

I am also pleased with the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs FY 08 funding because it includes funds for mental health centers. I have continually advocated for increased access to mental health care by returning veterans through the science committee.

This bill also grants the Veterans Administration request for administrative functions, including operation of Veterans Administration Medical Centers, quality of care oversight, informational technology—hardware and software, legal services, billing, coding activities, and procurement.

Funding for administrative functions is especially important to decreasing claims backlog for veterans waiting for disability and other benefits by adding more than 1,100 new claims processors. The funding also makes five polytrauma centers and three Centers of Excellence for Mental Health and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) fully operational this year. These centers will afford care for those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Subsequently, sufficient funding for procurement and billing activities is in particular important to Dallas, since the Dallas Veterans Administration actively encourages large businesses to partner with small businesses through subcontracting plans.

This bill makes available resources to support military construction projects and ensures America's servicemen and women have more effective training facilities, and better housing, health care and day care facilities. I would like to take this opportunity to once again commend my colleagues, Congressman EDWARDS and Chairman OBEY for providing a comprehensive Military Construction and Veterans Appropriations for FY 2008 possible.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BOB WILLIAMS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE WAVE TRANSIT SYSTEM

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize the outstanding service and leadership of Bob Williams on the occasion of his retirement after 35 years of service in public transportation. For the past 6 years, Bob has served Mobile as the general manager of the Wave Transit System.

Bob began his career in Peoria, Illinois, as a bus operator and rose to assistant general manager. In 1988, he was selected to be assistant general manager of the Transit System in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he served for 12 years.

In 2001, Bob came to Mobile and was responsible for the overall management of day-to-day operations. He oversaw the opening of the renovated GM&O building and helped coordinate relief efforts during Hurricanes Dennis and Katrina. Bob forever changed the face of public transportation in Mobile—new carriers, the MODA, user-friendly routing, neighborhood pick-up service, comfortable rider stations, litter free bus rides, and increased ridership.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Bob Williams for his

tireless service to public transportation in Mobile. I know Bob's colleagues, his family, and his many friends join with me in praising his significant accomplishments and extending thanks for all his efforts on behalf of the citizens of the First Congressional District.

HONORING RODOLFO AND DORA MIRABAL FROM CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of two pioneers in the national Hispanic community, and their home in south Texas. Rodolfo Zepeda Mirabal, Sr., and Dora Cervera Mirabal, were two activists and organizers in the Corpus Christi community who answered the call of patriots and did much to make our community a better, more transparent, place to live.

Rodolfo was among the original founders of the League of United Latin American Citizens, LULAC, and in the 1920s he began publishing his own Spanish-language newspaper, called *El Demócrata*. In the 1930s Dora began an annual publication of a traditional form of Mexican satirical verse for *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead or All Souls Day).

Always civically engaged, Dora founded a bilingual school called *El Círculo de Nuestros Amigos Para Los Estudiantes Bilingües*, which operated at the Mirabal Printing Company and helped Spanish speakers learn English. She became the first female member of the Corpus Christi Mexican Chamber of Commerce, and served as an officer in the Corpus Christi Ladies' LULAC Chapter.

Together Rodolfo and Dora operated Mirabal Printing Company in the heart of the Mexican-American community of Corpus Christi.

In 1938 the couple began publishing a weekly, full-size Spanish language newspaper in Corpus Christi, *El Progreso*, which kept the community informed for 41 years. This paper not only served as a crucial resource to the Hispanic community for local, national, and international issues, but it tried to give the Mexican-Americans in the Coastal Bend inspiration and a voice.

Following Rodolfo's death in 1968, Dora Cervera Mirabal continued work on *El Progreso* until she died of cancer on December 4, 1979. The Mirabals were succeeded by three children: Rodolfo, Jr.; Rosie; and Robert, all of whom carry on the family's printing business today.

Rodolfo and Dora Mirabal were "lost giants" in the advancement of the Mexican-American civil rights movement who inspired not just my generation, but generations to come.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in remembering this extraordinary couple and their outstanding record of civic service to the city of Corpus Christi and the south Texas community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, on Friday, June 15 until the end of the legislative day, I was home in Georgia due to an unexpected medical condition of a family member. As a result, I missed a number of votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

"Aye" on the McHenry 2nd Degree Amendment to the Fox Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (rollcall 466).

"Aye" on the Fox Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (rollcall 467).

"Aye" on the Fallin Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (rollcall 468).

"Aye" on the Drake Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (rollcall 469).

"Aye" on the King (NY) Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (rollcall 470).

"Aye" on the Brown-Waite Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (rollcall 471).

"Aye" on the Burgess Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (rollcall 472).

"Aye" on the Ferguson Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (rollcall 473).

"Aye" on the McHenry Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (rollcall 474).

"Aye" on the Pearce Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (rollcall 475).

"Aye" on the Carter Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (rollcall 476).

"Aye" on the McCaul (TX) Amendment No. 98 to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 477).

"Aye" on the King (IA) Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 478).

"Aye" on the Bilbray Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 479).

"Aye" on the McCaul (TX) Amendment No. 99 to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 480).

"Aye" on the Rogers Amendment No. 2 to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 481).

"Aye" on the Poe Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 482).

"No" on the LaTourette Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 483).

"Aye" on the Tancredo Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 484).

"Aye" on the Tancredo Amendment No. 7 to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 485).

"Aye" on the Royce Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 486).

"Aye" on the Forbes Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 487).

"Aye" on the Rogers (KY) Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 488).

"Aye" on the Rogers (KY) Amendment No. 1 to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 489).

"Aye" on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 490).

"No" on Passage of H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 491).

"Aye" on Hayes Amendment to H.R. 2642, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 492).

"No" on the Blumenauer Amendment to H.R. 2642, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 493).

"Aye" on the Price (GA) Amendment No. 17 to H.R. 2642, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 494).

"Aye" on the Moran (KS) Amendment to H.R. 2642, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 495).

"Aye" on the Garrett Amendment No. 1 to H.R. 2642, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 496).

"Aye" on the Musgrave Amendment to H.R. 2642, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 497).

"Aye" on Passage of H.R. 2642, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 498).

IN RECOGNITION OF PASTOR
DOUGLAS P. JONES

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Rev-

erend Douglas P. Jones, who celebrates his 18th anniversary as pastor of the Welcome Missionary Baptist Church in Pontiac, Michigan, on June 18, 2007, as well as his birthday on June 10, 2007.

After graduating from the University of Cincinnati, Pastor Jones continued his studies in pastoral care administration at Cincinnati Bible College. On April 8, 1989, the Welcome Ministry Baptist Church voted to call Reverend Jones as their pastor. During his years of service, he has earned certificates in various workshops and counseling sessions, as well as special training in administration, management, and planning. Under his leadership, the congregation has seen its membership grow from 165 to over 3,600.

Pastor Jones' tireless efforts and continued dedication to the ministry has allowed him to develop strong support that extends throughout the city of Pontiac and Oakland County. This includes serving as the Chaplain of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, Board Chair of North Oakland Medical Center, and acting as a board member for the Pontiac Oakland Symphony, the Minority Chamber of Commerce, and the Salvation Army. Pastor Jones is more than deserving of the numerous honors and awards that he has received over the past 18 years, including commendations from the City of Pontiac, the State of Michigan, and even recognition from President Bill Clinton.

The impact that Pastor Jones has had on the community is immeasurable. As founder and President of the Greater Pontiac Community Coalition and board member of the Pontiac Youth Assistance Board, he has established programs that guide our youth to a brighter future. In addition, the scholarship established by his church has helped open the doors of success to hundreds of young men and women.

Today I recognize Reverend Douglas P. Jones for his commitment to his faith and community. He has truly worked to help better those around him. I wish him many years of continued success and a happy and healthy birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF STAFF
SERGEANT SHANNON WEAVER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, SSG Shannon Weaver was killed on May 21, 2007, in Baghdad, Iraq, when his vehicle was struck by an I.E.D. Staff Sergeant Weaver was assigned to the A Company, 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 25th Infantry Division stationed in Fort Richardson, Alaska.

Staff Sergeant Weaver had previously completed two operational deployments and was on his second tour of duty in Iraq. Staff Sergeant Weaver will be dearly missed by family and the community of his youth, Piedmont, Alabama. Shannon was a graduate of Piedmont High School where he was a member of the football team. His former teammates recall a young man known for his strong will and determination.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family and for the gratitude

our country feels for his service. Staff Sergeant Weaver, like other brave men and women who have served in uniform, died serving not just the United States but the entire cause of liberty. Indeed, like those who have served before him, he was a true American.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve our Nation. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the House's remembrance at this mournful occasion.

COMMEMORATING UCLA'S 100TH
NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the University of California, Los Angeles for winning its 100th NCAA championship. UCLA is the first university to reach this historic milestone through the hard work and dedication of gifted young student-athletes and their coaches. Beginning with the university's first NCAA championship in tennis in 1950, 16 different men's and women's athletics programs have contributed to these 100 championships, establishing an unparalleled record of excellence. The most recent championship victory was achieved when the women's water polo team captured the 2007 NCAA title. For the talented young women of the water polo team, this represents their third consecutive championship and fifth overall.

Madam Speaker, while this is an occasion to commend these athletes, their coaches, the athletics staff, and the fans who proudly wear the blue and gold, we should recognize not only their athletic achievements, but also UCLA's outstanding tradition of nurturing student-athletes who excel both on and off the field and the contributions they make to their communities as they do so. I am proud and delighted to congratulate UCLA on this occasion. Go Bruins.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker. I was not present during rollcall votes Nos. 444-447 on June 7, 2007, and rollcall votes Nos. 492-498 on June 14, 2007.

On rollcall vote No. 444 I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 445 I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 446 I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 447 I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 492 I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 493 I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 494 I would have voted "no."