

NO EARMARK REQUESTED

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, the Conference Report for H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, indicates that I requested an earmark project in Conference Section 2014(24) for Lake Rodgers, Creedmoor, North Carolina.

I never submitted for nor requested from the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee or the Conference Committee for the Water Resources Development Act this project.

TRIBUTE TO THE 150TH HARFORD FAIR

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th Harford Fair to be held from August 20th to August 25th of the year Two Thousand and Seven, in Harford, Pennsylvania. The Harford Agricultural Society has held the fair as an annual tradition since 1857.

The first fair was held on November 9, 1858, in the sheds around the First Congregational Church. Seventy-six people attended. One of the first recorded exhibits was five heads of cabbage. Each weighed seventeen pounds. A few years later the fair was moved to October. The entrance fee was 10 cents and the main attractions were speakers, brass bands, plowing matches and agricultural displays.

In 1865 the fair doubled in length, spilling over to two bright October days. By 1880, 3,500 people and 1,000 teams of oxen were flocking to the 117 acres of fairground. In the early 1900s the fair hosted the first automobile and victrola, merry-go-rounds, wire walkers, drum corps and the occasional circus. The Lenoxville Band first performed in 1940 and continues to entertain fair-goers.

Now, every year on the third week of August, 65,000 visitors pour into tiny Harford to enjoy one of the few agricultural fairs left in the nation. It has grown into a six day event that allows both the young and old to present handcrafts, agricultural items, fruits, vegetables, baked goods, animals, photography and art work. Last year's fair featured 7,519 items.

The Harford Fair is my hometown fair in Susquehanna County and I am proud to recognize the fair as an enduring tribute to community pride and cooperation. I salute the many tireless volunteers who maintain the Harford Fair and its rich traditions.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Harford Fair for 150 years of family entertainment, agricultural displays and community fellowship.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE VILLAGE OF PANDORA, OHIO ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 175TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. GILLMOR. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to pay tribute to a special community in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. On August 10 and 11, 2007, the Village of Pandora, Ohio will begin celebrating a truly monumental event—its 175th anniversary.

Madam Speaker, The Village of Pandora is one of a number of wonderful communities in Northwest, Ohio. As early as 1832, with the completion of the surveying of the rich and fertile woodlands of the Black Swamp region, numerous settlers, including many from Switzerland, seeking religious freedom and rich farm land chose to make their home along Riley Creek. Then in 1835, with the construction of a gristmill by pioneer John Stout, an industrious village was born. Throughout its long and tradition-filled history, Pandora has established itself as a model community.

We in Ohio's Fifth Congressional district are blessed to have such warm towns and villages like Pandora. The individuals who live in these towns and villages are truly wonderful people. They are good friends and neighbors, colleagues and coworkers, and together they form a close knit family, all sharing a common bond centered on their dedication to their community.

Over the many years that I have served in elected office, I have had numerous opportunities to travel to Pandora. Each time I visit, I am greeted by friendly people who truly know how to make one feel at home.

Madam Speaker, the individuality of the American culture and the freedom of the American spirit are embodied in small towns and villages like Pandora, Ohio. For 175 years, the Village of Pandora has served as a model by which other communities can pattern themselves. As we begin this 175th Anniversary celebration, I urge my colleagues to stand and join me in this special tribute to Pandora, Ohio.

HONORING EMMETT SHEPPARD ON HIS RETIREMENT AND CAREER OF SERVICE TO WORKING FAMILIES

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a lifelong friend of working men and women, Emmett Sheppard, who has given decades of his life in service to the Labor movement. Emmett is retiring as President of the Texas AFL-CIO, but his work on behalf of working people in the Lone Star State will be felt for many years to come.

Emmett has worn many hats over the years. He served as a City Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem in his hometown of Groves, Texas. Emmett worked for the Gulf Oil Corporation, and in this capacity, he took on var-

ious responsibilities for his union, the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 4-23.

In 1982, Emmett was elected President of the Sabine Area Central Labor Council, which includes a large portion of Southeast Texas. In 1989, Emmett went to work for the Texas AFL-CIO as its legislative director, where he worked hard for the interests of working men and women at the Texas Capitol.

In 1993, Emmett was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Texas AFL-CIO. In this capacity, Emmett worked tirelessly for workers' rights in Texas, traveling the state and listening and responding to the needs of working men and women.

In 2003, the Texas AFL-CIO recognized Emmett's leadership and dedication by unanimously electing him President of the 220,000 member organization. As President, Emmett has been an effective leader and tenacious advocate for the rights of all Texas workers.

Emmett has also served on the executive board of the Workers' Assistance Program, which assists workers with a variety of problems, and on the executive advisory board of Project SAFE Texas.

If I had to say what the secret of Emmett's success all these years has been, I would have to say that it comes down to one word: respect. Emmett respects others, and treats them accordingly. That is one of many reasons I am honored to call him my friend.

As Emmett retires, he can look forward to spending more time with his wife, Kathy, their two daughters and a granddaughter, who I understand Emmett is fond of spoiling.

Emmett, on behalf of myself and the Texas Democratic Congressional Delegation, we thank you for your service and most importantly, I thank you for your friendship. Enjoy your retirement—you have more than earned it, and I wish you all the best in the years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, July 31, I was unable to vote on roll No. 777 to sustain the ruling of the Chair. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on this motion.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND MEDICARE PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our Nation's children, a strong and secure Medicare program, and for passage of the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007, CHAMP Act, H.R. 3162.

More than 6.6 million children today have health insurance because of the creation a decade ago of the State Children's Health Insurance Program SCHIP. However, these children will lose their access to good, affordable

health insurance if the Congress does not act to reauthorize the SCHIP program by September 30, 2007.

Today, the House will vote on the CHAMP Act, H.R. 3162, which will reauthorize and expand the SCHIP program to ensure even more children have access to the health care their parents cannot afford or who work in jobs that do not provide health care benefits. The CHAMP Act will provide 11 million children with health care, by expanding SCHIP to include an additional 5 million children who currently have no health insurance.

The CHAMP Act also provides the tools needed and creates incentives for States to reach the millions of children who are eligible but not currently enrolled in the SCHIP program. The bill ensures that children have 12 months of continuous eligibility, so their parents do not frequently have to complete a complex renewal process. Additionally, dental coverage and parity for mental health will also be provided to children under the CHAMP Act.

According to the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, more than 44 million Americans lack health care coverage, including more than 14 percent of New Jersey's residents. Many of these Americans are children. It is simply unconscionable that in our country millions of children are uninsured.

The SCHIP program is strongly supported by our Nation's governors who have managed the State-run programs over the past decade and understand that SCHIP allows States to cover low-income children who lack health insurance in families of the working poor.

New Jersey uses its SCHIP funds to run a program called FamilyCare. Our State is a leader in extending FamilyCare eligibility and currently 125,000 children as well as 85,000 low income-parents are enrolled in New Jersey's program. Without SCHIP all of these residents of New Jersey would again be uninsured.

The CHAMP Act will allow States, like New Jersey, to continue set income eligibility for the SCHIP program. Because the cost of living is so high in New Jersey, it is important that our State has the flexibility needed to establish realistic eligibility guidelines.

Additionally, the CHAMP Act will allow New Jersey to continue to enroll parents along with their children. According to research by the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Sciences, one highly effective way of boosting coverage among low-income children is to broaden health insurance to their parents. Currently, New Jersey is one of nine States that covers low-income parents.

Because the new Democratic majority is committed to balanced budgets and opposed to deficit spending, this bill pays for this historic commitment to our Nation's children with an appropriate increase in the Federal tobacco tax and reductions to the overpayments that have been paid to the privately run Medicare Advantage plans. Contrary to their euphemistic name, these plans have not been so advantageous for our Nation's seniors.

According to the Campaign for Tobacco-free Kids, the 45 cent-per-pack increase in the tobacco tax that is included in the CHAMP Act will result in 1,381,000 less children who will become smokers. This will improve their health and result in long-term healthcare savings of \$32.4 billion, 669,000 fewer smoking related deaths and 171,800 fewer newborn children harmed by smoking over the next 5 years.

Further, by reducing overpayments to the privately run Medicare Advantage plans, the CHAMP Act increases Medicare's solvency, and helps protect Medicare beneficiaries from higher premiums.

For our Nation's seniors the CHAMP Act makes much needed improvements to Medicare. I am pleased the CHAMP Act contains a provision I wrote when I introduced the Helping Fill the Medicare Rx Gap Act, H.R. 2058, to include costs incurred by AIDS Drug Assistance Programs, ADAPs, in calculating a Medicare Part D beneficiary's true out-of-pocket, Troop, costs. Medicare Part D pays 75 percent of a beneficiary's drug costs until their expenses reach \$2,400. Part D then stops paying and individual beneficiaries must pay for all of their drugs until total expenses reach \$5,451. This leaves a coverage gap of \$3,051—the "donut hole." "True out-of-pocket" costs, Troop in the donut hole determine when a beneficiary becomes eligible for catastrophic coverage.

Individuals suffering from HIV and AIDS need help. By including ADAP costs in calculating out-of-pocket expenses, we make them eligible sooner for help with their prescription drugs and we fix a loophole in Medicare Part D that discriminates against HIV and AIDS victims.

Additionally, under this bill the Medicare Part D late enrollment penalty for beneficiaries eligible for the Low-Income Subsidy program is eliminated and our Nation's seniors will be allowed to change their Part D plan during the year to meet their prescription needs. It also reduces the discriminatory copayments that Medicare charged for mental health services to the standard 20 percent copayment and adds additional mental health providers to Medicare so services are more easily available. Under this legislation, Medicare beneficiaries will have increased access to preventative services. The CHAMP Act also ensures that seniors have access to world class doctors by blocking a devastating cut in Medicare physician payments over the next 2 years.

The CHAMP Act is supported by the AARP, the American Medical Association, the Catholic Health Association, the National Rural Health Association, the American Hospital Association, the American Nurses Association, Families USA, the National Partnership for Women and Families, Children's Defense Fund, Child Welfare League of America, and the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare. All of these organizations understand that the CHAMP Act will ensure more American children have health insurance and that Medicare remains strong for decades to come.

There are 11 million reasons to vote for this bill, each one a child who will move out of the ranks of the uninsured with the health care provided in the CHAMP Act. Medicare beneficiaries will also see important improvements to their benefits. A measure of a Nation's greatness is how it treats its most vulnerable citizens. By making health insurance available for 11 million children, we live up to our moral obligation to keep children healthy and we make our society stronger. The CHAMP Act is historic legislation and I implore the President to drop his objections to this bill and join us in ensuring more Americans are healthy.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF DR. RON DEHAVEN, ADMINISTRATOR, USDA ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, as Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, APHIS, and throughout his career, Dr. W. Ron DeHaven has worked tirelessly to protect animal and plant health in the United States and advance the veterinary medical profession.

His accomplishments are numerous. In 2002–2003, Dr. DeHaven led a campaign to successfully contain and eradicate an outbreak of exotic Newcastle disease in the southwest in one-third the time and half the cost of the response to the prior outbreak in 1971.

He was the public face of the Nation's response to BSE—first with the Canadian detection in May 2003, and then the U.S. discovery of the disease later that year. Dr. DeHaven led the U.S. efforts to address domestic and international concerns as he headed the epidemiological investigation, and he appeared on television almost daily. His steady leadership and forthright communication during the crisis ensured that the public was constantly kept informed, and, as a result, consumer confidence in U.S. beef did not waiver.

Dr. DeHaven was at the helm in 2004 when USDA successfully controlled an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in Texas. This set the stage for his work with international animal health officials to address the currently circulating strain of Asian H5NI highly pathogenic avian influenza. He has spread the important message that we need to respond to this potential human health threat while the virus remains primarily a disease of poultry. Dr. DeHaven has also been a strong advocate for increasing veterinary infrastructure in developing nations to prevent the emergence of zoonotics—diseases that can pass from animals to humans—that increasingly jeopardize public health.

Dr. DeHaven has forged improved relationships between veterinary professionals, the agricultural community, and wildlife biologists to address diseases that affect both wildlife and livestock. One tangible product of this cooperation is the ongoing surveillance of wild birds for H5NI highly pathogenic avian influenza that is being conducted by a combination of wildlife and veterinary professionals.

In other important areas, under Dr. DeHaven's leadership as Administrator over the past 3 years, APHIS has strengthened its regulation of agricultural products derived from biotechnology to ensure that they are safe for release into the environment. The strong, science-based regulatory system forged under Dr. DeHaven's management is helping to ensure that U.S. producers and trading partners are confident in the safety of these products.

Dr. DeHaven is also reknowned for his commitment to animal welfare. He served as Deputy Administrator of APHIS's Animal Care program for 5 years, ensuring that millions of animals regulated under the Animal Welfare Act are provided adequate care under the law. Dr. DeHaven also implemented an innovative risk-