

has discovered that, government-wide, Federal agencies have had help developing requests for proposals (RFPs) for any number of goods and services from industry insiders, all in the interest of expediency.

While it is certainly reasonable for the government to consult with industry insiders during RFP development, it is deplorable for these industry insiders to make recommendations to the government that would result in only one selectable proposal: that from the company of the insider who assisted with the initial RFP.

Such action is wrong, yet it has happened on numerous occasions.

For example, starting in late 2003, DHS issued an RFP for "eMerge2," an effort to finish the consolidation of all of the financial systems of the DHS components into one new system. The eMerge2 RFP was drafted in large part by a single contractor. When the contract was awarded, it was split between two contractors, one of them being the company that helped write the RFP. Long story short: eMerge2 was a failure.

The questions raised by eMerge2 run deeper than "just" the federal dollars that were doled out without seeing any return. Indeed, the eMerge2 fiasco raised serious questions about whether more needs to be done, both by DHS and by contractors, to ensure that the "firewalls" contractors are using are actually working. This legislation answers some of those questions.

Similarly, when the Coast Guard (USCG) realized that the majority of its marine and aviation fleet was in desperate need of upgrade, it relied upon only two contractors to design the entire Deepwater project, without nearly enough consultation from USCG personnel. Now the Coast Guard has had to pull ships from service and is borrowing boats from the Navy. Our waters are less secure now than before 9/11 because of the fiasco that is Deepwater.

Surely, there have been examples of unnecessary government largesse resulting in waste. That said, while private industry as a contracting partner can save taxpayer dollars, I am skeptical that a business that helped to write an RFP and was the only business qualified to receive it really has the taxpayers' best interests in mind. In fact, this type of malfeasance is criminal, in my opinion.

This legislation seeks to eliminate the potential for future abuses of Federal homeland security procurement dollars. It would require that any contract entered into after May 1, 2007 is not awarded to companies who played a role in constructing the RFP for said contract. If the company is awarded the contract, the Secretary of Homeland Security must certify to Congress that the contract was issued through a competitive process and that DHS took all appropriate measures to ensure that during the RFP design stage, any potential contractor could not influence the RFP to favor itself. Additionally, it would allow for contractors who had input in the process to be hired as subcontractors if they had input designing the RFP but were not ultimately selected as the lead contractor.

I would encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this necessary legislation, which has the potential to save the Federal Government hundreds of millions of dollars, if not more annually. The financial resources of the Federal Government are limited. It should not

be as easy as it currently is to game the system and bilk tens of millions of dollars at a time out the Department of Homeland Security's budget.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN S. NIGRELLI, SR.

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2007*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Mr. John S. Nigrelli, Sr., Chairman of the United Savings Bank. Mr. Nigrelli has been chosen as the recipient of the 2007 Achievement Award sponsored by the Association Regionale Calabrese of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Nigrelli's lifetime of excellence and achievement began at the Lawrence Savings and Loan Association. During his time there, he began night school to further his education and completed an Associate degree in business administration from the Wharton School of The University of Pennsylvania.

While attending night school, Mr. Nigrelli dedicated himself to Albert Lawrence Savings and Loan in an effort to continue his advancement through the bank. These tremendous efforts, both educational and professional, were recognized. In 1963, Mr. Nigrelli was elected as an officer of the bank. Throughout his career, he continued to conquer his professional goals and continued his quest for education and knowledge. In 1970, he was elected Executive Vice President and in 1977, he was named President and C.E.O. He continued to hold that position until 2006 when he was named Chairman and C.E.O. As Albert Lawrence Savings and Loan transformed into United Savings Bank throughout the years, Mr. Nigrelli's experience has always guided the bank to unparalleled success.

The bank flourished under Mr. Nigrelli's leadership, knowledge, and experience. His efforts were recognized not only by the community of Philadelphia but by several publications, as one of the most established and stable banks in the city.

Even today, Mr. Nigrelli's kindness is felt through the organizations and charities in which he is a part. Throughout his professional success, this great man was supported by his wife, Marie Pedano. Although she passed away in August 10, 2002, her inspiration continues to contribute to Mr. Nigrelli's continued success. John's endeavors have also been supported by his four beloved children and seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. John Nigrelli, Sr. on his 2007 Achievement Award sponsored by the Association Regionale Calabrese. This great honor could not go to a better man.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, March 20, 2007, I was traveling with the

President of the United States to attend a meeting back in the district and thus missed rollcall votes #160 through 163. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on rollcall votes 161 and 162 and "Nay" on rollcall votes 160 and 163.

RECOGNIZING THE 42ND ANNIVERSARY OF MAUI ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, INC.

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2007*

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 42nd Anniversary of Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. (MEO), which was chartered as a community action agency on March 22, 1965, by Federal mandate under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

The motto of MEO is "Helping People. Changing Lives." And for these past 42 years, MEO has maintained a successful record of service by providing basic tools for living, for earning, for self-reliance, and for community involvement.

MEO has initiated many important programs on the Valley Isle, which include specialized bus transportation for seniors, persons with disabilities, and youth; Head Start; Enlace Hispano; community reintegration of prison former inmates; micro-enterprise loans; business education for low income entrepreneurs; employment training and placement programs; Low Income Home Energy Assistance; and energy conservation and home energy assistance for low-income persons. Most impressively, MEO is able to serve all three islands that comprise the County of Maui: Maui, Lanai, and Molokai.

MEO is one of only a handful of agencies—out of over 1,000 community action agencies nationwide—selected by the National Community Action Partnership to receive an Agency of Excellence Award, highlighting superior administrative operations and program excellence. This translates into advocacy and outstanding services tailored to the needs of the Maui community.

I would like to extend a sincere mahalo nui loa (thank you very much) to the staff of MEO for their hard work and dedication. May the next four decades prove to be as successful.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHRISTOPHER JAMES CEPEDA FERNANDEZ

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2007*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise with heavy heart to mourn with my constituency the loss of Guam, Army National Guardsman Specialist Christopher James Cepeda Fernandez.

On March 5, 2007, Specialist Fernandez, a 28-year-old father of one, was killed while serving on deployment in support of the Combined Joint Task Force in the Horn of Africa. Due to Christopher's patriotism and sacrifice to our country, he was posthumously promoted to Sergeant.

Service men and women from Guam have always been willing and ready to answer the call to arms to defend this great Nation, and we—their families, friends and neighbors—have always supported them, knowing the risk. As people of a small island community, the ties among us are very deep.

Sgt. Chris Fernandez was the son of Joseph Mendiola Fernandez and Marie Cepeda Fernandez of the “Golo” and “Chungi” clans. He was the brother of John, Carmela, Stephanie and Michelle Fernandez, and the doting father of six-year-old Kaenani Lei Guyal Fernandez, whom he adored. According to his family, Chris loved to take Kaenani to the movies, shopping—almost everywhere she wanted to go. He made the most of the time he could spend with her.

When not with Kaenani, Chris enjoyed playing basketball and baseball, among other sports. He also liked fishing, drag-racing, and barbecuing with friends. He attended John F. Kennedy High School and graduated from Guam Community College. Madam Speaker, I offer these bits of personal information because Sergeant Christopher James Cepeda Fernandez deserves to be remembered as more than a name on a casualty list. He was a son of Guam, a proud soldier, willing and prepared to defend his country and his home island, no matter what the price. And he paid that price.

Christopher James Cepeda Fernandez lost his life in the noble effort to rebuild a nation in freedom so that others might some day know the joys of liberty and justice.

With heavy but proud hearts, I extend heartfelt condolences and profound sympathy to Chris's family on behalf of the People of Guam and a grateful nation. Chris was a caring son, a loving brother and friend, a devoted father, and a proud American patriot.

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TRIBUTE TO THE LIBRARY OF THE  
CHATHAMS

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2007*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Library of the Chatham serving Chatham Borough and Chatham Township, Morris County, New Jersey, vibrant communities that I am proud to represent! On June 9, 2007, the good citizens of the township and borough will celebrate their library's 100th Anniversary with an old fashioned ice cream social.

On June 1, 1907, the Chatham Public Library opened in the new Borough Hall and Fire House at 10 Fairmount Avenue and the first library card was issued. In 1920, the library moved to the corner of Fairmount Avenue and Main Street because there was a trolley stop there and display windows for books. The library moved again in 1924, this time to the Fairview Hotel site, where it remains today.

By 1932, there were 2,415 registered borrowers, more than 50 percent of the population. In 1957, the library held 27,500 books, 100 periodicals, foreign language records, musical and dramatic recordings, art reproductions, a Great Books Club, Home Reader service, Storyhour, Storytime, and a playpen.

Two wings were added to the original 1924 building in the early sixties, the first was the west wing to house the Children's collection and the second was the east wing to house the Adult and Young Adult collections.

A major change took place in 1975. After several years of discussions, meetings and presentations, a referendum was placed on the November, 1975 ballot, asking for approval of jointure—to form a library serving both towns. It passed and on January 1, 1975, the Chatham Public Library became the Joint Free Public Library of the Chathams. All residents and those working in the Chathams are entitled to free borrowing privileges. The Library is tax supported on a per capita basis by both municipalities, and administered by six jointly appointed trustees with five year terms, a representative of the school system and both mayors or their representative.

1985 saw the Library become fully automated in MAIN (Morris Automated Information Network) which joins all Morris County libraries by computer database. Renovations and additions have occurred on a regular basis, the last being one for more than \$4 million, which opened to the public on January 11, 2004. Today approximately 182,000 items are circulated annually, and 9,668 cards are in existence!

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Library of the Chathams on the celebration of its 100th Anniversary!

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TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST BRYAN  
ANDERSON

**HON. RICK RENZI**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2007*

Mr. RENZI. Madam Speaker, a good friend of mine, Neill Sachs, recently wrote me about a co-worker of his, an Iraq veteran, Specialist Bryan Anderson. In late 2005, Specialist Anderson's Humvee was struck by a roadside bomb while driving in Baghdad. Specialist Anderson lost both of his legs and most of his left arm as a result of the blast.

Anderson was sent to Walter Reed Army Medical Center for rehabilitation. After spending over a year of intensive and grueling 6 hours a day, 5 days a week therapy sessions, Specialist Anderson has returned home to Illinois to a heartfelt hero's welcome.

He will undoubtedly require treatment for the rest of his life, and he will need our financial and medical support. As we begin our work in the 110th Congress, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work together and ensure that our servicemembers, such as Specialist Anderson, are given the medical care, benefits, and the tools they need to succeed in civilian life.

I am deeply grateful for Specialist Anderson and the other men and women in our Armed Services.

HONORING ALEX HALBERSTEIN

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2007*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Southeast Region of the Boys Town Jerusalem for their initiative to honor Alex Halberstein. I am very pleased that on March 28, 2007 we will express our respect and appreciation for the one of the most outstanding members of the Greater Miami Jewish community.

More than 32 years ago, Alex Halberstein immigrated to the United States. He started working for the Pan Amco Finance Cooperation that is involved in transactions on behalf of Florida/Latin American importers and exporters. Following, he became the head of the International Division and Executive Vice President of Capital Bank. Alex is currently an International Bank Consultant.

Throughout his career, Alex has always been active in community service. Alex gives much of his time and energy to enrich the lives of the members of our community. He serves as a member on the boards of the Jewish Community Services, Florida Friends of Hebrew University; Hillel Council and the greater Miami Jewish Federation. He also serves as a member of the National Executive Board and the Miami Dade County Executive board of AIPAC. In addition, Alex is the chairman of the Florida Congressional Committee, co-chair of the North Dade Campaign, chairman of the Latin America Migration Campaign and vice president of the international division of the Israel and Overseas, and Allocation Committee past treasurer and secretary.

In addition to his tremendous service to our community, Alex also demonstrates a passionate commitment to make the lives of economically disadvantaged Israelis better and their futures brighter. By embracing the mission of the Boys Town Jerusalem Foundation, he enables many young Israelis to become leaders in the fields of technology, commerce, education, the military and public service.

As Americans and citizens of humanity, we owe a debt of gratitude for his invaluable contributions to build a better future for our Nation and our world. Alex is leading an example for others in our community. He is a successful banker and a truly remarkable community leader. But above all else, Alex Halberstein is a wonderful human being.

Without reservation, I support the Southeast Region of the Boys Town Jerusalem in recognizing the great honor being bestowed upon Alex Halberstein and wish him continued happiness in the future.

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TRIBUTE TO JUNE BUCHANAN  
CRUSADERS

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2007*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the players and coaches of the 2006–2007 June Buchanan Crusaders basketball team.

In Kentucky, basketball is something of an institution. It embodies a tremendous spirit of