

Allen is a wonderful example of educators who make a positive difference in the lives of their students.

Ms. Allen graduated from Clemson University in 2000 and continued her education at The University of South Florida, graduating in 2003 with a master's degree in elementary education. Until her senior of her undergraduate studies, Ms. Allen planned on pursuing a law degree and eventually a career as a lawyer. However after losing her mother to pancreatic cancer during her senior year of college, Ms. Allen made the decision to pursue a degree in education—just as her mother had done years before.

Ms. Allen, who was named Teacher of the Year for Hillsborough County in February, was chosen from more than 180,000 public school teachers throughout the state. Ms. Allen has taught the fourth grade at Cleveland Elementary School in Tampa for five years.

Ms. Allen's impact is felt throughout the community. A National Board Certified Teacher, Ms. Allen was selected for her energetic, enthusiastic teaching style, and her community service projects outside the classroom. Beloved by her students, Ms. Allen often dresses up for FCAT study sessions, and leads her class in decimal-point rap songs. She says her style involves anything to grab the kids' attention.

Madam Speaker, the selection of Megan Allen is a firm testament to the standards of quality education in the state of Florida. Ms. Allen is one example of the dedication and incredible talent of our teachers, and I am so happy that she chose to follow in her mother's footsteps and am proud to have her teaching the children of my community.

RECOGNIZING THE FAMILY BUSINESS, AOC HOLDING COMPANY

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 22, 2009*

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of the Arguindegui family, of AOC Holding Company. The family has truly worked towards and achieved the American dream.

This American success story begins with Peter R. Arguindegui Sr., who founded Arguindegui Oil Company in August of 1942. His sons put education and service to our nation first, before later joining the family business. So, after serving in the military and graduating from Texas A&M, Peter Jr. and Carlos Arguindegui joined their father in the late 1950s. With the additional help, the company was transformed into a corporation which then focused on wholesale commercial fuels.

Within 20 years grandsons Carlos Jr. and Alfonso Arguindegui joined the family business after graduating from college, bringing with them new ideas.

AOC Holding Company, as it is now called, has expanded into convenience store marketing by converting a dozen existing stations into convenience stores under the ConocoPhillips and Valero brands. It also runs four bulk warehouse operations in South Texas.

This company is on track to become the leader in retail and wholesale fuels in the South Texas area.

An admirable quality of the Arguindegui family is they do not reserve success for themselves. They have engaged in philanthropy by staying involved with local charities such as the United Way, the Boys & Girls Club, and other organizations that are too numerous to mention. They have also provided scholarships to area students.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize a true American success story. I am pleased to have such a valued family in my district.

CONGRATULATIONS TO UNITED SPACE SCHOOL PROGRAM

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 22, 2009*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, on August 4 the Foundation for International Space Education (FISE) will host United Space School Day at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston, Texas. The United Space School Day is a summer science camp/health careers promotion activity coordinated by the East Texas Area Health Education Center (AHEC). The United Space School Day's activities will focus on the education pathways appropriate for students interested in careers in life sciences, aerospace medicine, and bioastronautics.

United Space School Day is just one part of FISE's United Space School program. The United Space School program, which is rooted in the International Space School that was established in 1994, is the major way FISE carries out its mission of providing space-based academic instruction to pre-collegiate students from across America and around the world who are interested in science, engineering, technology, or mathematics careers. The United Space School gives these students the opportunity to learn from some of the space industry's leading experts. Participants in the programs follow a curriculum specially designed to provide appropriate training and development by instructors qualified and knowledgeable in the proper disciplines.

As the students visit the various educational venues and participate in the space-related learning initiatives, they are exposed to myriad examples of space-related careers as well as careers in industries that support the space programs, including life sciences. United Space School students also benefit from daily one-on-one interaction with leading aerospace professionals from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s Johnson Space Center (JSC), and the supporting aerospace community.

United Space School participants are also given a unique "hands on" learning experience through the development of a Manned Mission to Mars Project. United Space School's organization, schedule, and curriculum are designed to provide the structure, knowledge, resources, mentoring, and appropriate settings to complete the Manned Mission to Mars project.

Madam Speaker, FISE's United Space School program is doing invaluable work in preparing the next generation of scientists and aerospace engineers. I would not be surprised if future breakthroughs in space technology came from alumni of the United Space School

program. It is therefore my pleasure to extend my congratulations to the United Space School program on the occasion of the United Space School Day. I also extend my thanks to NASA, the Johnson Space Center, the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, East Texas AHEC, and all the volunteers who help make the United Space School program possible.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JIM COOPER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 22, 2009*

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I was absent for the last three votes of the day on Tuesday July 21st. I apologize for my absence, and wish to add my intentions to the RECORD.

H. Con. Res. 123—Vote of "yes" would have been made.

H.R. 1933—Vote of "yes" would have been made.

H.R. 2632—Vote of "yes" would have been made.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 22, 2009*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, July 20, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 593 (On approving the Journal), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 594 (On the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 607), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 595 (On the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2245).

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. THOMAS E. PETRI**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 22, 2009*

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks received as part of H.R. 3288—Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Hon. THOMAS E. PETRI  
Bill Number: H.R. 3288

Account: FAA—Airport Improvement Program

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Address of Requesting Entity: 4802 Sheboygan Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Description of Project: This \$950,000 will be used for phase 2 of the 3-phase reconstruction of the primary runway at Wittman Regional Airport, Oshkosh, Wisconsin. This is one of the largest projects in the state with a total cost of \$13 million. The current Pavement