

when our country is at war and the lives of our men and women in the armed services depend on the equipment that is supplied to them by our procurement offices. Unfortunately, and to my complete dismay, there have been far too many instances over the past decade where the Pentagon's procurement policies have sold our soldiers short.

In January of 2006 it was revealed by the New York Times that an internal Pentagon memo reported that 80 percent of the Marines killed in Iraq due to upper body wounds could have survived if they had extra body armor. This troubling news followed earlier revelations that our troops went into Iraq without enough bulletproof vests and armored vehicles necessary to safeguard their lives. In light of these reports I requested that the Department of Defense Inspector General conduct an investigation into the Pentagon's body armor procurement policies. The Inspector General's initial findings, while incomplete, uncovered a troubling trend: 13 of the Army's 28 body armor contracts between January, 2004, and December, 2006, did not either require, perform, or have documentation to support proper first article testing as required by Federal Acquisition Requirements. While I am waiting for the Inspector General to complete a more thorough audit of the overall body armor procurement policy, these initial results should spark the desire for greater contracting oversight in any civic minded person.

In addition to the DoD IG's findings on body armor, there have been numerous recent public cases where the Pentagon's procurement policies have failed our troops. Earlier this year it was revealed that in 2007, the Army awarded a contract worth over \$200 million to two 22 year old boys to supply ammunition to Afghan troops. Appallingly, this ammunition was found to be from the Cold War era and completely inadequate for the Army's needs. Additionally, the botched contract award by the Air Force for KC-135 tankers, which was, challenged, reviewed by GAO, and ultimately reopened, received even greater public scrutiny. And perhaps most damning is the recent GAO report that the Pentagon has wasted about \$300 billion in defense spending.

These public examples show a disturbing trend of the failure of Pentagon procurement policy. They also suggest that an increasingly blurred line between the public and private sectors as identified by the Advisory Panel, as well as the perceived "revolving door" between contracting offices and private contractors, have consistently undermined the public's best interest.

This legislation will fight the revolving door between Pentagon contracting offices and private defense contractors by strengthening the transparency and reporting requirements for private contractors bidding on and receiving defense contracts. The Fairness and Accountability in Defense Contracting Act will require contractors who are bidding on contracts to disclose any Defense Department employment history of its employees. This legislation will also require that contractors submit a yearly report, for each year that a contract is in effect, which discloses this Defense Department employment history. The Department of Defense will also be required to submit a report to congressional defense committees that details the employment information reported by the contractor as required by this Act. And finally, this legislation will direct the GAO to

submit a report to Congress on the implementation and enforcement of rules governing future employment negotiations of contracting officials.

These measures will provide the transparency necessary to ensure that conflicts of interest with the Defense contracting offices, and a perceived revolving door to the private sector, are not undermining the public trust and selling the American taxpayers short. Most importantly, this legislation is necessary to ensure that defense contracting policies serve to provide the best possible equipment for our men and women in uniform at the best possible value to the taxpayer.

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RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MATTHEW K. ROSE

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Matthew K. Rose, Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. Rose is being honored as this year's Fort Worth Business Executive of the Year and will be inducted into the Fort Worth Business Hall of Fame.

In June 1999, Rose became Chief Operating Officer of Burlington Northern Santa Fe where he was responsible for all operations and marketing activities. He quickly accrued accomplishments, being made President and Chief Executive Officer in December of 2000, and later being elected Chairman of Burlington Northern Santa Fe in March of 2002.

In addition to leading the company to five consecutive years of recordsetting revenue earnings, Rose rebuilt flood-damaged rail lines ahead of schedule and won national recognition for this accomplishment. Rose's peers know him as not only a gifted businessman but also as a man with excellent leadership skills and a strong ability to work well with others.

It is with great honor that I recognize Matthew Rose for his hard work and leadership given to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. He sets a great example for us all, and I am proud to represent him in Washington.

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IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES C. BINNICKER

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize James C. Binnicker, a man who has dedicated a lifetime of service both to our country and to the families of our military veterans. It is my pleasure and privilege to honor him as a great leader and a great American.

Mr. Binnicker's career of service began as a Civil Air Patrol cadet in his hometown of Aiken, South Carolina. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1957. Mr. Binnicker served honorably and with distinction for more

than thirty years. He reached the pinnacle of achievement in 1986 when he was selected to be the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force.

The Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force is a unique non-commissioned rank. As the highest enlisted leader in the Air Force, Chief Master Sergeant Binnicker served as the personal adviser to the Air Force Chief of Staff and the Secretary of the Air Force on all issues regarding the welfare, readiness, morale, and utilization of the enlisted forces. There have only been fifteen Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force in the history of the U.S. military, and Mr. Binnicker was the ninth.

When Mr. Binnicker retired from the Air Force in 1990, he could have rested on the legacy he had created. Instead, he took on another challenge, the leadership and development of the Air Force Enlisted Village, a non-profit charity in Shalimar, Florida that provides a home for the surviving spouses of enlisted airmen. As President and CEO of the Enlisted Village, Mr. Binnicker oversees a \$28 million organization with 86 employees who care for more than 500 independent and assisted living residents on two campuses.

Mr. Binnicker's accomplishments were recognized in 2008 when the Florida Association of Homes and Services for the Aging selected him as their "Executive of the Year." Considering that caring for the elderly is a second career for Mr. Binnicker, the honor of being recognized by his peers in the state's largest aging-services organization is quite significant. Mr. Binnicker has dedicated his life to helping those in need, we will be eternally grateful for his service.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor one of America's true heroes, James C. Binnicker, for his leadership and service to Northwest Florida and throughout the world.

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TRIBUTE TO THE CLEAR LAKE PATROL DIVISION AND HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

**HON. NICK LAMPSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, I am privileged to recognize the Clear Lake Patrol Division of the Houston Police Department for its outstanding service to the Houston community in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike.

In the days following the storm, the Clear Lake Patrol Division was dispatched to provide security at the congressional mobile office at the American Legion Post 490 near Ellington Field. By providing security, traffic and crowd control, the officers were able to ensure a successful operation and allow thousands of individuals to register for hurricane assistance.

Founded in 1841, the Houston Police Department continues to provide invaluable service and has grown to become the largest municipal police departments in the State of Texas. Under the leadership of Lieutenant Eldon Harris, the Clear Lake Patrol Division acts as a preserver of peace and a source of safety for the Clear Lake area of Houston.

It is my distinct honor to recognize the Houston Police Department's Clear Lake Patrol Division for their remarkable efforts following Hurricane Ike. Without their service, the

5,943 individuals that applied for assistance at the congressional mobile office would not have been possible.

The following police officers helped ensure the accessibility and effectiveness of the congressional mobile office:

Randall L. Derr—Senior Police Officer  
Ricky W. Dalme—Sergeant of Police  
Marvin Dutton—Sergeant of Police  
Eldon Harris—Lieutenant of Police  
Gregory Gillespie—Sergeant of Police  
David L. Knatt—Police Officer  
Gary L. Schaefer—Police Officer

HONORING MICHAEL J. CRITELLI

### HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I pay tribute today to Michael J. Critelli—one of our foremost leaders in corporate America today. Mike has been at the helm of Pitney Bowes for over a decade and with the company for almost 30 years. At the end of this year, he steps down so on the occasion of his retirement. I would like to recognize his years of service.

Mike has been a leader at Pitney Bowes for many years in a number of positions. He's been the company's general counsel, chief personnel officer, president of Pitney Bowes Financial Services as well as chief executive officer and chairman of the board and is currently the executive chairman of the board. He's been a business leader not only in his home State of Connecticut, where Pitney Bowes is headquarters in my district in Stamford, but also on issues here in Washington, DC.

Mike spent a tremendous amount of time working on postal reform legislation and his work was exemplary. He helped to form the Mailing Industry CEO Council, an organization of over a dozen leaders of major mailing industry companies. As CEO of Pitney Bowes as well as chairman of the Mailing Industry CEO Council, he came to town frequently to meet with me and other members of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee and many others to champion the postal reform legislation and need for reform. His commitment to this issue was extraordinary. And in the second session of the 109th Congress, we saw the legislation pass the House and Senate and it became law.

One of the people there with President Bush—front and center—when the President signed the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act into law was Mike Critelli. It was the culmination of years of effort by those of us in Congress but also people in the mailing industry like Mike Critelli. He was, almost without a doubt, the single most dedicated corporate executive working with us in Congress to enact that legislation. He knew it was what the U.S. Postal Service needed in order to survive and thrive for the long term and he was dedicated to helping get it done.

Mike has also been committed to helping retain jobs in Connecticut. At a Government Reform Committee hearing several years ago on postal reform, Mike Critelli testified. He made a decision to move some jobs to an old industrial city in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He could have moved some of these folks elsewhere

but he knew that Bridgeport needed the jobs. That not only speaks volumes for who Mike Critelli is, but it also speaks volumes for the commitment of Pitney Bowes and its leaders to the well-being of our State.

Mike's commitment to our community has been a constant for over two decades during which he has volunteered in a range of advocacy roles for organizations in Connecticut. For example, he has been active on transportation issues including most recently serving as chairman of Governor Rell's Commission on the Reform of the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

I am grateful for Mike's dedication to the people of our community and the important issues affecting them. Please join me in recognizing Michael J. Critelli as he retires this year.

### CONSOLIDATED SECURITY, DISASTER ASSISTANCE, AND CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

SPEECH OF

### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 2008*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2638, The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act. This bill makes critical investments in America to provide we have the necessary resources to secure our nation, to prepare and respond to natural disasters, and to maintain the uninterrupted flow of important government services and functions.

This continuing resolution includes three annual appropriations bills to operate important security programs in the departments of Defense, Homeland Security, and Veterans Administration. With the nation engaged in military conflict both in Afghanistan and Iraq, it is important that Congress provide the necessary investments in the Defense Department for the American men and women engaged in both battles. As a step-mother of a uniformed soldier and a wife to a former Marine, I am particularly pleased with the increased investment of \$28.4 million over current funding; among other important items for our troops this will address equipment shortfalls, supply quality training, and provide top of the line medical care to our troops.

The bill increases our investment in Homeland Security by \$2.3 billion over 2008 levels. Most of this increase is in the area of grants to states and localities for much needed security programs such as those for urban areas, states, transit systems, fire, interoperable communications and emergency management performance. Key programs in customs and border protection and the Transportation Security Administration which monitor and safeguard our borders, trade and transport systems will also receive increases.

The bill also makes investments in veterans' programs and in military construction, providing a \$9 billion increase in funding. We all appreciate and honor the service and sacrifice of our veterans, and these investments will fund increases for medical care and will improve access to medical services for all vet-

erans. It also continues a critically needed quality of life initiative to improve living conditions for training soldiers and marines and to upgrade substandard medical treatment facilities.

In addition to these three regular appropriations bills, our legislation addresses important emergency needs. With hurricanes in the gulf coast, floods in the Midwest, and wildfires in the west, America has experienced another year of dramatic weather-related disasters. Our bill makes a \$22.9 billion investment to not only respond to these specific events but also to ensure our preparation and readiness for future emergencies. These funds will help rebuild damaged highways, levees and other public infrastructure; help communities revitalize their damaged economies; and provide important social services to affected residents.

Of course, it is equally important that we take the opportunity of this continuing resolution to address certain important domestic needs. Accordingly, this bill makes several important investments to directly benefit hard-working families, as well as strengthen the American economy. These investments include the following increases over current funding:

\$1 billion for Nutrition for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) to provide mothers and their children with proper nutrition to cover increased costs as more families struggle with the economic downturn and rising food costs; \$23.5 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program to prevent nearly 70,000 low-income women, infants, children, and elderly citizens, from losing access to food;

\$2.5 billion for the Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) to help families pay rising home energy bills, assisting an additional 2 million households and raising the average grant from \$355 to \$550;

\$2.5 billion for Pell Grants to prevent cuts to student aid midway through the school year;

\$2.9 billion to help the Census Bureau to ramp up operations for the 2010 Census; and

\$7.5 billion to support \$25 billion in loans to help American automakers retool their factories to build more fuel-efficient vehicles.

While I am pleased the continuing resolution addresses these important issues, I am disappointed that it does not include another important matter—an extension of the drilling ban on the outer continental shelf. Although an extension of the ban had become routine in the annual appropriations bills, the current energy crisis has made that impossible this year. I trust congressional leaders in the next Congress will reach an agreement that addresses our energy needs while still providing continued environmental safeguards for our coastlines and coastal communities.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents are not happy that once again Congress has had to resort to a continuing resolution to fund the operations of the government. Unfortunately, the Congress was left with no choice but to proceed in this fashion when the President threatened to veto domestic spending bills that exceed his inadequate requests. Re-investing in America and in American families is the new Majority's priority; however, it clearly is not the priority of the Administration as evidenced by the President's budget request. Rather than engage president renown for his inflexibility, the new Majority has opted to work with the next administration to fund these important programs.