

people about the Sikh faith, and now serves as president of the council. Jasjit Singh is vice president of the Central Orange County Interfaith Council.

"As a relatively recent immigrant, I am very appreciative of the opportunities that this country has given me," says Ahuja. "Our value system must remain steadfast. That's what distinguishes us from most any other country in the world."

Nina Totenberg "Ninotchka, we're proud of you."

Nina Totenberg still cherishes her father's words. She had just endured a period of intense scrutiny after her reporting led to testimony by law professor Anita Hill, during the confirmation hearing of Justice Clarence Thomas.

Her father, Roman Totenberg, a world-renowned violinist, performed across Europe by age eleven. A Polish Jew, he left Europe in 1935. "He saw the rise of Hitler," says his daughter, "but he came to America because it represented a kind of equality and meritocracy that did not exist in Europe."

Nina Totenberg's mother, Melanie, shared her interest in American politics. "I remember my mother watching the Army-McCarthy hearings on TV all day every day, explaining to me what was going on," says Totenberg. "I knew who all those senators were and I was eight years old."

At 16, reading *The Making of the President*, the classic book about the 1960 election, Totenberg confirmed her childhood desire to be a witness to history. "I wanted to be a reporter from the time I realized that I couldn't be Nancy Drew."

For the past three decades, Totenberg has reported for National Public Radio and is best known for her coverage of the Supreme Court. "There are a lot of injustices in the world and in this country," she says. "The ones that I can do something about—I will try to do something about." She credits her father, who still teaches at age 97.

YOU CAN'T GET MY DAD TO DO SOMETHING HE THINKS IS NOT RIGHT

We believe in fairness.

In America, the loudest voice does not always have the last word, and every voice has a right to be heard.

We act with hope.

Not because life is perfect, but because we are free to face life, and all its imperfections, on our own terms.

We rely on faith.

In a sturdy and tested framework of law and government that works because of the confidence we place in it and in each other.

WE ARE EACH RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING AMERICA ON COURSE

"Are we there yet?" the children ask.

We know the answer.

We pursue justice.

But still have a way to go.

We celebrate freedom.

But endlessly debate what it means to be free.

Our table is brimming.

But not everyone receives a fair portion.

John Lewis Growing up in a large family on a small farm in rural Alabama, John Lewis cared for the chickens.

When his parents wanted to sell or trade chickens, or have one for dinner, "I would protest," Lewis recalls. "They were creatures of God, and we didn't have a right to abuse them."

Lewis was fifteen in 1955, when Emmett Till, a black teenager, was brutally murdered in Mississippi. Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of the bus, and Martin Luther King, Jr., organized the Montgomery bus boycott. Listening to King on the radio, "It was like he was saying, 'John Lewis, you can do it,

YOU, TOO, CAN MAKE A CONTRIBUTION

Lewis went to Nashville, to study non-violence and become a minister. He participated in sit-in demonstrations, Freedom Rides, and the creation of a campus group called the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

"Even when I was being beaten, I saw these individuals almost like the chickens," he says. "They were innocent creatures and something happened to them."

As chairman of SNCC, at 23, Lewis stood with King and other civil rights leaders on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington in August 1963, preaching, "Wake up, America." He has exerted leadership in Congress since 1986, representing the district around Atlanta. "We've made progress," says Lewis. "The world is so different from the world I grew up in."

Still pursuing his vision of a "beloved community," Lewis asserts, "We need to turn toward each other to create a greater sense of community and belonging."

Tasneem Shamim. In the late 1990s, at about age 40, Tasneem Shamim began to feel spiritually empty.

She missed a sense of compassion and universality, which she remembered from her childhood in India and could not find in the mosques in New Jersey, where Shamim, a doctor, lives with her husband and three children.

"One of my early memories is going with my grandmother to the small villages. My grandmother started organizations to help women out of poverty and oppression."

To help reconnect with her feelings, Shamim visited the holy sites in Mecca and Medina, and she decided to cover her hair. Her mother and sister were concerned about potential antagonism, and one friend asked, "Do you have to go to chemotherapy?"

For Shamim, the head scarf is an opportunity to prompt and answer questions about Islam. Most important, it makes her more conscious of her roles in life.

"You become a doctor mostly to please God. God says, 'You cannot help Me, but help the creatures that I have created.'"

Shamim also began studying Sufism, a spiritual strand of Islam. At the urging of a Sufi leader that she express her religion in good works, Shamim established the Muslim Women's Coalition, a national organization devoted to community service and mutual respect.

PEOPLE ACCEPT THAT AMERICA IS A QUILT

Progress can be slow as we propose and protest, argue and advocate.

But we are grateful to be part of this vigorous democracy.

We enjoy its unparalleled privileges and accept its obligations:

To pursue our dreams while helping others.

To advance our convictions while respecting others.

To prepare our children for the gift of the American journey.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. KING of Iowa. 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 for 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 STEVE KING

Bill Number: H.R. 2638, The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army.

Project Name: Battlefield Plastic Biodiesel.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Renewable Energy Group and General Atomics.

Address of Requesting Entity: West Central, 406 First Street, Ralston, IA 51459. General Atomics, 3550 General Atomics Ct., San Diego, CA 92121.

Description of Request: \$1.6 million is provided in the bill to continue a 3-year partnership with the U.S. Army to develop a technology providing a cost effective way to recycle military plastic waste into a useable biodiesel fuel with enhanced energy yield, for use in field power generation and other applications. This technology has the potential to save taxpayers millions per month in military waste disposal costs, and enhance the viability of increased use of biodiesel by both the military and civilian sectors to achieve greater energy independence. The \$1.6 million FY09 appropriation is needed to complete the development phase of this multi-year project and demonstrate the technology.

RECOGNIZING THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize five students in my district that have received national honors from Future Farmers of America. These young people—Ryan Highsmith, Jordan Culpepper, Nicholas Worley, Jacob Schindler, and Courtney Curlin—have surpassed many other students to earn top honors for their work in local Future Farmers of America. All of these students excelled though challenging assessments at State and National level against their peers before being awarded these top accolades.

Ryan Highsmith of Lake Park, Georgia, won first place in the nation for Specialty Animal Production for his four year work with honey bee cultivation.

Jordan Culpepper of Lake Park, Georgia, won second place in the nation for Diversified Agriculture Production. Jordan dutifully worked with both livestock and crop production in a wide range of operations for over 5 years.

Nicholas Worley of Valdosta, Georgia, was named National Agriscience Student of the Year. Using clean wood chips and leftover biomass from Georgia forests, Nicholas found that a large amount of ethanol can be produced from these two sources.

Jacob Schindler of Valdosta, Georgia, won second place in the Junior Individual Botany Division. Jacob's project involved research on the effects of inert gases on kudzu. Jacob researched the uses of gases on kudzu, which enabled him to eradicate several large infestations of kudzu in the Valdosta area.

Courtney Curlin of Valdosta, Georgia won third place in the senior individual Engineering