourism market.

Chastenet told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) that oil prices were expected to reach an estimated US\$170 a barrel and that this could also be accompanied by a 20 percent cut in capacity by the US airlines industry.

"Clearly, as the price of oil continues to increase, that may get more serious," he said.

The CTO Chairman said that the presentation would again emphasize the need for branding the Caribbean, adding a "brand is just not marketing, it is a promise".

"Unfortunately we have not done that," he said, adding that the introduction of the satellite accounting system to measure the economic importance of the tourism industry to Caribbean countries was vital.

"Tourism is never reflected in national accounts and if something is not measurable you can't improve upon it," he said.

"We are going to do a presentation because we have now found funding to help the governments implement satellite accounting systems in each country."

The leaders will also discuss the air transportation sector, with Chastenet indicating

that the issue of establishing hubs to service the region would be on the agenda.

"Also, we would be looking at the Caribbean as a single space," he said, also noting that there is need to combine the various civil aviation authorities in the region.

"One has to consider whether we can achieve more by having one civil aviation authority that would be more cost effective and more prolific in what they are trying to achieve."

Chastenet said the crisis now confronting the tourism industry has also shown that the operations of the regional airlines are not viable. "One of the things that all of our airlines are proving in this region is that they are not economically viable, so we know that the model we have been using doesn't work and I am really hoping that we really have functional cooperation.

There should be at least a meeting a year in which the regional carriers are sitting down and trying to make sure that their schedules are coincided," he said.

"Why should a person have to leave the Bahamas and have to go the (United) States in order to come to the other parts of the Caribbean?"

"Why can't that take place through Jamaica and then down into the Eastern Caribbean. It is ridiculous that Caribbean Airlines and LIAT don't even interlock. So those are the things that we will be bringing to the Heads' attention and basically saying this is now having a negative impact on our tourism arrivals.

Host Prime Minister and CARICOM Chairman Baldwin Spencer said that increases in airfares and new airline charges were also contributing to the "bleak perspectives for the region's tourism-driven economies".

He said that while he was encouraged by the efforts of the regional airline LIAT to fill the void created by the reduction in airlift by US air carriers, it was not, however, a viable proposition. "International airlift is a present and critical problem. So, too, regional sea and air transportation for tourism and trade and personal and business travel," Spencer said.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Republican Earmark Guidance, I am including the following request, which has received funding in H.R. 6599.

Project: Unified Security Forces Operations Building.

Cost: \$7,400,000.

Account: Military Construction—Defense Wide.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Joint Base.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2901 Falcon Lane, McGuire Air Force Base, NJ 08641.

Description of Request: The joint security headquarters is designed to serve all three services and installations. This funding is for the first of two construction phases. The structure will house criminal investigation personnel, training facilities, detention and confinement areas, identification facilities, and an armory and weapons cleaning stations.

CONGRATULATING THE HUGH
O'BRIAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP
PROGRAM ON THEIR 50TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Program as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary this summer. Since its foundation, HOBY has instilled valuable leadership techniques in over 365,000 high school sophomores creating exceptional leaders for our future.

As a recipient of the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Program my sophomore year in high school, and now a proud alumnus, HOBY afforded me the honor of representing my classmates, my neighbors, and my community. It's not often a teenager gets to be an ambassador—but HOBY has given that chance to hundreds of thousands of students.

HOBY has proved to be an outstanding influence on our younger generations. Each year, with over two million volunteer hours recorded by HOBY students and volunteers, HOBY participants are making a difference. HOBY's success is also evident in the many non-profit organizations that have been created by HOBY alumni, including Food for Thought and Our Education.

HOBY Ambassadors are now recognized in more than 20 countries at the World Leadership Congress. Their program has grown to include students from Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Mexico, Israel, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Korea. By extending the HOBY experience internationally, it allows HOBY Ambassadors to take one step further and encourage innovative thinking.

May their mission continue to thrive as they "provide lifelong leadership development opportunities that empower youth to achieve their highest potential". Congratulations on 50 years of tremendous success.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA BLOOM AND
RICHARD GAARD

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate two Iowans, Linda Bloom and Richard Gaard on being named national high school coaches of the year in their respective sports.

Linda Bloom is the Girls' Swimming and Diving coach at Marshalltown High School in Marshalltown, Iowa. She has coached the Bobcats for 22 years and has accumulated a career record of 172–36. She has been named Regional Swim Coach of the Year thirteen times and was the 1993 Iowa State Swimming Coach of the Year. Coach Bloom is the current president of the Iowa Girls and Women's Sports Committee and a member of the Board of Directors of the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union. She also coaches the Marshalltown Girls' Golf team.

Richard Gaard is the Boys' Golf coach at Decorah High School in Decorah, Iowa. He

has coached the Vikings 36 years and has a career record of 333–123–11. His teams have won nine conference, thirteen district, and nine regional championships. Coach Gaard helped establish and is a charter member of the Iowa Golf Coaches Association. In 2007, he was named the Iowa Golf Coaches' Association Coach of the Year and has been named conference coach of the year 10 times. Coach Gaard is also a football and basketball official as well as the head of Decorah High School's DECA Program.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in congratulating Coach Linda Bloom and Coach Richard Gaard on their coaching success and for making a difference in the lives of Iowa's youth. It is an honor to represent Coach Bloom and Coach Gaard in the United States Congress, and I wish them the best as they continue to provide a positive impact as role models and mentors.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: TOM COLE (OK–4).

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Account: Military Construction, Air Force.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Tom Cole (OK–4).

Address of Entity: Tinker AFB, 7751 1st St, Tinker AFB, OK 73145.

Description of Request: This \$5,400,000 addition to the Air Force MilCon Account will accelerate from within the FYDP the realignment of Air Depot Street at Tinker Gate. This project is fully executable in the next fiscal year, is within the FYDP, supported by the base commander, is a base priority, and has a parametric cost estimate associated with it. The existing roadway alignment poses a safety issue and does not satisfy the Anti-Force/force protection requirements. It is not in compliance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices—extreme congestion during morning and afternoon peak traffic flows presents significant driver safety issues as exits are made from a major Interstate onto the entrance to Tinker AFB. The project also provides for a new Pass and Identification building consolidating all operations at the 24-hour gate.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PACE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the Pace, Florida Fire Department.

In 1959 the city of Pace had little access to emergency services. A small group of ten local citizens took matters into their own hands and heeded their community's call for

help. With only two donated fire trucks, these ten brave men created the Pace Volunteer Fire Department and began responding to local emergencies. In the beginning, the department had no station to house firemen or fire trucks. Instead, two Pace households used "fire phones" to take emergency calls. These households would then phone each firefighter at home to alert them of the fire. With little extra funding for gear, the men often responded to these fires with nothing but the clothes on their backs and courage in their hearts.

As the fire department gained its footing in the Pace area, the local community began to provide funding for a new alert system, a new fire station, and appropriate firefighting gear. The firefighters' wives founded a ladies auxiliary which helped to raise funds and to support their husbands. With such dedicated support from the local society, the fire department quickly grew to over thirty firefighters. Over the past fifty years, the Pace Volunteer Fire Department has expanded from one station and two donated fire engines to four substations and eleven fire trucks. Today, a group of twenty firefighters and ten associate members now respond to over 1,400 emergency calls each year.

The dedicated men and women of the Pace Fire Department have faithfully served their community for fifty years. Each and every day these volunteers respond bravely to our most dangerous disasters, and they ask for nothing in return. Their commitment to the citizens of Pace and passion in fulfilling their duties distinguishes them as one of the best fire departments in the country.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor the Pace Fire Department for its fifty years of courageous service to their community.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman LAMAR SMITH.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Account: Defense Medical Program, TRICARE Management Activity, Military Construction, Defense-Wide.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fort Sam Houston.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1206 Stanley Road, Suite A, Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234–5001.

Description of Request: The funding would be used to construct a medical instruction facility. This project provides general and applied instructional space, administrative space and automation-aided classroom space.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the Republican adopted standards

on earmarks, I submit the below detailed explanation of the C-130 Squadron Operations Facility for the 182nd Airlift Wing, Illinois Air National Guard.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599—The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Provisions/Account: MilCon, Air National Guard, JLQN069160.

Name and Address of Requesting Entity: 182nd Airlift Wing, Illinois Air National Guard, 2416 S. Falcon Boulevard, Greater Peoria Regional Airport, Peoria, IL 61607.

Description of Request: This is a top priority for the Illinois Air National Guard. This project has already received architecture and engineering funding from the National Guard Bureau, and will be ready to utilize FY09 funds. This request would provide a properly sized and adequately configured facility to accommodate airlift squadron operations. The current facility is only 86 percent of the authorized space. It is extremely overcrowded and inadequate to support the ongoing airlift mission of this C-130 base. Upon completion of this project, the current Operations building will be reconfigured to address the critical space shortages of other base operations.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mrs. CUBIN. Madam Speaker, in conformance with Republican Earmark Standards Guidance, I hereby submit the attached detailed finance plan for the C–130 Squadron Operations Facility at the Cheyenne Municipal Airport in Cheyenne, WY. This project is funded at \$7,000,000 in H.R. 6599, the Fiscal Year 2009 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, as reported by the House Appropriations Committee on July 24, 2008. I am pleased to support this project on behalf of the Wyoming National Guard as they seek to fulfill vital national defense and homeland security requirements in association with the active duty Air Force.

Requesting Member: Rep. BARBARA CUBIN (WY–At Large).

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Account: Military Construction; Air National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Wyoming National Guard.

Address of Requesting Entity: 5500 Bishop Boulevard, Cheyenne, WY 82009.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark for \$7,000,000 to construct a squadron operations facility at the Cheyenne Municipal Airport in Cheyenne, WY. Specifically, \$5,795,000 for basic construction of the approximately 26,200 square foot facility; \$200,000 for utilities; \$165,000 for roadway and parking pavements; \$55,000 for site improvements; \$75,000 for communications support; \$315,000 in contingency funds for unforeseen expenses; and \$396,000 for supervision, inspection and overhead. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Air National Guard's Military Construction account. The Wyoming National

Guard has identified a need for this new, consolidated facility to provide space for administration, training, intelligence, life support, survival equipment, command post, flight planning, aircrew briefing rooms, flight management, and storage. This facility is designed to sustain 24-hour/day operations supporting airborne firefighting, aeromedical evacuation, and homeland defense missions of 12—PAA C—130 aircraft associated with active duty Air Force personnel.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I am placing this statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Requesting Member: Congressman BILL SHUSTER (PA—9).

Bill Number: H.R. 6599—The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs FY09 Appropriations bill.

Project Name: Army Reserve Center, Letterkenny Army Depot.

Account: MILCON, Army Reserve.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Letterkenny Army Depot.

Address of Requesting Entity: Letterkenny Army Depot, Franklin County, Pennsylvania.

Description of Request/Justification of Federal Funding:

Provide \$14.914 million for Army Reserve Center, Letterkenny Army Depot.

It is my understanding that funding for this project would consolidate three area Army Reserve facilities at the Letterkenny Army Depot (LEAD) in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. The project will provide a 300 member training facility with administrative areas, classrooms, assembly hall, arms vault, kitchen, equipment storage areas, physical training rooms, and maintenance facilities. LEAD has set aside 7.5 acres of secure federal land for construction of the Reserve Center. The Center will be constructed behind the Letterkenny fence and adjacent to 600 acres of federal land which are used for Reserve training. This facility will also meet all projected force protection and anti-terrorism standards. This project is in the President's FY 2009 budget and the U.S. Army Reserve Fiscal Year 2009 FYDP.

Project Name: Upgrade Munition Igloos, Phase 2, Letterkenny Army Depot.

Account: MILCON, Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Letterkenny Army Depot.

Address of Requesting Entity: Letterkenny Army Depot, Franklin County, Pennsylvania.

Description of Request / Justification of Federal Funding:

Provide \$7.5 million for Upgrade Munition Igloos, Phase 2, Letterkenny Army Depot.

It is my understanding that funding for this project would modify igloo doors and provide concrete ramps to significantly increase productivity and enhance Letterkenny Army Depot's (LEAD), ability to rapidly and safely support mission requirements. Letterkenny is a major receiving, storage, maintenance, and shipping site for both tactical missiles and conventional ammunition. These munitions are

stored in 902 igloos constructed in the 1940s to store low technology ammunition that could be carried by hand. 706 of these igloos have 4 foot wide single doors and a two step differential between the pavement and igloo floor. Funding for this project will modify approximately 100 igloos to 10 foot doors and provide concrete ramps direct from the pavement to the igloo. This project is in the U.S. Army Fiscal Year 2011 FYDP. Letterkenny's munitions storage mission continues to grow and its need for upgraded igloos to meet this mission requirement is more immediate than programmed.

Project Name: Carlisle Barracks, Museum Support Facility.

Account: MILCON, Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Carlisle Barracks.

Address of Requesting Entity: Carlisle, Barracks, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Description of Request/Justification of Federal Funding:

Provide \$13.4 million for Museum Support Facility, Carlisle Barracks.

It is my understanding that funding will be used to construct a Museum Support Facility to provide curation, conservation, and storage of historical artifacts and art; conservation of manuscripts and associated paper materials; research areas, office, and associated activities to support the U.S. Army Heritage and Educational Center and other Army historical activities in coordination with the Center of Military History. The facility will also provide a major educational and tourist facility in the Central Pennsylvania region.

TRIBUTE TO DEAN HAUGE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Dean Hauge, groundskeeper at Elmwood-Saint Joseph Cemetery in Mason City, Iowa, after serving his community for over 29 years.

Dean's father, Morris, was the groundskeeper of Elmwood for 27 years prior to Dean taking over the reigns. His uncles Truman Hauge and Virgil Cox also worked at the cemetery. Dean's groundskeeper job at the 120-acre cemetery included maintaining the property, digging and filling graves, erecting tents and chairs for funerals, and assisting families in locating burial sites and headstones. Dean's big heart and dedicated service has helped many families deal with the unfortunate loss of loved ones over many years.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Dean for his service to his community and congratulating him on his retirement. I consider it an honor to represent Dean in Congress, and I wish him and his wife Janice a long, happy and healthy retirement.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

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

Requesting Member: Congressman HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599—The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Military Construction (Milcon), Air Force.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Edwards Air Force Base.

Address of Requesting Entity: Edwards AFB, CA 93524.

Description of Request: At my request, a project appropriation of \$6,000,000 is included in the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill to complete construction of a main base operations ramp replacement at Edwards Air Force Base. The Air Force has assessed that the 50-year-old main runway is rapidly deteriorating and is projected to fail in the very near term impacting base operations and flight testing. The Air Force has also determined that temporary relocation of base operations is infeasible and that any delay in funding could result in costs to the government of approximately \$4,000,000.

HALTING RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE U.S. MILITARY

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, the stories are shocking in their simplicity and brutality: a female military recruit is pinned down at knifepoint and raped repeatedly in her barracks. Though her attackers hid their faces she identified them by their uniforms. They were her fellow soldiers. During a routine gynecological exam, a female soldier is attacked and raped by her military physician. Yet another young soldier, still adapting to life in a war zone, is raped by her commanding officer. Afraid for her standing in her unit, she feels she has nowhere to turn.

These are true stories, and, sadly, not isolated incidents. Women serving in the U.S. military are more likely to be raped by a fellow soldier than killed by enemy fire in Iraq.

The scope of the problem was brought into acute focus for me during a visit to the West Los Angeles VA Health Center, where I met with female veterans and their doctors. My jaw dropped when the doctors told me that 41 percent of female veterans seen there say they are victims of sexual assault while in the military and 29 percent report being raped during their military service. They spoke of their continued terror, feelings of helplessness, and the downward spirals many of their lives have since taken.

Numbers reported by the Department of Defense show the same sickening pattern. In 2006, 2,947 sexual assaults were reported—73 percent more than in 2004. The DOD's most recent report, released earlier this summer, indicates that 2,688 reports were made in

2007, but a recent shift from calendar year reporting to fiscal year reporting makes comparisons with data from previous years much more difficult.

The Pentagon has made some efforts to manage this epidemic—most notably in 2005, after the media received anonymous e-mail messages about sexual assaults at the Air Force Academy. The press scrutiny and congressional attention that followed led DOD to create the Sexual Assault and Response Office. Since its inception, SAPRO has initiated training and improved reporting of rapes and sexual assaults but has inexplicably failed to track prosecution rates or how victims are faring within the military structure.

At the heart of this crisis is an apparent inability or unwillingness to prosecute rapists in the ranks. According to the DOD's own statistics, a mere 181 out of 2,212 subjects—or 8 percent—investigated for sexual assault in 2007 (including 1,259 reports of rape) were referred to courts martial. In nearly half of the cases investigated, the chain of command took no action and in the majority of those that were acted upon, the offenders were assigned administrative or non-judicial punishment. In other words, slaps on the wrist. In more than one-third of the cases that were not pursued, the commander took no action because of “insufficient evidence.”

This is in stark contrast to the civil justice system, where 40 percent of those arrested for rape are prosecuted, according to the Department of Justice and FBI.

The DOD must close this gap and remove the obstacles to effective investigation and prosecution. Failure to draw bright red lines produces two harmful consequences: it deters victims from reporting rapes and it fails to deter offenders. The absence of rigorous prosecution perpetuates a culture tolerant of sexual assault and rape—an attitude that says “boys will be boys.”

The legislation that Mr. TURNER and I introduce today calls on the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to end assault and rape in the military—to encourage and increase investigations and prosecutions.

I have raised the issue personally with Defense Secretary Gates, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Admiral Mullen, and Army Secretary Geren, among others. While they express real concern, thus far the military's response has been underwhelming. The apparent lack of urgency is inexcusable.

Congress can do better too. While these sexual assault statistics are readily available, our oversight has failed to come to grips with the magnitude of the crisis. No doubt the abhorrent and graphic nature of the reports makes people uncomfortable. But this is no excuse for inaction. I applaud the National Security and Foreign Affairs Subcommittee of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee for holding hearings later this week to shine a light on the failure of existing policies.

Madam Speaker, most of our service women and men are patriotic, courageous and hard-working people who embody the best of what it means to be an American. The failure to stem sexual assault and rape in the military runs counter to those ideals and shames us all.

INTRODUCTION ON THE CONNELL LAKE WATERSHED PROTECTION AND RECREATION ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, today I introduce a really simple bill which will help one of the towns in my home State of Alaska. This bill will fix a problem which cannot be solved without this legislation. The bill, entitled the Connell Lake Watershed Protection bill, will allow the Forest Service to apply the Recreation and Public Purposes Act to a vital watershed in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough.

By doing this, the local government, the Borough, can manage and protect the watershed which is now owned by the Forest Service. While the Forest Service can manage this area, it is better that the local government has control of its own watershed since that watershed is located within the Borough's boundaries.

This is a small area—just 880 acres consisting of a natural lake which was enlarged by a dam constructed in the 1950s when the area was used by the now defunct Ketchikan Pulp Company. The company needed a water source and constructed a small dam to enlarge the already existing, natural Connell Lake. That lake has since served as a water source for the Ketchikan area and the Borough wishes to own and maintain the lake and the surrounding area.

If Ketchikan were not completely contained within the Tongass National Forest, there would be an easy solution, the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, which is specifically designed to solve problems like these. If these lands were in the public domain in the lower 48 States, the Bureau of Land Management would simply process a deed under that Act to allow the Borough obtain ownership of the land subject to a reverter if the land is not used for either recreation or public purposes.

However, the Recreation and Public Purposes Act does not apply to the National Forest System. So, Congress must approve the use of the act for this purpose. This is not an unprecedented situation, and Congress has passed similar legislation in the past. For example, in The Southern Nevada Public Land Management act of 1998, P. L. 105–263, Congress approved a bill to allow this Act to be used in both Southern Nevada and in the Tahoe Basin, which lands became part of the National Forest System.

So, Madam Speaker, I ask only that this bill be passed to allow local government to use the Act just as it would in Nevada or any other western state. The Borough is well able to handle this management and will maintain the current management which is as a recreational site and for water source and watershed protection. The full terms and conditions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act would apply—no exceptions are being asked.

I look forward to rapid consideration and passage of this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, on H. Res. 1311—National Gear Up Day, H. Res. 1202—National Guard Youth Challenge Day, H.R. 6493—Aviation Safety Enhancement Act of 2008, I was not able to return to the House because myself and 6 other Members of Congress from Texas had to make an emergency plane landing due to mechanical problems on CO flight 458. Thus this emergency prevented a timely return to Washington, DC.

Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on all three of these measures.

TRIBUTE TO DALE MORSE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dale Morse for his longtime service to the International Lions Club.

Dale has been a member of the Rippey, Iowa Lions Club for 40 years. The International Lions Club is a volunteer organization which works together to answer the needs that challenge communities around the world, including an end to preventable blindness, cleaning local parks and providing essential supplies to victims of natural disasters. Dale's dedication to his community and fulfilling the objectives of the Iowa Lions Club has made a lasting impact on those around him.

Although Dale is no longer able to regularly attend meetings, his Lions Club membership remains active, and his community remains grateful for his service and continued participation. I consider it an honor to represent Dale Morse in the United States Congress, and I wish him the very best in his future.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Republican Earmark Guidance, I am including the following projects I supported that were included in the 2008 President's Budget and subsequently received funding in H.R. 6599:

Project: Modified Record Range
 Cost: \$3,825,000
 Account: Military Construction—Army
 Legal Name of Requesting Entity: McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Joint Base
 Address of Requesting Entity: Command Headquarters, Building 5417, Fort Dix, NJ 08640.

Description of Request: Range will train and test individual soldiers on the skills necessary to identify, engage and defeat stationary infantry targets for day/night qualification requirements with the M16 and M4 rifles. Range improves the capability of Fort Dix, which supports the Army Reserve and National Guard

forces as one of the four main power projection platforms

Project: Advanced Arresting Gear Test Site
Cost: \$15,440,000

Account: Military Construction—Navy

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Joint Base

Address of Requesting Entity: Naval Air Engineering Station, Hwy 547 Building 150-3, Lakehurst, NJ 08733.

Description of Request: Project provides permanent facilities that will be part of the recovery test sites, which will support the new CVN 78 carriers. Advanced Arresting Gear will provide a reliable aircraft recovery system consistent with current technology for controlled deceleration of landing aircraft. The Advanced Arresting Gear will initially serve as the forerunner for ship installations and eventually serve as the land-based testing facility.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, consistent with Republican transparency standards, the following is a disclosure for each of my requested projects in H.R. 6599, the FY 2009 Military Construction-VA Appropriations Bill:

Requesting Member: Rep. JAMES T. WALSH.
Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Account: Military Construction—Air National Guard.

Legal Name of Representing Entity: Hancock Field, Air National Guard, Syracuse, NY.

Address of Requesting Entity: 6001 East Malloy Road, Syracuse, NY 13211.

Description of Request: (1) Include \$5 million for Hancock Field—TFI—Predator IOC/FOC Beddown. This is included in the President's FY 2009 Budget Request. Funding will be used for conversion and upgrade of the Squadron Operations Facility to bed down Predator Operations Center (POC), Ground Control Station (GOC) and squadron operation functions. Rearrange and extend interior walls and utilities. Provide secure areas and Sensitive Compartmentalized Information Facility (SCIF) and alarm systems. Provide sustain-

able design elements and high efficiency energy-saving features/materials. Provide standby power with uninterruptible power capability. Exterior work includes: utility support, pavements, site improvements, fire protection, and antiterrorism force protection measures. See DD Form 1391 for project details.

(2) Include \$5.4 million for Hancock Field—Upgrade ASOS Facilities (Included in FYDP); Funding will be used for an addition: metal framed, masonry slab-on-grade facility with standing seam metal roof, architecturally compatible to existing facility. Rearrange and extend interior walls and utilities. Provide interior walls, ceilings, and floor coverings and finishes as well as plumbing, electrical, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, alarms, and fire detection and suppression functions. Provide exterior support such as pavements, utilities, site improvements, fire protection and all other necessary work as required. Install utility metering and connect to Direct Digital Control System. See DD Form 1391 for project details.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the Republican Conference standards regarding Member initiatives, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding the earmark I received as part of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (Alabama).

Bill Number: H.R. 6599, Military Construction—Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for FY 2009.

Account: MILCON, Army.

Legal Name of Entity: Anniston Army Depot.

Address of Requesting Entity: 7 Frankford Avenue, Anniston, AL 36201.

Description of Request: This earmark provides \$1,400,000 for the Lake Yard Interchange. The funding will be used to construct an interchange and inspection building in the ammunition and explosives classification (Lake

Yard) area of the Anniston Army Depot. This includes the move of ammunition classification from Turner Yard to the Lake Yard. Additionally, the site utilities will include electrical power, information technology, water, septic tank/field lines. The railroad track work will include new track for the interchange and spur.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, consistent with New Republican Earmark Disclosure Requirements, I hereby submit the following information regarding earmarks listed in the Fiscal Year 2009 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, which to my knowledge, have my name listed as a sponsor of the given earmark. The information provided for each earmark consists of the name of the project, account, funding level, and the justification for the use of taxpayer dollars.

Requesting Member: Representative JOE KNOLLENBERG (R-MI).

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Account Information: Army National Guard, Military Construction.

Name of Earmark and Amount Listed in the Report: Urban Assault Course.

Legal Name and Address of Receiving Entity: Michigan National Guard, Camp Grayling.

Earmark Description: The funding will be used for combat leaders to train and evaluate their unit during urban assault practice scenarios.

Requesting Member: Representative JOE KNOLLENBERG (R-MI).

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Account Information: Army National Guard, Military Construction.

Name of Earmark and Amount Listed in the Report: Live Fire Shoot House.

Legal Name and Address of Receiving Entity: Michigan National Guard, Camp Grayling.

Earmark Description: The funding will be used for combat leaders to train and evaluate their unit during live fire practice scenarios.