

party to another and back to the original party, the people of Taiwan have proven their democracy is flourishing.

Today, Taiwan is a vibrant democracy with a strong market economy thanks to its strong ties with the United States. Under the new Ma administration, Taiwan will only seek to fortify these ties and continue to prosper as a nation.

Mr. Speaker, I would also be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to push for the 111th Congress to pass a Free Trade Agreement with Taiwan. Taiwan is the United States' ninth largest trading partner, with trade flows between the two totaling \$64.6 billion last year. A Free Trade Agreement would expand trade and improve economic growth, provide enhanced opportunities for U.S. businesses and support an important democratic ally in a strategic region. It is time we put our differences aside and passed this legislation which is long overdue.

A TRIBUTE TO YUCAIPA, CALIFORNIA, CITY MANAGER JOHN TOOKER

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, September 28, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Tooker, a fine public servant who has dedicated the past 17 years to making the city of Yucaipa, California, a better place to live. After serving as city manager for all but 2 years of Yucaipa's cityhood, Mr. Tooker has announced his retirement.

A native Californian, John Tooker was bitten by the public service bug early in his life, graduating from California State University at Long Beach with a specialty in public administration. He has worked in city and county government continuously since then and, through his hard work, has helped improve many communities in California.

John Tooker came to my congressional district in 1991 as the city manager for Yucaipa, California. Since his arrival, the city of Yucaipa has always passed a balanced budget. In addition to his good fiscal housekeeping, Mr. Tooker has been instrumental in building up the parks and community recreation areas during his tenure. He negotiated the purchase of 32.5 acres for a community park site in 1996 and, in the years following, oversaw the construction of a Community Park, Community Center, City Hall and Fire Station No.3.

In addition, the Teen Center and Senior Center have been enlarged and remodeled and numerous city parks have been renovated. With the local community college, the city purchased an Olympic size swimming pool which will be placed in a beautiful new facility for the entire community. The residents of Yucaipa and their families have these great places to relax in no small part due to John's leadership.

Mr. Speaker, John Tooker and his wife are the proud grandparents of a baby grandson, Luke Jonathan Tooker, who was born last month. He will now be able to spend a lot more time with Luke. Please join me in wishing John Tooker health and happiness in his retirement and thank him for his many years of dedicated service.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE BUD CRAMER AND THE HONORABLE TERRY EVERETT ON THEIR RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. BOYD of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Congressman BUD CRAMER on his many years of service to our Nation and to the people of Alabama's Fifth District.

Since I first came to Congress in 1997, BUD has been a respected colleague, a good friend, and a personal mentor. Over the years, I often have looked to him for guidance on different issues before Congress, and he has always given me wise and thoughtful advice. BUD's work on the Defense Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee has served as a model for me. I have seen firsthand his ability to work across the aisle to advance good policy to the benefit of our national defense efforts, our military community, and the American people.

As a founding member of the Blue Dog Coalition, BUD has dedicated his time in Congress to being a good steward of taxpayer dollars and creating a more fiscally responsible government. The Blue Dogs have been able to grow and continue our message of fiscal responsibility because of the groundwork that Bud and other founding members laid over 13 years ago.

BUD, as your friend and colleague, I will truly miss your leadership in Congress. I wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors and hope you enjoy your much deserved retirement.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, September 28, 2008

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

Requesting Member: Rep. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Military Construction, Navy Account.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Earle.

Address of Requesting Entity: Colts Neck, New Jersey.

Description of Request: This project will upgrade the Main Gate located at Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Earle. These upgrades will provide the proper Anti-terrorism Force Protection (AT/FP) measures required for current security and terrorist threats. Construction will consist of the following: gate access realignment; reinforced ornamental fencing along the public highway; new security fencing surrounding guardhouse area; removal of existing guard house; and removal of existing parking areas; hardened guard house, intrusion detection system (IDS), local area network (LAN), and base wide alarm duress system; site light-

ing with connections tied into existing generator; raised median; rejection area for privately owned vehicles (POVs); permanent vehicle inspection shelter with CCTV, for one truck and two POVs side by side; undercarriage video surveillance equipment; permanent passive barriers from fence and gate to active vehicle barriers; two active (pop-up) vehicle barriers; elevated fighting position; hardening of existing generator; sidewalks on both the inbound and outbound sides; relocate entrances to parking for Family/Housing Services and to Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD); construct new connector road to EOD; demolish existing pass and identification office; construct new pass/i.d., within new inspection facility and provide 54 parking spaces.

NWS Earle has been fortunate to not experience serious assaults or threats; however, continued operations without major security improvements could result in exposing NWS Earle's valuable assets and personnel to terrorist activity.

Detailed Financial Plan:

The majority of the funding (approximately \$6.5 M) will be used for Electronic and Mechanical Utilities and Site Improvements, including: Area Lighting; Water Distribution; Sanitary Sewer System; Paving and Site Improvements; Storm Water Management; and Demolition.

The rest will fund Special Construction Features, which total \$1,515,766 M and include:

Active vehicle barrier—	\$91,036.00.
Passive vehicle barriers—	\$270,213.00.
Security fencing—	\$208,801.00.
Automatic traffic controls/devices—	\$245,648.00.
Inspection enclosure (truck/car)—	\$85,977.00.

ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support this relief from the Alternative Minimum Tax, AMT. If Congress does not pass this legislation, over 25 million middle-class tax payers would find themselves subject to this tax.

It is important that we provide this relief to millions of American families who want a better life for their families. The current structure of the AMT leaves middle-class households vulnerable to a significant unexpected tax bill while many very wealthy households pay no AMT. In these economic times, enacting AMT relief can put more money in their pockets rather than subject them to taxes that were not intended to apply to middle-class families.

I have long supported and advocated for responsible reform of the Alternative Minimum Tax, which would be offset by other changes that target loopholes and abuses in the tax code. A responsible paid-for fix would also protect future generations of Americans from tax increases by not adding to our national debt. The Federal Government deficit will reach over \$400 billion this fiscal year and it is projected to reach \$500 billion in the next fiscal year.