

at the King Street Youth Center in Burlington. She currently organizes the Holiday Program at that Center.

She represents the needs and interests of the whole community, not just of children. Ms. Ely has also been a member of the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf Advisory Board for the past 14 years. She is currently a low-income representative on the Champlain Valley OEO Board of Directors, and is at the present moment serving in her second term. She does all of these things as a dedicated, spirited advocate.

Bev Priest is another dedicated advocate for low-income people. A resident of Jay, Vermont for over 25 years, she served as a low-income representative on the Northeast Kingdom Community Action Board of Directors for 10 years. During that time, she regularly attended the Low-Income Association meetings, Physically Disabled Association meetings, and other meetings in the state capital of Montpelier: at all of them she unstintingly shared with everyone her knowledge of what she learned.

Bev Priest opened a food shelf and clothing center in the Jay Town Clerk's building and provided many holiday baskets to the local families. During the Christmas season she often played Santa at the low-income children's Christmas parties; she herself acquired many of the gifts that were distributed. She has been a consistent advocate for people in crisis; she has assisted in any way she could in helping people in crisis locate the resources they needed. Bev would many times call the NEKCA office stating, "If I had transportation I would be on your desk right now." As one Vermonter in her community stated, "Bev promoted the continual awareness of others of the struggles that low-income families face by 'pointing out the squeaks in the wheel'."

Theresa Emmons has been involved with the Central Vermont Community Action Council for over 20 years. It is safe to say that without her influence, CVCAC would not have accomplished as much as it has. Theresa served on the Board of Directors as a representative of the town of Washington in Orange County. She also has the distinction of having the longest tenure on the CVCAC Board, which she has served in every possible way: as President, as Vice President, as Treasurer and as Secretary.

As if this weren't enough, she has also served on the Head Start Policy Council and has been a leader in the Vermont Head Start Parent's Association. She has been a long time volunteer for the USDA Commodity food distribution program and local food shelves; she was also involved in the conception and growth of the Vermont Food Bank. As far as Theresa is concerned, if people are in need they deserve to receive help. If there is a cause that will help someone in need, that cause deserves to be supported—and Theresa is always first in line to volunteer and to recruit others to volunteer.

Christina Crawford of Springfield, Vermont has been an outstanding example of persevering in the face of difficulties, and of triumphing over many of them.

It was seven years ago that Chris left an abusive relationship. She left with a broken foot, no transportation, four children and the clothes on her back. After three months of being homeless, she found a place to live. She studied for the GED and passed. She then began taking administrative classes at

the local high school as well as taking on a part-time job at an agency where she was given the opportunity to use the skills she was learning, although the job at the agency was temporary.

At the age of 30 Chris took driving lessons and eventually got her driver's license and a vehicle for the first time in her life. She then went to the Employment & Training agency in search of part-time, entry level work in the clerical field. She was offered an opportunity to enroll in an on-the-job training program and was placed at Southeastern Vermont Community Action. Chris has worked at SEVCA for nearly four years now as receptionist.

Three years ago, one of Chris's children was diagnosed as having an autistic disorder. She has since spent much of her time researching her daughter's disability and working tirelessly to put the needed supports in place for her daughter to be able to attend school. Chris is now in the process of trying to form a local support group for parents of special needs children.

Chris currently represents SEVCA and the southeastern part of Vermont on the Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council. She attended her first meeting in September and looks forward to attending as many as she can to use the opportunity to speak out about the struggles she has overcome and the struggles she has yet to face. She hopes to inspire other low-income people to speak out and create change.

In spite of the heavy load Chris continues to carry, she hopes that one day she will be able to go to college and obtain a degree in Human Services.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, due to an event in my district, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 563–565 on Monday, October 20, 2003. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 563, 564, and 565.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP OF THOMAS N. KUHN

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my respect and gratitude to Mr. Thomas N. Kuhn for 44 years of military and civilian service to his country.

Mr. Kuhn enlisted in the United States Army on July 22, 1959, and served on active duty for over 25 years, attaining the rank of Sergeant Major. While on active duty, he served overseas in Germany, Vietnam, Korea, and Italy, and in the United States at Fort Stewart, Georgia; Fort Monroe, Virginia; Fort Lee, Virginia; and Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Mr. Kuhn retired from active duty in October 1984.

Upon retiring, he was appointed Deputy Director of the Field Artillery Proponency Office

at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where he previously had served as Sergeant Major. In January 1986, Mr. Kuhn then joined the Department of the Army Personnel Command Task Force in Alexandria, Virginia. Next, he became Branch Chief of the Combat Service Support Branch of the Army Occupational Survey Division in the Soldier Support Center—National Capitol Region.

Mr. Kuhn continued civilian support for his country nearly 20 years, holding numerous leadership positions such as: Deputy Chief of Staff for Operation, U.S. Total Army Personnel Command; Deputy Director, Casualty and Memorial Affairs Operations Center; Adjutant General Directorate, U.S. Total Army Personnel Command; and Acting Director.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Kuhn has been recognized with both military and civilian honors. For his military service, he was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with Three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal with Eight Awards. For his civilian service, he was awarded the Superior Civilian Service Award and the Commanders Award.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I wish to honor Mr. Kuhn's exceptional dedication to his country. I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Mr. Kuhn on 44 years of military and civilian service to the United States.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE AND FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3289) making emergency supplemental appropriations for defense and for the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Chairman, when Mr. Bush told the American People he was against nation building, no one, including me, thought he was talking about America. Let me at the outset make clear my support for our valiant soldiers who are pursuing our enemies in Afghanistan, and who are securing the peace in Iraq. But the bill before us today, just as it ignites the Iraqi economy and keeps Iraqi kids out of more debt—it costs America's great great grandchildren more long term debt, while America herself crumbles.

Mr. Chairman, let us look at this bill's priorities and all of the unanswered questions it raises. There is plenty of money in here for Iraqi health care, but not one dime of the \$1.8 billion American Veterans need for their health care, which the majorities in this Congress seem hell bent on ignoring. Why is that? The White House won't fund the No Child Left Behind education initiative, but we're supposed to pay Iraqi teachers' salaries. Why is that? President Bush says he needs more than \$4 billion for water infrastructure when there are

people throughout rural America who lack public water service. Why is that? The President wants \$856 million to upgrade three Iraqi airports, a seaport and rail lines, while Amtrak is starved for funds and our ports remain vulnerable to attack. Why is that? The White House has a paltry underfunded proposal for road-building at home but wants to spend millions building roads and bridges elsewhere. Why is that? The President wiped out the COPS program at home, and now he wants to pay more than \$3 billion for Iraqi law enforcement. Why is that? The President is seeking \$5.7 billion to rebuild and expand Iraq's electric grid just as millions of Americans are regaining power lost to Hurricane Isabel, and Congress is grappling with the causes of August's blackout in the Northeast. Why is that?

The President needed the coalfields of West Virginia last election, but today his priorities lie in the oilfields of Iraq. If we can help Iraq pump oil, we sure ought to help America burn coal.

To those who would suggest we should rebuild Iraq at a time when we cannot rebuild America, I say that doing so costs our economy, costs us tax revenues in lost production, and costs American workers jobs as our infrastructure crumbles. The surest way to not be able to help Iraq, if that is the President's goal, is to further hurt America. To shortchange America's infrastructure. Meanwhile, by failing to win the support and aid of the world community, the task of rebuilding Iraq became America's responsibility alone.

And, who pays for these government contracts in Iraq? They are being paid for, by the working men and women in West Virginia, and throughout our Nation. Is that fair? President Bush's friends are getting a double-dip giveaway. First, they get huge tax giveaways, putting more of the tax burden on middle and low-income families like many of my constituents in West Virginia. Is that fair? Then, the President's friends and campaign supporters, such as Halliburton and Bechtel, strike it rich with no-bid contracts. Is that fair? There are, according to the Washington Post, currently more contractors in Iraq than there are soldiers from any force of our allies. Is that fair?

And where, oh where, have all our allies gone? Can this Administration not swallow its pride, can it not make a more conciliatory effort to enlist the World in the rebuilding of Iraq? Mr. Chairman, if we have to pay \$87 billion for Iraq, why don't we do the wise thing and roll back the colossal tax giveaway to America's richest 1%, those making over \$337,000? If we defer that giveaway to those making over \$337,000, we could pay for the entire \$87 billion. We have far too many unavoidable needs right here at home.

Several weeks ago, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) identified real shortcomings on a nationwide basis. The ASCE report said we are failing to maintain even the substandard conditions of our transportation infrastructure. It described our national roads system as "poor," and our national bridges and transit systems as "mediocre." The ASCE report also identified needs in my home state of West Virginia regarding roads, bridges, water infrastructure, schools, and education.

Right in my own district of Southern West Virginia, I can point to pressing infrastructure needs: Greenbrier Valley Airport in Lewisburg is 35 years old, and in need of a new terminal. The upgrade is expected to cost \$15 million.

Where is the federal grant for Greenbrier Valley Airport? Greenbrier Valley Airport's parking apron, used, for housing aircrafts, also needs a \$10 million upgrade. Due to lack of funding availability, this project has already been broken into six phases in the hope of completing it. But where are the federal grants for these phases?

In Raleigh County, just one of our wastewater projects is going to cost \$6.8 million to serve 3,300 citizens in Glen White and Lester. This is a matter of public health, of bringing in new jobs, of fueling the economy. Where is the federal grant for that program? In Nicholas County, \$7.3 million is needed for a water project to serve 562 customers who presently have no water service at all. Where is the federal grant for them? West Virginians are told by this President and this Congress that we can't afford federal grants!

Nationwide unemployment levels remain unsteady. We have 42 million uninsured Americans and rising health costs for those individuals who actually are insured. State budgets in disarray. Attempts to buy homeland security on the cheap while we incur record level deficits. Meanwhile, the Bush administration tells us that we can't afford to pay for all of our needs at home. Not when we're investing in other countries, rather than our own. Well, Mr. President, this land is your land, but you should know this land is also our land.

We have an economic stimulus package that we could pass right now to provide much needed jobs and get us out of this so-called "jobless recovery," which is no recovery at all. I'm talking about reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act of the 21st century, and fully funding it at the \$375 billion that the Bush administration's Department of Transportation says is needed to maintain our economy. The Federal Highway Administration estimates that every billion dollars that we invest in our infrastructure provides 47,500 good-paying construction jobs. However, the Bush administration proposes that we spend almost \$130 billion less over the next six years than what President Bush's own Department of Transportation identified as infrastructure problems.

Mr. Chairman, we're fighting two wars at the moment. Like most Americans, I supported our effort in Afghanistan, and I voted in favor of it. I still support it. But, President Bush lost interest in our enemy in Afghanistan because he had this other war that he wanted to fight in Iraq. Now, we're faced with a resurgent Taliban in Afghanistan along with a bill for Iraq. And, mark my words, this will not be the last time the administration comes calling for cash for Iraq. Estimates are that it will cost us more than \$400 billion.

With that amount of money we could afford to provide seniors with a meaningful prescription drug benefit under Medicare. But, Mr. Speaker, we won't be able to afford it because of the lack of priorities. Not when priorities are to finance Mr. Bush's war, and his rich friends' profit-making ventures. As I said at the outset, Mr. Chairman, I have total support for our troops. It is my hope that in the following hours and days we can fix this bill. Fix its priorities, putting the American soldier first, and getting the American taxpayer some relief. But, when we have so many great needs here at home that are being ignored, we need to focus on needs at home first. Then let us see how we can best serve America abroad.

BRIGADIER GENERAL (AUS-RET.)
JOHN H. McLAIN POST OFFICE

HON. KATHERINE HARRIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to respectfully appeal to my colleagues for their support of H.R. 3068, which will designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2055 Siesta Drive in Sarasota, Florida as the "Brigadier General (AUS-Ret.) John H. McLain Post Office".

Brigadier General John H. McLain, Army of the United States, Retired, was a soldier, teacher, father and friend. Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on January 21, 1919, he arrived in Sarasota, Florida in 1986.

General McLain's original enlistment in the Army's field artillery occurred in September 1940. He received his commission as a second lieutenant in this unit during December 1942. General McLain fought in the Second World War's European Theater, participating in the Battle of the Bulge and in the relief of Bastogne as a member of General George Patton's Third Army. While he left active duty with the rank of captain in 1945, he volunteered for service in the Korean War as soon as that conflict began. General McLain served as a senior advisor to a Korean field artillery battalion until the 1953 armistice.

When he returned to the Reserves, General McLain became Chief of Staff of the Army Reserve Command (ARCOM) in Oakdale, Pennsylvania. He obtained his promotion to Brigadier General in 1972, while serving as Deputy Commander of ARCOM.

General McLain returned to active duty in 1974 with the Department of Defense Study Groups for Guard and Reserve. His induction into the Field Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame in 1976 capped a heavily decorated career that included the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star medal, the European Theater of Operations Medal with three campaign stars, the World War 11 victory medal, the Korean Service Medal with three campaign stars, and the United Nations Service medal. In August 1977, General McLain retired after almost 37 years of active and reserve duty.

General McLain was also an accomplished scholar. He held a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from the University of Pittsburgh. He graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, while he completed courses at the Army War College, National War College, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, as well as Yale, Michigan State, and Florida State Universities. He taught English grammar, composition, and literature at Admiral Farragut Academy (St. Petersburg, FL), St. Petersburg High School, Edgewood (PA) High School, Presbyterian Junior College, Florida State University, and the University of Pittsburgh, where he also taught the history of England.

General McLain was a member-in-perpetuity of The Military Order of the World Wars and as a member of The Sons of the American Revolution. He maintained a lifetime membership of the Reserve Officers Association, The Military Officers Association. In 1990, he served as President of the Military Officers Association of Sarasota. General McLain also received a listing in *Who's Who in America*.