

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.

Moreover, he received Booker High School's Senior Volunteer of the year award for the 1999–2000 school year.

Mr. Speaker, while we lost General McLain on September 23, 2003, his greatest legacy lives on in the outstanding family he left behind. Patricia Ann, his loving and devoted wife of 50 years, and his four children will continue to honor their father through their exemplary contributions to our world.

The dedication of this postal facility is the least that we can do to memorialize the extraordinary gift this gentleman and hero gave our nation in dedicating his entire life to protecting freedom, promoting education, and touching lives.

CONGRATULATIONS ON LAGRANGE
NOON LION'S CLUB'S 75TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the LaGrange Noon Lion's Club on the occasion of their 75th anniversary. Since its founding, the LaGrange Noon Lion's Club has been a cornerstone of charitable service to its community. I am therefore pleased to submit this proclamation honoring the LaGrange Noon Lion's Club into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCLAMATION, LA GRANGE
NOON LION'S CLUB 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Whereas, the LaGrange Noon Lion's Club serves the citizens of LaGrange, Fayette County, the great state of Texas and the United States of America, AND

Whereas, the La Grange Noon Lion's Club gives of their time freely for the betterment of mankind, having a membership of anonymous individual philanthropists, AND

Whereas, the International Association of Lion's Clubs all over the world offer charitable hope to the blind, provide services for youth, disabled and victims of disaster, of which the Noon Lion's Club is a subsidiary

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the Constituents of District 14 in Texas, I, Representative Ron Paul, do hereby proclaim October 12–18, 2003 the 75th Anniversary Week of the La Grange Noon Lions Club.

FREEDOM FOR NELSON ALBERTO
AGUIAR RAMÍREZ!

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I speak today about Nelson Alberto Aguiar Ramirez, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Employed as an electrician, literally turning the lights on, he was forced by Castro's tyrannical policies to pursue a different path. After years of incessant repression, Mr. Aguiar Ramirez decided to turn the lights on Castro's ruthless machinery of repression.

Mr. Aguiar Ramirez joined organizations that opposed Castro's dictatorship and supported basic human rights for the people of Cuba. Mr. Aguiar Ramirez is currently the President of

the Cuban Orthodox Party, and a member of a more recent initiative, the Assembly to Promote Civil Society.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Aguiar Ramirez chose to fight Castro's government even though he was acutely aware of the consequences of doing so. In December 1999, Mr. Aguiar Ramirez was detained by Castro's ruthless repressive apparatus in order to prevent him from commemorating the December 10th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This document, enshrining the essential rights of all humans, is such a danger to Castro's repressive dictatorship that Castro prevented Mr. Aguiar Ramirez from commemorating the anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, it sadly came as no surprise to anyone who has watched the horrors that Castro inflicts on those who cry for freedom when Mr. Aguiar Ramirez was detained on March 20, 2003. He was subsequently sentenced to 13 years in Castro's inhumane dungeons.

Mr. Aguiar Ramirez is classified as a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International. His wife, Dalia, is deeply concerned about his declining health and his constant malnourishment.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Aguiar Ramirez must be released from Castro's gulag at once. My colleagues, we can not allow human beings such as Mr. Aguiar Ramirez, who rise up to claim their human rights from the clutches of tyrannical despots, to languish in the gulag for their beliefs. My colleagues, we must stand united and demand the immediate release of Nelson Alberto Aguiar Ramirez.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO HAROLD
A. MCMASTER FOR HIS IMMEAS-
URABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO
NORTHWEST OHIO

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding gentleman from Northwest Ohio, Mr. Harold A. McMaster.

As a youth growing up in Northwest Ohio, Harold McMaster's hero was another northern Ohio product, Thomas Alva Edison. From an early age Harold understood the importance of setting goals and seeing them through.

Mr. Speaker, Harold McMaster was a unique individual who combined the foresight and analytical nature of the scientist with the acumen and "street smarts" of the successful businessman. The former helped him "see" how to do things, while the latter enabled him to commercialize his innovations.

A physicist, he held more than 100 patents dealing with glass tempering, solar energy and rotary engines. Harold McMaster was known in many circles as the father of glass tempering.

He graduated in 1938 from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mathematics and in 1939 with a Master of Science Degree in Nuclear Physics, Mathematics and Astronomy.

In 1940, he went to work as a research physicist for Toledo, Ohio's Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company, a producer of flat glass

for windows and automobile windshields. He received one of his first patents in the early days of World War II for a periscope used by fighter pilots to see behind them during combat. McMaster Motor is the fourth enterprise to be built from the germ of an idea by McMaster and his associates. Other companies founded and nurtured by Harold McMaster include: Permaglass, Inc., Glasstech, Inc. and Solar Cells, Inc.

Harold McMaster received the prestigious Phoenix Award as the national glass industry's Man of the Year in 1993. In 1987, Harold McMaster was awarded an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Toledo.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Harold A. McMaster. Northwest Ohio was served well by Harold McMaster's innovation and business skill. The legacy of his genius will continue to benefit future generations in engineering and technology.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 563, 564, and 565, I was unavoidably absent, due to a delay in my flight. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

DESIGNATING A BUILDING AS THE
JOHN LEWIS CIVIL RIGHTS IN-
STITUTE

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak on the House floor today regarding legislation that I am introducing along with Representative Denise Majette to name a building in Atlanta, Georgia as the "John Lewis Civil Rights Institute."

The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site (MLKNHS) has purchased an apartment house located two doors west of Dr. King's Birth Home. The plan is to restore the building and convert it into an educational center—including four classrooms and an auditorium. The MLKNHS currently conducts educational programs in a house on Auburn Avenue, which accommodates 20 students. This new center would allow for expanded offerings of these educational programs. I am proud to introduce legislation that will name this educational center after U.S. Representative John Lewis who has spent his life promoting civil and human rights across the world.

John Lewis was born the son of sharecroppers on February 21, 1940 outside of Troy, Alabama. He grew up on his family's farm and attended segregated public schools in Pike County, Alabama. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religion and Philosophy from Fisk University; and he is a graduate of the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tennessee. He has also been awarded numerous honorary degrees from colleges and universities throughout the