

He was commissioned by the Los Angeles Olympic Committee to provide paintings for the Games and by the National Basketball Association to commemorate its 50th anniversary. He was also commissioned to provide paintings by the owners of the Los Angeles Lakers, New Orleans Saints, Oakland Raiders, and the Boston Patriots. Carolina Panthers owner Jerry Richardson, a teammate with the Baltimore Colts, commissioned Mr. Barnes to create the painting, "Victory in Overtime," that permanently hangs at the Charlotte football stadium.

Mr. Barnes' ability to capture the powerful energy and movement of sports earned him "America's Best Painter of Sports" by the American Sports Art Museum in 2004.

In 2007, in a New York tribute exhibition sponsored by the National Football League and Time Warner, Time Warner Chairman and CEO Richard D. Parsons said, "Imagine the courage and determination it took for a working class child from the segregated south in the 1940s to ignore all the naysayers and dare dream of becoming a successful artist."

Mr. Barnes's work embodied his strong personal beliefs and spirit, crossing political, racial, and geographic boundaries.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in observing the passing of a great American and one of the Nation's foremost African American artists. We are blessed that Mr. Barnes helped raise our collective consciousness and encouraged everyone to see the gifts and strengths in one another. We mourn his loss, celebrate his achievements, and send our deepest condolences to his family.

RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING OF  
DEPUTY BURTON LOPEZ,  
OKALOOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S  
DEPARTMENT

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2009*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Deputy Burton Lopez, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Department, who gave his life in the line of duty on April 25, 2009. Deputy Lopez served the Okaloosa Sheriff's Department with honor and distinction, and I am humbled to recognize this American hero.

Deputy Burton "Burt" Lopez began his career in the United States Air Force, proudly serving for over twenty years before retiring as a sergeant. His career took him across the world, including Northwest Florida's own Eglin Air Force base. He joined the Okaloosa Sheriff's Department shortly after his retirement, fulfilling a lifelong dream of becoming a police officer. His fellow officers knew him as a dedicated public servant and a true family man who loved serving his community.

Deputy Lopez was killed when he and another patrol deputy went to apprehend a suspect during a domestic violence dispute. The gunman fired at the officers, fatally wounding Deputy Lopez and a fellow officer. These two deaths mark only the second and third Okaloosa Sheriff's deputies to ever be killed in the line of duty, a truly sad, but powerful testament to the quality of the entire Sheriff's Department.

The people of Okaloosa County have many reasons to be proud of Deputy Lopez, and I am honored to be able to represent those people, as well as the memory of this brave police officer. Vicki and I will keep his entire family, especially his wife, Michelle, and children, Jesse, Erik, Madilyn, Jami, and Jake, and grandson, Caleb, in our prayers. May God Bless Deputy Lopez and all of the officers across this great country who courageously protect their citizens and their communities.

FAST STARTS ACT OF 2009

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2009*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I began work on the Portland Streetcar as a Commissioner of the City of Portland. Our first line opened on July 20, 2001, becoming the first modern streetcar system in North America. It represents a remarkable local partnership. I'm proud of its success.

As a Member of Congress, I have championed streetcars at the federal level, introducing the Community Streetcar Development and Revitalization Act in 2003, which became part of the Small Starts program and was included in SAFETEA-LU.

Unfortunately, the implementation of the Small Starts program failed to deliver any form of federal partnership to our communities. Communities across the country have struggled to utilize the Small Starts program as the Federal Transit Administration delayed these projects. These delays have caused steep cost increases and stalled worthy projects that otherwise would generate investment and development in these communities.

The Fast Starts Act responds to the vast pent-up demand in communities around the country caused by the prior administration's obstruction and delay with regard to streetcar projects. It authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to streetcar projects provided that they are supported by an acceptable degree of local financial commitment, have met all necessary environmental requirements, and can be under construction not later than March 1, 2012.

These bills will revitalize America's neighborhoods and urban spaces, while providing transit options, reducing sprawl, and curtailing greenhouse gas emissions. I am looking forward to seeing a resurgence of streetcars around the country and nowhere more so than in Portland, Oregon.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING JORDAN STRICKLAND FOR WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2009*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Jordan Strickland showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Jordan Strickland was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Jordan Strickland always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Jordan Strickland on winning the Boys' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 basketball season.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2009*

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: HENRY E. BROWN, Jr.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Education—National Projects, Innovation and Improvement

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Reading is Fundamental

Address of Requesting Entity: 1825 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20009

Description of Request: Funding will be used for purposes authorized in Section 5451 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Reading Is Fundamental enhances child literacy by providing millions of underserved children with free books for personal ownership and reading encouragement from the more than 18,000 locations throughout all fifty states, Washington, D.C., Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Requesting Member: HENRY E. BROWN, Jr.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Education—National Projects, Innovation and Improvement

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Reach Out and Read National Center

Address of Requesting Entity: 56 Roland Street, Boston, MA 02129

Description of Request: Reach Out and Read is a national program that promotes literacy and language development in infants and young children, targeting disadvantage and poor children and families. ROR has proven to among the most effective strategies to promote early language and literacy development and school readiness: pediatricians and other healthcare providers guide and encourage parents to read aloud to their children from their earliest years of their life, and send them home from each doctor visit with books and a prescription to read together. Currently, nearly 50,000 doctors and nurses have been trained in ROR's proven strategies, and more than 3,500 clinics and hospitals nationwide are implementing the program, reaching more than 25% of America's at-risk-children. Funding provided by Congress through the U.S. Department of Education has been matched by tens of millions of dollars from the private sector and state governments. Program has benefited over 18,000 children in the First District.