

and stroke. However, few of us realize that obese children often have fat buildup in their livers. This can lead to cirrhosis, or scarring of the liver, and cause serious complications in adolescence or young adulthood.

The Liver Disease Research Branch at NIDDK has built a national network of researchers focusing on Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease, and they have assembled a database that includes information on more than 1,500 adults and children. In addition, this network is doing a study in children that is expected to determine by next year whether sustained treatment with either metformin or vitamin E improves the liver when compared to a placebo. The results will help determine treatment options for children with Fatty Liver Disease.

This is an important disease for which NIH is doing exactly what we would hope—addressing a major health issue before it becomes a national crisis. This is yet another example of how our investment in this important agency today saves billions of dollars in future health care spending and prevents untold human suffering.

Madam Speaker, this research is one of many examples underscoring the value of our investment in biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health, and I trust that, like me, my colleagues will recognize the positive impact these advancements will have on the health of our Nation.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2419,
FOOD, CONSERVATION, AND EN-
ERGY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today the President vetoed the Farm Bill conference report—a significant piece of legislation that is supported by the vast majority of the House of Representatives. While I am disappointed with the President's veto, I am proud to stand with so many of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle in making the Farm Bill law.

This bill, while not perfect, addresses some of the most pressing issues facing our nation today. Perhaps most importantly, this bill will provide millions of Americans with access to healthy food, especially those hit hardest by the President's failed economic policies. Nearly three-quarters of the bill's funding will promote nutrition initiatives such as increased access to food stamps, emergency food assistance programs, and a program to supply our schools with fresh fruits and vegetables as a healthy snack alternative to reduce our unacceptably high ratio of obese children.

This bill will help my home state of Colorado continue to lead the nation in developing renewable energy technologies, and will help our nation move closer to energy independence, while reducing overly generous tax credits for corn-based ethanol, and creating a better tax credit for the production of more efficient cellulosic biofuels, such as switch grass and wood chips.

The bill also ensures that farmers in Colorado and around the nation have some protections should a natural disaster befall them.

This action may foster lower future grocery prices by speeding up disaster compensation for lost crops and allowing farmers to bring new crops to market faster. Meanwhile, conservation programs included in the bill will help further protect sensitive rural fields from urban sprawl and harmful over farming, while encouraging public access to private land.

Of particular interest to Colorado, this bill includes legislation I introduced that will protect the future of Colorado's unique collection of mutual ditch companies and the precious water rights that they share for the mutual benefit of all Coloradans.

To be sure, I would have preferred this bill include tighter reforms on farm subsidies, especially when many farmers are reporting surging profits. But no compromise can be all things to all people, and while this Farm Bill is not perfect, it is good for Colorado and for our nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in overriding the President's flawed national priorities when it comes to agriculture, energy independence and ensuring that American families have food on their tables.

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL CER-
TIFICATE OF MERIT RECIPIENT
GOLI ZARCHI

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the successes and achievements of Goli Zarchi, who has received the Congressional Certificate of Merit award at McNeil High School in Austin, Texas. Goli has shown exceptional leadership qualities through her involvement in numerous activities which makes her a great candidate for this award.

Goli is involved in HOPE, a program that mentors at-risk students, Student Council, National Honor Society, National Latin Society, and the Green Club. She has also participated in many community service projects outside of school and has shown outstanding academic performance during her high school career.

I congratulate Goli Zarchi for her achievements in school and in her community and am proud to represent such talented and dedicated people in the 31st District of Texas.

WORKSITE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker. I rise today in support of worksite physical activity. On Wednesday, April 23rd, I had the distinct honor of opening a session on Capitol Hill that focused on the importance of worksite physical activity and how such activity benefits individuals, society, our economy and our government. There were a number of congressional offices in attendance, but the session covered such an important topic I wanted to share a bit of it with my colleagues here today.

The session, organized by the non-profit group, Partnership for Prevention, featured

speakers from the Center for Disease Control, the National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity, the International Health, Racquet and Sportsclub Association and Erickson Communities.

The reason for the session was simple—obesity in this country is rising with nearly 67 percent of all American adults being classified as obese. Health care costs associated with diseases in which obesity is a contributing factor are rising, with costs increasing over the thirteen-year period from 1987 to 2000 by between 16 and 30 percent for such diseases as diabetes, arthritis, hypertension, cancer and heart problems. Obesity costs employers more than \$117 billion annually in sick leave, medical costs, lost productivity and labor replacement costs. And the government spends more combating these diseases through our federal medical programs.

Given how widespread and deeply disturbing this issue is, all of us have a role in combating obesity. Individuals need to exercise more. Companies need to provide more help for workplace fitness and we in government ought to both promote physical activity and eliminate any barriers that might exist that prevent that at the federal level.

The speakers addressed each of these issues, with many interesting and important facts, but the one that stuck out in my mind was a simple one. For every \$ that a company invests in a workplace fitness program, it gets back \$3.48 in reduced health care costs, lower worker absenteeism and increased productivity. That is a great return on investment. It is why so many companies have invested heavily in workplace fitness.

Sadly, we in Congress have not yet done our part. There are still too many barriers within the federal legal code to the promotion of workplace physical activity. Two pieces of legislation currently pending before the House, H.R. 1748, the Workforce Health Improvement Program Act, and H.R. 245, the Personal Health Investment Today Act, would eliminate federal tax barriers to the active promotion of physical activity. I and a number of my colleagues in the House, from both sides of the aisle, support these bills and we are working to get them enacted. Just as companies and organizations like the ones at the briefing have stepped up, I hope Congress will do the same.

IN RECOGNITION OF POPPY WEEK

HON. JOE WILSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, May 23rd through May 28th has been designated Poppy Week by the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary of South Carolina. I am grateful to have this opportunity to express my gratitude to the American Legion and to our brave servicemembers they honor this week.

The Poppy is the official flower of the American Legion. The flower symbolizes remembrance and serves as a memorial for the brave men and women of our armed forces who have given their lives in defense of this nation and our many freedoms. Since World War I, the Poppy Program has offered direct assistance to our veterans and their families.

As this year's Memorial Day approaches, I want to commend the American Legion for their hard work on behalf of our nation's military.

The poppies that are distributed by the American Legion do more than just raise awareness. Through their tireless and coordinated efforts, the men and women of the American Legion are able to raise valuable charitable donations that can be used to increase awareness about the needs of our veterans and military families and even directly assist those families and their loved ones who may be disabled or hospitalized.

I wish to thank Ms. Ethel Atkins. Poppy Chairman for the American Legion Auxiliary of South Carolina, for her hard work as well as Ms. Dorothy Tunstall, President of the American Legion Auxiliary of South Carolina. I appreciate the success of Past President Willie Wingard of Lexington. Their efforts and the work of all members of the American Legion honor the sacrifice of our brave American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

H.R. 5658, the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation, Army (R-1 Line 55).

Project: Compact Pulsed Power for Defense Applications, \$4 million.

Requesting Entity: Texas Tech University, 2500 Broadway, Lubbock, TX 79409.

Percent and source of required matching funds: The Center for Pulsed Power and Power Electronics (P3E) at TTU has an operating budget approximately of \$3 million supported almost exclusively by competitive grants from DOD and DOE laboratories and relevant U.S. contractors.

As a state-sponsored university, Texas Tech will provide the required matching funds for the research to be conducted by this project.

Justification for use of federal taxpayer dollars: This initiative will continue the work of the P3E Center to develop compact electromagnetic radiation technology that will disrupt remote detonation electronics used in improvised roadside bombs and inner-city car bombs. The Department of Defense's Joint IED Defeat Organization (JIEDDO) is aware of the P3E Center's technology and has invited the Center to submit an unsolicited proposal for funding from JIEDDO, which is currently pending. The P3E Center also receives support from the Office of Naval Research.

In the past 10 years, the P3E Center has focused its research in the areas of high power microwave systems, explosively driven pulsed power, compact pulsed power and ultra high-power electronics. Much of this research has been sponsored by DOD and its agencies. These technologies have matured in the last few years to a point where system integration now is possible. A great push needs to be made in this area to allow these electric weapons to reach the military now, where they are clearly needed today. Funding from this initia-

tive will accelerate the P3E Center's research to allow the compact pulsed power technology to be fielded by the military in a shorter period of time.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday May 22, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Name of Project: Physical Fitness Center.

Requesting Member: Congressman MICHAEL N. CASTLE.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Dover Air Force Base.

Address of Requesting Entity: Dover, DE.

Project Description: The existing fitness center at Dover AFB is not large enough to accommodate the needs of all personnel in sports, wellness, and fitness programs. A new facility is necessary to meet the Air Force's new requirements and emphasis on physical fitness, health, and wellness. The existing facility is insufficient to accommodate year-round use necessary for mission readiness. The new facility will provide for an additional gymnasium and fitness rooms, as well as incorporating a Health and Wellness Center. The project has been included in the President's FY09 Budget Request.

Name of Project: Information Operations Communication Facility.

Requesting Member: Congressman MICHAEL N. CASTLE.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Dover Air Force Base.

Address of Requesting Entity: Dover, DE.

Project Description: The current Delaware National Guard Information Operations Unit operates from a cramped, overloaded, inadequate facility. Because of the specialized nature of this new mission, there are no facilities on the New Castle Air National Guard base that can accommodate the unit. Without a new facility, the unit will not be capable of properly training or supporting active combat missions with respect to intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance. This project has been included in the President's FY09 Budget Request.

COMMEMORATING GERALD R. FORD

HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mrs. BONO MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor President Gerald R. Ford and I want to thank my 37 colleagues who have agreed to join me in naming a post office located in Rancho Mirage, CA, in my district, as the Gerald R. Ford Post Office.

Many of my colleagues may know that President Ford and his family resided in Rancho Mirage for many years before his passing.

President Ford and former First Lady Betty Ford were active members of our local com-

munity, generously contributing to the betterment of our residents with their involvement in charities and support for the successful Betty Ford Center for drug and alcohol rehabilitation.

Naming this post office near the Ford residence will not only celebrate President Ford's involvement in our community but will pay tribute to his incredible life and career surrounding his leadership as our 38th President.

Among President Ford's many lifetime achievements was serving our country during WWII, rising to the ranks of naval lieutenant commander and serving in Congress for 25 years, 8 of which he was the minority leader. As President, he led our citizens during a time of war, economic uncertainty, and low morale. With his steady direction, he worked to unify our Nation during a tumultuous time in our Nation's history.

He was one of our most respected leaders, and worked on many fronts to unify our citizens and strengthen our trust in America's future. Even many years after his Presidency, President Ford continued serving as a source of wise counsel to leaders throughout our Nation and the world.

As a cherished resident in my district, where many locals called him a friend, President Ford is most deserving of the honor that this Gerald R. Ford Post Office will bring him and his family.

I ask that my colleagues, who wish to commemorate the legacy of President Ford, join me in naming this post office near the Ford residence after this incredible American.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

House Appropriations, Subcommittee on Defense Supplemental Information.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, The National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2009.

Specifics: Hall, Ralph—\$2,000,000, UH-60 Weapons Armament Mission B-Kit.

Account: U.S. Army, Aircraft Procurement, Army/2/Modification of Aircraft UTILITY HELICOPTER MODS (AA0480) Procurement P-1, Line 020, Number: AA0480.

Legal name and address of entity receiving earmark: Contract Fabrication and Design LLC (CFD), 5427 FM 546, Princeton, Texas 75407-4763, 972-736-2260—Office, 972-736-6063—Fax.

Description of how the money will be spent: The UH-60, Weapons Armament Mission B-Kit, has been developed, qualified and tested to meet the U.S. Army, UH-60 BLACK HAWK, M-240 High Capacity Feed System (HCFS) Operational Requirements Document (ORD). The unfunded ORD requires ammunition on board the UH-60 for 2 minutes of continuous fire or 1000 rounds versus the 200 max rounds available to the Warfighter today. This B-Kit exceeds the ammunition requirement and all components are mounted external to the cabin freeing up approximately 30 cubic feet of space.

It provides the Warfighter a 10 times increase in 7.62mm magazine capacity (2000 rounds/side) for the M-240 and provides