

Many more stories from Birdseye serve as a testament to its strong Hoosier values and warm community spirit. But the greatest treasure Birdseye possesses is the people of this small Indiana community. Regardless of the challenges they face or the difficulties that lay ahead of them, they illustrate the best qualities of rural America.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent this community in Congress. I want to congratulate Birdseye on its Quascentennial, and look forward to seeing how this unique and wonderful town thrives for decades to come.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION FACILITIES AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

**HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2008*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, my colleagues and I join together today to introduce the "Smithsonian Institution Facilities Authorization Act of 2008".

I thank my colleagues, including Committee on House Administration Chairman BRADY and Ranking Member EHLERS, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Ranking Member MICA and Subcommittee Chairwoman NORTON, and the Congressional Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, for their efforts to move this important legislation forward. I also thank the Smithsonian Institution for its effort on behalf of the legislation and welcome the new Secretary, Dr. G. Wayne Clough. I look forward to working with Secretary Clough as the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure works to address the enormous repair and maintenance backlog of the Smithsonian Institution facilities and ensure that its facilities meet the highest standards of energy efficiency and conservation.

The bill authorizes the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to design and construct laboratory space to accommodate the Mathias Laboratory at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center ("SERC") in Edgewater, Maryland. The bill also authorizes the Board of Regents to construct laboratory space to accommodate the terrestrial research program of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute ("STRI") in Gamboa, Panama. The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will consider the Smithsonian Institution Facilities Act on July 31. The Committee will also consider S.J. Res. 35, which provides for the construction of the Very Energetic Radiation Imaging Telescope Array System (VERITAS) project in Arizona. Earlier this year, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure reported H.R. 5492, to authorize the Board of Regents to construct a greenhouse facility at its museum support facility in Suitland, Maryland, favorably to the House, and the House passed the bill by voice vote on March 11, 2008. The Committee hopes to bring S.J. Res. 35 to the House in early September. With passage of these bills, the House of Representatives will have completed action on the Smithsonian Institution's construction program for this fiscal year.

Section 2 of the bill authorizes the Board of Regents to design and construct laboratory

and support space to accommodate the Mathias Laboratory at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, Maryland. The bill authorizes \$41 million to design and construct the facility. SERC is a global leader in the study of ecosystems in the coastal zone. The 52,000-square-foot replacement laboratory will be connected to the existing structure to provide an operationally efficient and environmentally sustainable laboratory facility for SERC's research programs. The project will eliminate the use of temporary, unsafe trailers, address substandard, inefficient laboratory facilities, and will substantially reduce the facility's energy use and maintenance costs.

Section 3 of the bill authorizes the Board of Regents to construct laboratory space to accommodate the terrestrial research program of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Gamboa, Panama. The bill authorizes \$14 million to construct the 53,283-square-foot facility. STRI is the principal United States organization devoted to research in tropical biology. Tropical biology is critical to finding untapped resources to add to the important supply of food, pharmaceuticals, and fiber of tropical regions. STRI has outgrown the space available at its current facilities and this bill provides for construction of a new lab in Gamboa, Panama, on the east bank of the Panama Canal. Gamboa is protected by geography from the encroachment of civilization and pollution. The terrestrial research program is critical to understanding the role that tropical plants and soils play in global climate change models and for enriching knowledge of tropical biodiversity.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the "Smithsonian Institution Facilities Authorization Act of 2008", and I look forward to working together with my colleagues on these and other Smithsonian Institution issues.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2008*

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congresswoman KAY GRANGER.

Project name (as it appears in the bill): Security Forces Building/Combat Arms Addition. Amount received: \$5 million.

Bill number: H.R. 6599.

Account: Air National Guard.

Legal name and address of entity receiving earmark: 136th Airlift Wing, Texas Air National Guard, JRB NAS Fort Worth, 200 Hensley Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76127-1672.

Description of how the money will be spent and why the use of federal taxpayer funding is justified: The Air Force has increased its need for Security Forces personnel. That has resulted in an increase of Security Forces personnel at the 136th Airlift Wing. Current space and facilities are inadequate (the building is less than 50 percent of the authorized and required size). The project is programmed for FY11 but needs to be constructed earlier to accommodate the training and readiness of the 136th Airlift Wing's growing force of Security Personnel and their role in the Global War on Terror. According to the Future Year De-

fense Plan, 96 percent of the amount received would go toward contract costs while the remaining 4 percent accounts for contingency, supervision, overhead, and inspection costs.

Description of matching funds: Matching funds are not required for Military Construction projects.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HUMBOLDT PUBLIC LIBRARY

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Humboldt Public Library on its 100th year anniversary. The Humboldt Public Library serves over 4,500 residents of Humboldt, Iowa as well as a number of residents of the surrounding areas in Humboldt County.

In 1908, the city of Humboldt completed its public library with the assistance of an Andrew Carnegie grant. From 1912 to 1963, Mrs. Nellie Pinney served 51 years as the longest serving librarian. At the time of her retirement, the library was circulating 3,500 books a year. Forty-five years later, the Humboldt library has expanded its circulation to 85,000 items to better serve the diverse interests of its citizens and the advanced technology of modern times.

Throughout the many years the Humboldt Public Library staff has thrived to meet the needs of the people in the area by providing excellent information, educational resources and encouraging citizens to read. I congratulate the Humboldt Public Library on this historic anniversary. It is an honor to represent Library Director Nikki Ehlers, the library board of trustees, and all of the Humboldt Library staff in the United States Congress, and I wish the Humboldt Public Library continued success well into the future.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2008*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I submit the following: H.R. 6599—The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs FY09 Appropriations bill. Mr. JERRY LEWIS (CA-41): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Republican earmark guidance, I am submitting for the record the following project that has been included in H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs FY09 Appropriations bill. This project was authorized in H.R. 5658—the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Requesting Member: Congressman JERRY LEWIS

Bill Number: H.R. 6599

Account: Military Construction—Navy

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Marine Corps Base Twentynine Palms

Address of Requesting Entity: 73549 29 Palms Hwy., Twentynine Palms, CA 92277.

Description of Request: Phase I of the Life Long Learning Center (LLLC) project at the

Marine Corps base Twentynine Palms provides a facility to help Marines and their families fulfill their educational goals. The project will replace older, undersized facilities with a 17,000 square foot, three-story building which will include classrooms, office spaces, a computer room and other supporting infrastructure. When completed, the LLC will facilitate more than 40 higher education classes with an anticipated enrollment exceeding 1500 students per term. The Marine Corps supports this project as it would dramatically improve the quality of life for our soldiers.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

### HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2008*

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards adopted by House Republicans, I am submitting the following earmark disclosure and certification information for an individual project appropriations request that I made and which was included within the text of H.R. 6599, the "Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009."

Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP (UT-01)

Bill Number: H.R. 6599—"Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009"

1 project was included at my request which qualifies as an earmark under Republican Conference guidelines, as follows:

1. Project: Three-Bay Fire Station, Military Construction

Project Amount: \$5.67 million

Account: Air Force, Military Construction (MILCON)

Requesting Entity: Congressman ROB BISHOP

Receiving Entity: Hill Air Force Base; Air Force Materiel Command

Address: 75th Air Base Wing, Hill AFB, Utah 84056.

Project Description and Justification: Construction of new, 3-bay fire station next to the main runway is necessary to correct for violation of Air Force fire protection regulations regarding response times. New facility is necessary to provide adequate fire protection for aircraft, as well as industrial operations on East side of runway in support of vital national defense missions. This project was already approved in the Air Force's Five-Year Defense Plan as being necessary to meet military safety requirements. MILCON projects are inherently necessary as having been requested and reviewed by the applicable military service in the first instance. Congress merely readjusts prioritization of project funds in any given fiscal year based on showing of emerging or critical needs.

Matching Funds: Not applicable (Federal entity).

Detailed Spending Plan: \$5.67 million in appropriated dollars will be expended by Hill Air Force Base Civil Engineer Division pursuant to existing Military Construction statutes and regulations under an open bidding competitive

process with the private sector, for the construction of a 3-bay Fire Station complex. Additional questions regarding this project may be addressed to: U.S. Air Force, Hill Air Force Base Public Affairs Office (801) 777-5201.

RECOGNIZING MR. ERIK RUSSELL AS A RECIPIENT OF THE 2008 COLORADO AEROSPACE EDUCATION FOUNDATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

### HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2008*

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the ongoing career of Mr. Erik Russell as recognized for the 2008 Colorado Aerospace Education Foundation Teacher of the Year Award. His commitment to education in the areas of Science, Technology and Mathematics (STEM) has made a tremendous impact on the 4th graders that he teaches at Odyssey Elementary School in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

As the program director for the Engineering is Elementary Program, Mr. Russell has set the standard for future STEM educators. Mr. Russell's dedication to STEM education has garnered more than \$10,000 in grants and donations. From rocketry to Lego robotics and weightless flights to symposiums, his work to bring innovative ideas and real world applications to the classroom clearly ranks him among the best in the education profession.

Mr. Russell's work extends beyond the classroom to the local military, the aerospace industry, and the Air Force Association. His noteworthy accomplishments have also been recognized by the Wall Street Journal.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. Eric Russell. I applaud his selfless dedication to students and to the future of STEM education.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO SAFE KIDS USA

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2008*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Safe Kids USA, a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, for its work to make our children safe when traveling in motor vehicles. Safe Kids USA and its long time partners, General Motors and Chevrolet, were recently honored by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) for completing their one millionth child safety seat check.

Unfortunately, auto crashes are the leading cause of death for children in the U.S., making it critical that child safety seats be properly installed. Safe Kids and its partners work to train parents and caregivers in the proper installation and use of child safety seats through nationwide car seat checkup events, and on June 12 this year they reached the milestone

of one million child safety seats checked for proper installation.

Child safety seats have to be installed correctly to insure the safety of our children, yet statistics show that four in five seats are not installed so they properly protect the child riding in the seat. Correct seat installation is essential.

A Safe Kids inspection provides hands-on training for parents and caregivers in how to use child safety seats the right way. I have hosted and attended car seat checkup events in Michigan where trained technicians worked one-on-one with families to help them learn how to safely transport their children.

I am sure that the one millionth milestone reached by Safe Kids has likely resulted in hundreds of lives being saved. Certainly that prompted the NTSB to honor Safe Kids, GM and Chevrolet with its prestigious Safety Leadership Award, celebrating their collaborative efforts to improve child occupant protection.

The one million seat inspection was achieved by the more than 600 state and local Safe Kids coalitions and chapters, staffed primarily by volunteers, throughout the country. The Safe Kids coalition network is very active in my home state of Michigan, and I encourage all of my colleagues to participate in a Safe Kids/GM child safety event in their own states where they will see firsthand how the non-profit and corporate sectors can work together to advance a lifesaving public health safety message.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Safe Kids USA, General Motors and Chevrolet on their extraordinary achievement. They are truly deserving of our respect and admiration.

#### TRIBUTE TO BARB RIEMENSCHNEIDER

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Barb Riemenschneider for her ten years of volunteer work with the kindergarten class at Page Elementary School in Boone, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for her dedication and commitment to the youth of Iowa.

"Grandma Barb" has contributed her time and talents to improving children's lives through education and mentoring. Ten years ago when Barb's granddaughter began kindergarten, Barb began volunteering at the school. Every Friday, she has assisted Rosanne Brown's class with number and letter skills, playing board games, and listening to students read. Her willingness to do the little things built trust with the students and created a positive experience.

Barb leaves her volunteer job having made a lasting impact on many students, and she will be dearly missed by Rosanne and the children at Page Elementary. I consider it an honor to represent Barbara Riemenschneider in the United States Congress, and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.