

Conference of the House, I am submitting for the RECORD the following information regarding an earmark I requested, which was included in the reported version of H.R. 5658, the "Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act":

Requesting Member: Congressman DANA ROHRBACHER (CA-46).

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, the "Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act."

Account: Ap,A Aircraft Procurement, Army; 020 Utility Helicopter Mods.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Army National Guard Readiness Center.

Address of Requesting Entity: 111 S. George Mason Drive, Arlington, VA 22204.

Description of Request: Provide \$5 million for helicopter modernization. The UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter is an essential capability of the National Guard. It provides units in every State with a multi-mission aircraft for search & rescue, utility lift, disaster relief and medical evacuation. The Army National Guard (ARNG) is authorized 782 Black Hawk aircraft, but is short of this authorization by almost 100 aircraft. This shortage requires ARNG units to loan or transfer Black Hawks in support deployments, training or State missions, resulting in a higher usage rate of available airframes. Additionally, more than 500 of the 782 National Guard aircraft are older UH-60A models, with an average age of approximately 25 years. The Army is procuring over 1,200 UH-60M Black Hawks for utility, special operations and MEDEVAC missions to replace the aging UH-60A from operational units by 2016. The Army acquired 33 UH-60M Black Hawks by the end of FY07, and from FY09 to FY13, the Army plans to procure an additional 300 UH-60M Black Hawks (70 of those aircraft are programmed for ARNG units). However, without an accelerated procurement of the UH-60M, the Army National Guard will be operating more than 400 UH-60A helicopters beyond 2020. The ARNG and the Active Army developed a program to support the continued modernization of the ARNG Black Hawk fleet. Unfortunately, this program is not fully funded. The ARNG plan is to accelerate the fielding of UH-60M Black Hawks by 10 aircraft per year. Although the Active Army has programmed UH-60A recapitalization for the ARNG with Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funds, which includes an airframe life extension, fleet-wide product improvements and the replacement of components, the UH-60A to L upgrade is not funded. The UH-60L Black Hawk is more economical to operate and has 1,000 lbs. of additional lift than the UH-60A. The desired rate of UH-60A to L upgrades is 38 per year. Funding the UH-60A to L upgrade will significantly improve the Black Hawk fleet, and assure that ARNG units are ready, deployable, and available to protect our national interests both abroad and at home. This ARNG aviation initiative has been identified by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau (CNGB) as FY09 "Essential 10—Top 25" unfunded priorities.

HONORING MAYOR PAUL GATTUSO, RECENTLY APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF THE WEST CENTRAL MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Gattuso, the Mayor of the Village of Westchester and an outstanding citizen of Illinois' Third Congressional District, for his recent appointment as President of the West Central Municipal Conference (WCMC) in west suburban Cook County, Illinois. Throughout his distinguished career, Mayor Gattuso has served his community with excellence and intelligence and I am pleased to recognize this most recent of his many accomplishments.

Mayor Gattuso has a longstanding tradition of service to his community. He has served with distinction as the Mayor of Westchester since 2005. Prior to his election, he spent 10 years as a Village Trustee. He also supports a variety of local organizations, such as the Kiwanis Club and the Westchester Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to his dedicated service to the community, Mayor Gattuso is a successful businessman. He has owned and operated a thriving restaurant, Paul's Pizza and Hot Dogs, in Westchester for over 20 years. The restaurant, a favorite among residents, proudly sponsors numerous youth and athletic organizations.

The West Central Municipal Conference is a membership-supported association representing 36 municipalities and one township within west suburban Cook County. As President of the WCMC, Mayor Gattuso will use his passion for helping people to assist the WCMC in serving the needs of its various communities and providing valuable services to the citizens who work and live in the region. I am confident that under his leadership the WCMC will continue to be a successful council of governments.

Mayor Gattuso is also a proud husband and father. His son is studying pre-law at Marquette University, while his daughter has a wonderful career in design.

It is my great privilege to recognize Paul Gattuso as he begins his term as President of West Central Municipal Conference. His experience, knowledge, and commitment to the community will undoubtedly contribute greatly to a successful tenure.

IN HONOR OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR BRETT RANKERT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Command Sergeant Major Brett Rankert for his 25 years of service to the Nation as a member of the United States Army. On behalf of the whole House, I am honored to extend to CSM Rankert and his family the gratitude of the Congress and the American people for his service on this occasion of his retirement.

I have had the great personal pleasure of meeting CSM Rankert during his tour of duty as the Presidio of Monterey Command Sergeant Major. I can say without reservation that his performance in this position epitomizes the very best of what military service should be—smart, professional, selfless, and humane. He has truly been an ambassador for the uniformed services in general, and the Army in particular. My office has repeatedly worked with CSM Rankert to help resolve problems ranging from individual soldier concerns to the frustrations of several elderly Presidio neighbors over the 'just outside the gate' smoking habits of certain DLI students. In every instance of which I am aware, CSM Rankert has helped to transform a situation from conflict to resolution with grace, certainty, and a smile.

CSM Rankert is also a warrior—a soldier's soldier. A native of South Bend, Indiana, he first enlisted into the Army in 1983. CSM Rankert's leadership qualities, particularly his attention to the soldiers in his care, led to a succession of promotions and leadership positions, including Team Leader, Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, First Sergeant, and ultimately Command Sergeant Major. His assignments included the 313th Military Intelligence Battalion in support of the 82nd Airborne Division; the 102nd Military Intelligence Battalion in support of the 2nd Infantry Division; and the 101st Military Intelligence Battalion serving as the Bravo Company First Sergeant. Finally, I should note that CSM Rankert never scored below a perfect 300 on his annual physical fitness test.

His military education included the Army Airborne Course, Basic Instructor Training Course, Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course, First Sergeants Course, United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, Command Sergeants Major Designee Course, and the Garrison Sergeants Major Course. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Liberal Arts from Excelsior College, New York, and an Associates of Applied Science Degree in Intelligence Operations. CSM Rankert's Awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Army Parachutist Badge, Meritorious Service Medal (3rd OLC), Army Commendation Medal (2nd OLC), Army Achievement Medal (4th OLC), Kosovo Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon (4th Award), NATO Medal.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I want to emphasize the importance of military families in the ultimate success of our military's mission. CSM Rankert's past and future success are very much built on the support and partnership of his wife Sharon and son Justin. I want to thank them for their public service and wish the Rankert family good luck and God's speed in the next chapter of their lives.

HONORING DENNIS LEMASTERS II

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dennis Lemasters II of Platte City, Missouri. Dennis is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest

qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1028, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Dennis has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Dennis has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Dennis Lemasters II for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN SUPPORT OF WILMINGTON,
NORTH CAROLINA BEING RECOGNIZED AS "AMERICA'S WORLD
WAR II CITY"

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to the City of Wilmington, North Carolina, for its remarkable contributions to the U.S. war efforts during World War II. Its rich World War II legacy reminds us not only of its unique and pivotal role in the war, but also of the honorable dedication of all North Carolinians during our Nation's time of need. As a reflection of its unique and pivotal role, and its deep and unmatched sacrifice, I stand to proclaim that Wilmington, North Carolina, should be recognized as "America's World War II City." In fact, both the New Hanover County Commissioner and City Council have proclaimed it so!

During World War II, Wilmington was the country's unique wartime boomtown, aptly and officially named "The Defense Capital of the State." The once-quiet seaside city, geographically isolated for decades, suddenly found itself an exploding center for military life and defense production.

Wilmington's wartime efforts were extensive and honorable. Wilmington based and trained all five military services—the Air Force at the Wilmington Airport, the Army at Camp Davis and Fort Fisher, the Navy at Fort Caswell, the Coast Guard at Wrightsville Beach, and the Marine Corps at Camp Lejeune. The North Carolina Shipbuilding Company of Wilmington, the state's largest employer at that time, constructed 243 cargo vessels with which to provide goods and equipment to our soldiers. Additionally, Wilmington provided the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad headquarters, three housing camps for German prisoners of war, a major training base for P-47 fighters, defense industries producing goods and equipment, a British patrol base, and a shipping Lend Lease supplies to the Allies.

Wilmington's most important contribution by far, though, was its dispatch of thousands of its sons and daughters to fight the enemy. These New Hanover County men and women served in uniform, fighting on land, sea, and air as Navy frogmen, P-51 fighter aces, Tuskegee Airmen, submarine skippers, bomber pilots, Marine riflemen, Army artillerymen, physicians and nurses, and volunteers of all sorts. Tragically, 248 Wilmington men bravely lost their lives as a result of their courageous

efforts to defend America. Two New Hanover High School graduates received the Congressional Medal of Honor and numerous others received high decorations for valor including Navy Crosses, Distinguished Service Crosses, and Distinguished Flying Crosses.

Furthermore, Wilmington's strategic position made it vulnerable to enemy attack by German U-boats, which marauded shipping off our beaches. In July 1943 a U-boat fired at the Ethel-Dow chemical plant in Wilmington, perhaps the only German attack on America. Wilmington endured this attack, as well as constant civilian defense restrictions and air raid drills, including black-outs and dim-outs. The city's population more than doubled with the influx of military personnel, forcing locals to cope with strain on housing and schools, transportation, medical and social services, law enforcement, and food supply.

Madam Speaker, Wilmingtonians sacrificed in every imaginable way when our nation needed them during World War II. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognition and appreciation of Wilmington's contributions to the U.S. war effort during World War II. Now, in the spirit of that appreciation, let it be known that Wilmington, North Carolina, should be recognized as "America's World War II City."

DESCUBRIENDO LA LECTURA AND READING RECOVERY

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, it is truly a pleasure to rise today to acknowledge the achievements of Descubriendo la Lectura and Reading Recovery in teaching struggling first grade students to read and write in the 22nd House district of Texas.

In April I visited Fort Bend Independent School District to observe an early reading intervention for bilingual children whose initial literacy learning is in Spanish. It is called Descubriendo la Lectura—DLL for short. The goal of DLL is to reduce the number first-grade children who have extreme difficulty learning to read and write and to reduce the cost of those learners to educational systems. DLL is a reconstruction of Reading Recovery for Spanish-speaking children and provides short-term, one-to-one tutoring with a specially trained teacher.

The results in my district are impressive, beginning with the student I met the day of my visit. Jose began his DLL lessons in January reading on a text level of 1, which means he could read a simple book with a single line, supported by single illustrations. He could recognize his own name and write very few other words.

On the day of my visit he was reading at a text level of 12, which means he could read a book with 4–8 lines of text per page. He is able to read books with more challenging ideas, vocabulary and longer sentences. He is able to interpret and understand ideas and characters through discussions with the DLL teacher.

In the Fort Bend Independent School District, 70 percent of the students receiving a full series of DLL lessons were reading on or above grade level by the end of first grade last

year. Throughout Texas, the U.S., and Department of Defense schools around the world, three-quarters of children receiving a full series of DLL or Reading Recovery lessons are reading and writing at grade level standard by the end of first grade. These results are remarkable, considering these children began at the bottom of their class for reading and writing—usually the lowest 10–20 percent. I commend the teachers, administrators, and students of Fort Bend ISD for their commitment to assuring literacy for all children.

FIRSTBANK

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize FirstBank for being the recipient of the 2008 Golden Rotary Customer Service Award.

FirstBank is a locally owned banking organization headquartered in Lakewood, Colorado and for over 40 years FirstBank has been dedicated to a high standard of customer service.

FirstBank is a full service bank with local personnel, local decisions and outstanding customer service. The employees of FirstBank are available to customers 24 hours a day with fast and friendly customer service. Due to the high standard of customer care, FirstBank has become the premier leader in the banking industry in Colorado.

My deepest congratulations to FirstBank on your continued success and outstanding commitment to the customers you serve.

HONORING WALTER JONES III OF MICHIGAN

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Walter Jones III—decorated Vietnam War hero, active member of the Civil Rights Movement, and dedicated servant to the community of Kalamazoo, MI.

During the Vietnam War, Walter served as a paratrooper in the United States Army from 1965 to 1968. He received three Purple Hearts and two Bronze stars during his combat time and fought bravely in many battles, including the Battle of DakTo—a major victory over the North Vietnamese.

Perhaps even more impressive than Walter's war history, is his tireless work for the Civil Rights Movement. When he was a young man of 14 years, Walter became the vice president of the local NAACP Youth Council in Kalamazoo, and has been fighting for equal rights for all races ever since.

With the combination of Walter's bravery in the Vietnam War and his leadership in the Kalamazoo community, he has been chosen to receive the 2008 Veteran of the Year Award at the Metropolitan Kalamazoo branch of the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet. I thank Walter Jones for his lifelong commitment to the betterment of our country, and in particular, for