

as a national role model through his leadership and unwavering commitment to helping people and furthering the awareness of Parkinson's disease in our community.

For more than a decade, Mr. Hawthorne has conducted a "quite revolution" in the treatment of Alzheimer. He helped establish the APDA's Parkinson's Information and Referral Center at Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas in 1990 and developed a relationship with the local chapter.

Hawthorne served as president and chief executive officer of Presbyterian Healthcare Resources from 1983 until the formation of Texas Health Resources in 1997. He is past chairman of Dallas/Fort Worth Hospital Council and the Texas Hospital Association (THA). In 1996, he received the Boone Powell Sr. Award of Excellence for distinguished hospital administration by the Dallas/Fort Worth Hospital Council. In 1994, he received THA's highest award, The Earl M. Collier Award for Distinguished Hospital Administration. He has chaired several American Hospital Association (AHA) committees and is a former at-large member of AHA's Board of Trustees. A Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), he received the Gold Medal Award in 2002, ACHE Regent Senior Level Health Care Executive Award in 1991 and served as Regent for Texas Greater Dallas/Fort Worth area of the ACHE. In 2003, Modern Healthcare magazine named Hawthorne number 30 on its list of the "100 Most Powerful People in Health Care."

Madam Speaker, as one who has worked closely with Alzheimer patients, I know that his efforts for battling this disease are unequaled and he is certainly one of our community's great leaders. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I rise with great pleasure to honor Douglas Hawthorne, on the occasion of his receiving the Greer Garson-E.E. Fogelson Humanitarian Award.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.J. RES. 20, FURTHER CON-
TINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FIS-
CAL YEAR 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 20, the Joint Funding Resolution that will complete action on the remainder of the fiscal year 2007 appropriations bills. This measure is not perfect, but it addresses the most urgent funding needs of federal programs while remaining within the tight budget constraints imposed by the previous Congress.

We are fixing this funding problem today because the former Republican leadership in the House and Senate failed to complete nine of the 11 appropriations bills for fiscal year 2007 before the 109th Congress adjourned in December 2006. The funding resolution we are voting on today will finally give federal programs a blueprint for their spending until September 30, 2007; however, it is not an ideal solution. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have rightly talked about challenges faced by certain programs that will see no in-

crease over fiscal year 2006 levels. I cannot help but wonder where their concerns were when they controlled the fate of those programs last year?

The Democratic leadership faced many hard decisions in funding the remainder of the appropriations bills, and my colleagues rose to the occasion. This endeavor required a careful analysis of many important programs, as well as a great deal of compromise. To start, this measure does not contain any earmarks or a cost-of-living pay increase for Members of Congress. I wholeheartedly agree that any congressional pay increase should not be passed until the minimum wage increase passes Congress. We all must move forward together. That is also why I am pleased that this measure will increase Section 8 funding, which will help renew vouchers for individuals and families that cannot afford exorbitant housing prices on their own.

I am proud that my colleagues were able to increase funds for other high priority needs as well, such as veterans and military health care. We must make sure that service members wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan have the services they require, as well as anticipate the increasing number of returning veterans who have earned their promised benefits. This measure will also fund an increase in programs for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as well as local law enforcement programs, such as the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, which are critical to keeping our communities safe. At both the state and federal level, our work on intelligence and security must not be threatened by a lack of resources.

The funding resolution will also increase the maximum amount of a Pell grant so that more than 5.3 million students can help pay rising college expenses. I am especially pleased that this increase, the first in 4 years, will strengthen a program first introduced by an esteemed Rhode Islander, Senator Claiborne Pell. This measure also helps the youngest and most vulnerable group of students in our country by increasing Head Start funding to prevent a drop in enrollments.

Finally, this resolution also highlights areas where we need to move our country forward like health care and energy security. We are providing increased funding for community health centers, as well as scientific research; both the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation will be funded over last year's level. The Department of Energy will also receive additional resources for research and development activities for renewable energy and energy efficiency programs.

After completion of H.J. Res 20, I look forward to working toward timely passage of a Fiscal Year 2008 budget that provides the necessary funding for some of our nation's most critical programs. The Democratic leadership has reinstated the pay-as-you-go budget rule, so that new spending has to be offset by a decrease in spending elsewhere in the budget. This promise was made last year, when we told the voters that we would bring this Congress in a new direction and demand fiscal responsibility. The measure we pass today, as well as the work we will do in the coming months, will show Americans that this Congress can be responsive to the public, enhance support for federal programs vital to our working families, and be careful stewards of taxpayer dollars.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2007

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements and contributions of Enterprise Rent-A-Car, the largest car-rental company in North America and an integral part of the local Saint Louis community.

Enterprise has annual revenues of more than 9 billion and is currently number 21 on the Forbes "500 Largest Private Companies in America" list.

Operating on the principle that good business derives from a well-trained and well-treated staff, the company has been cited by Business Week as one of the Best Places to Launch a Career. In 2005, Enterprise received the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award for efforts on behalf of its employees serving in the National Guard and Reserve.

Enterprise is as dedicated to the public, as they are to their own employees.

In 1982, the Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation was created, and has, over the past 25 years, given more than \$87 million to non-profit entities, has donated \$30 million to schools and scholarships to support minorities and economically-challenged students, and has contributed \$1 million each to both the Red Cross relief effort for the Gulf Coast, as well as the victims of 9-11.

With its charitable works, avid support of its employees, and economic success, Economic Rent-A-Car is a truly dynamic corporation.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to this organization, who has made great contributions to the local Saint Louis community and the larger national community, and is a model for effective and charismatic business.

HONORING OPERATION HELMET

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and personal gratitude that I recognize the remarkable work of Mike and Marie Farley who, along with Rodney Van Pelt and other members of the Quakertown Moose Lodge No. 1622, took bold initiative to provide our soldiers with life-saving equipment.

Marie Farley of Nockamixon, Pennsylvania was shocked to learn that antiquated gear was being issued to U.S. soldiers—including to her 23-year-old son Michael, a Marine stationed in Anbar Province, Iraq. She learned that with an upgrade kit, her son's helmet could do more to protect him. If Michael was knocked down by an explosion, the shock-absorbing pad and new strap system could save his life. But Mrs. Farley and her husband Mike discovered that if they wanted their son and his unit to have this simple safety feature, they would have to raise the money themselves.

The Farleys were not alone in their desire to provide U.S. soldiers with proper equipment. A national initiative—Operation Helmet—was underway and the Farleys quickly sought to localize the effort. Mrs. Farley made up signs asking for donations and put one of those signs at the Quakertown Moose Lodge. That is where the project took off. After learning about the need for the protective pads, Rodney Van Pelt of the Moose Club joined the Farleys to aggressively pursue the goal of equipping Michael's entire unit with the upgrade. The Moose Club and the rest of the community rallied around the family and raised enough to take care of Michael's entire company, not just his unit.

As of today, the Farleys and the Quakertown Moose Club have raised \$35,000, enough for almost 500 upgrade kits. The kits have been shipped out and came as early Christmas presents for soldiers overseas. This accomplishment is inspiring and is a telling example of true patriotism and respect.

Having led convoys in a Humvee without doors while serving with the 82nd Airborne Division in Baghdad, I understand what it means to fight a war without proper equipment. So I speak from experience when I say that this kind of support from home is wholeheartedly appreciated and serves as a tremendous morale boost. But Madam Speaker, family members should not be forced to pay for their loved ones' military equipment. The Farleys were able to gather tremendous community support but despite their best efforts they couldn't supply all U.S. forces, and many families are paying out-of-pocket. This is unfair and I urge you all to support the Helmet Pad Reimbursement Act of 2007. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this bill because at the very least, these families should have the opportunity to request a reimbursement.

This is an issue of critical importance to our troops and I commend all who have brought it to light. On behalf of the men and women with whom I served, Mr. and Mrs. Farley, Mr. Van Pelt, the Quakertown Moose Lodge and most importantly, Michael and all the soldiers who continue to risk their lives for this country, I urge Congress to support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD REYNDERS
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Harold Reynders as the recent recipient of the St. Jude Medal from the Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg. A dedicated volunteer at the St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church for nearly two decades, Harold has given his time and energy to help his fellow parishioners.

Born in Lancaster, NY, Harold ran his own construction company in Buffalo for 37 years. Moving with his wife Corinne to Spring Hill, FL in 1988 in search of warmer weather, Harold began attending St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church in 1989.

Each day Harold would go to church, work throughout the sanctuary and help keep the

church neat and clean. His efforts were eventually brought to the attention of Monsignor John Cippel, who gave Harold Keys to the church and an official position as a sacristan.

For the next 10 years, Harold prepared the altar for the Mass and cleaned up following the sermon. He also was given the responsibility of opening the church doors each morning, and served as a lector and minister at the Sunday Masses.

This past November, Harold was presented with the St. Jude Medal that "honors individuals who have consistently given of themselves to living the gospel of Jesus Christ by their generosity and service." Presented on the Feast of Christ the King Day at the Cathedral of St. Jude in St. Petersburg, Harold was truly humbled to receive the honor.

Madam Speaker, Harold Reynders has spent a lifetime as a devout Catholic, working to make his parish and his church a better place to worship. He should be commended for his years of service and for being honored with the St. Jude Medal.

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2007

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2007

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, today I, together with Ranking Member MICA, Economic Development Subcommittee Chairwoman NORTON, Subcommittee Ranking Member GRAVES, and many Members who represent communities of the Appalachian region, introduce the Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments of 2007. This bipartisan bill improves the programs authorized by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 and reauthorizes the Appalachian Regional Commission for five years through FY 2011.

I am proud to sponsor this bill, which builds on more than four decades of economic development successes through job creation in some of the Nation's most disadvantaged yet deserving communities. I have witnessed firsthand the triumph that is possible when the Federal Government joins in partnership with states, localities, economic development districts, and private businesses to break the cycle of crippling and pervasive poverty. It is an economic certainty that job deficiencies reduce the tax base, which reduces the ability of governments to provide public infrastructure, which further reduces the ability to create and attract new industries. Generating jobs must therefore continue to be our top priority in communities suffering economic distress, particularly in Appalachia.

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) was created by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (P.L. 89-4) to address economic issues and social problems of the Appalachian region as a part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society program. Congress created the ARC in 1965 to assist the Appalachian region "in providing the infrastructure necessary for economic and human resource development, in developing the regions' industry, in building entrepreneurial communities, in generating a diversi-

fied regional economy and in making the region's industrial and commercial resources more competitive in the national and world markets."

As a regional economic development agency, ARC's primary function is to support development of Appalachia's economy and critical infrastructure to provide a climate for industry growth and job creation. ARC includes all or part of 13 States: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Historically, the Appalachian region has faced high levels of poverty and economic distress resulting from geographic isolation and inadequate infrastructure. Since its creation in 1965, ARC has administered a variety of programs to aid in the development and advancement of the region, including the creation of a highway system, enhancements in education and job training, and the development of water and sewer systems.

ARC's funding and projects have contributed significantly to employment, health, public works, and general economic development improvements in the region. The regional poverty rate has been reduced by almost one-half. High school graduation rates have doubled, and the percentage of Appalachian students now completing high school is slightly above the national average. The infant mortality rate has been cut by two-thirds, and ARC funds have helped build more than 400 health facilities serving four million people in Appalachia.

ARC projects have also helped to construct 2,496 miles of new Federal-aid highways. In the last five years alone, ARC-funded infrastructure projects have resulted in the creation or retention of 136,000 jobs, and over 183,000 households have reaped the benefits of clean water and sanitation facilities.

Yet, our work to ensure the economic viability and vitality of the communities that are part of the ARC is far from finished. Approximately one-fifth of ARC's counties remain in a state of economic distress. One-fourth of Appalachia's counties have a poverty rate that is more than 150 percent of the national average. Additional Federal investments are necessary to build upon the progress made to date.

Specifically, this bill directs ARC to designate as "at-risk counties," which are counties in the Appalachian region that are most at risk of becoming economically distressed; establishes the maximum Federal share for Appalachian Regional Commission non-highway grant amounts for designated at-risk counties as 70 percent; authorizes additional appropriations to the Commission through FY 2011 to carry out Appalachian regional development; and extends, for five years, the termination date of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (with exceptions for the Appalachian development highway system and certain definitions).

During the 107th Congress, the House passed the Appalachian Regional Development Reauthorization Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-149), which built upon past successes of the Appalachian Regional Commission, made several amendments to existing law, and extended the authorization for an additional five years.

ARC's authorization expired at the end of FY 2006. During the 109th Congress, the Committee's bipartisan leadership introduced