

a national reputation for exceptional client service, cost-effective building design, and expertise in sports and recreation architecture.

With the retirement of Charles S. Sink, Mr. Combs naturally assumed the role of the firm's leader. He became responsible for managing the company and nurturing relationships with the community, clients, and firm employees. Under his leadership the depth of experience and breadth of knowledge of the firm has expanded. He has retained key employees and groomed the firm for growth by naming Andy Barnard a Principal in 1993 and Chris Kastelic a Principal in 2004.

Mr. Combs' accomplishments reach far beyond the projects he has managed. Through his warm and caring nature, he has attracted and trained a new generation of architects and fostered an atmosphere of camaraderie within the office. He has mentored numerous young architects through their career paths encouraging personal growth, accountability, and public duty. He has demonstrated that architecture is not just about designing buildings but about serving clients and the community. Under his leadership, the firm has won numerous design awards and has participated in countless charitable pursuits and community outreach programs.

Richard Combs is a leading architect and businessman in Denver. He is the current President for the Denver Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, where he is working to promote sustainable, energy efficient building design, including resource conservation. As Congress increases its efforts to promote green buildings, his guidance has been extremely valuable.

Richard Combs has contributed over thirty-seven years of service to the practice of architecture while maintaining a rich and fulfilling personal life. Dick is married to Sue Combs and has three children—Leslie, Patrick and Daniel, and one granddaughter, Sadie.

He is retiring from a career that has left an outstanding legacy. I want to join his partners, employees, friends, and family in expressing my respect and appreciation and wishing him many well-deserved years of health, rest and relaxation.

RECOGNIZING THE SACRAMENTO COUNTY FARM BUREAU

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Congressman DAN LUNGREN and Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI, to recognize the Sacramento County Farm Bureau on the occasion of its selection as the first recipient of the 2008 Outstanding Achievement in Farm Health & Safety Recognition Award by the Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety at the University of California, Davis. The award is given in recognition of an individual, group, organization, association or business that consistently strives to reduce agricultural workplace injuries and improve overall health on the farm.

The Sacramento County Farm Bureau (SCFB) was established in 1917 to support the Sacramento County farming community.

SCFB is also a member of the California Farm Bureau Federation, a non-profit organization of farmers and ranchers with over 90,000 members throughout California. The Sacramento County farmers and ranchers supported by the SCFB produce approximately 75 different crops with a total annual crop value of over \$325 million.

On September 19, the Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety at UC Davis honored the SCFB and its leaders, President Ken Oneto and Executive Director Charlotte Mitchell, for its advancement of new agricultural health and safety practices and their development of model farm safety programs. The SCFB exemplifies exceptional involvement in promoting practices not only on the farm, but within communities through health fairs reaching farm workers, their families, and children.

Annually, the SCFB hosts a major safety seminar attended by approximately 200 farm workers and 20 employers and supervisors. To ensure a broad audience, all of the classes are offered in Spanish and English. The presenters are experts in their fields and come from a variety of private and public organizations. While the specific topics change each year, presenters always include representatives from the California Highway Patrol, local Fire Departments, County Health Department, CalOSHA, Blood Source, AmeriCorps, UC Davis and State Fund. The Sacramento County Farm Bureau's leadership in bringing agricultural employees together with safety officers and other agricultural safety representatives not only reduces workplace injuries, but improves family health and their communities overall.

In the last several years, the SCFB has also expanded its activities to include a well attended Health Fair for families. This major undertaking has enabled many families to receive free medical testing and basic health training that they might otherwise not receive.

Additionally, the SCFB sponsors two important programs for the agricultural community: the Young Farmers and Ranchers Program and the Foundation for Agricultural Education. The Young Farmers and Ranchers Program consists of a committee of the Farm Bureau members that organize young people between the ages of 18 and 35 who support the agricultural community. Established in July 2000, the Foundation for Agricultural Education's primary purpose is to provide scholastic financial awards to high school and college students continuing their education at the university level.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in acknowledging and congratulating the Sacramento County Farm Bureau and its leadership for its ongoing service to its members, California's farm workers, their families, and Sacramento's agricultural communities.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRES-

SIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 6947, the FY2009 Homeland Security Appropriations bill:

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN CULBERSON.

Bill Number: H.R. 6947, the FY2009 Homeland Security Appropriations bill.

Account: Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Predisaster Mitigation.

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Harris County Flood Control District, 9900 Northwest Freeway, Suite 220, Houston, Texas 77092.

Description of Request: Provides \$1,000,000 (to the Harris County Flood Control District. It is my understanding that 100 percent of the funding would be used for the construction of one small structural project as well as the acquisition and demolition of approximately 38 homes located deep within the floodplain and floodway of the White Oak Watershed of Harris County. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Predisaster Mitigation Account. These projects improve flood reduction and flood mitigation efforts by saving National Flood Insurance Program payments from repetitive flood loss properties. The Harris County Flood Control District will spend approximately \$2,000,000, derived primarily from a dedicated ad valorem property tax and through a capital project agreement with Harris County.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN CULBERSON.

Bill Number: H.R. 6947, the FY2009 Homeland Security Appropriations bill.

Account: Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Coast Guard Bridge Replacement.

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Coast Guard Bridge Administration Office, Washington, DC; and the Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association, 2010 Butler Drive, Friendswood, Texas 77546.

Description of Request: Provides \$5,000,000 for the Galveston Causeway Railroad Bridge Replacement. Today, 21 thousand barges move 29 million tons of cargo worth \$10 billion through the Galveston Bridge each year. In 2001, after a lengthy review process, the bridge was declared a hazard to navigation by the Coast Guard under the Truman Hobbs Act. The current estimated cost of replacement is almost \$68 million. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Coast Guard, under the Truman Hobbs Act. Under the Truman Hobbs Act, the Federal Government pays 90 percent of replacement cost and the bridge owner—Galveston County—pays 10 percent.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE WALTER REUTHER DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the three individuals being honored with the 2008 Walter Reuther Distinguished Service Award. On October 9th, the

United Auto Workers will bestow the award on Berteen Ewles, Jimmie Wells and Ron Lane.

The UAW presents the Walter Reuther Distinguished Service Award to those individuals that exemplify commitment to their union and their community. Walter Reuther believed in helping working people, human dignity and social justice and recipients of the Distinguished Service Award carry on Walter Reuther's ideals.

Berteen Ewles is the President of Local 1811. She is responsible for over 700 members scattered at 13 companies. She has been involved in the Technical, Office and Professional sector of the UAW since 1986. She is also active with the Greater Flint Area CAP Council, the Michigan Democratic Party, state-wide organizing, and contract negotiations. In 2007 she received a YWCA Woman of Achievement award on behalf of the UAW Region 1-C.

Jimmie Wells has been a member of the UAW since 1986. She has served as the Vice President of Local 1811, as President of TOP, she has served on the Executive Board, the Women's Committee, as an Alternative UAW Convention Delegate, on the Constitutional By-laws Committee and the Education Committee. In addition, Jimmie has extensive civic involvement in community-based organizations.

Ron Lane conceived the idea of union representation at FJ Grafik, Inc. in 1986. This vision led to the employees achieving their first UAW contract two years later. Ron has served the UAW as the Region 1-C IPS Council Vice President, the Council District Chair, the Local 1811 Sergeant at Arms, and the Bargaining Chair. He has served on several committees at both the Local and Region 1-C levels. He is the liaison for all union represented accounts and local officials accounts for FJ Grafik.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Berteen, Jimmie and Ron as they receive the Walter Reuther Distinguished Service Award. May they continue their work on behalf of workers for many, many years to come.

CONGRATULATING CLARK COLLEGE ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRIAN BAIRD

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Clark College, located in America's Vancouver, on its 75th anniversary.

Clark College can trace its beginnings to the Nation's Depression. The school's founders had a simple, but challenging concept: provide opportunity to students who might otherwise give up on college because they couldn't afford to live away from home.

Even though the founders were driven by a sense of urgency, they took the time to make sure that they provided students with a quality education. They offered smaller classes with more personalized instruction. The goal was to deliver courses for lower-division students that would give them the background and tools they needed to go on to larger institutions for specialized, upper-division work. And as many transfer students would discover time and

again, Clark graduates often were regarded as having superior training to those who had completed freshman and sophomore levels at the very 4-year universities accepting those transferred credits.

In its 75th year, Clark College continues to meet the ever-evolving education needs of people in our community. Graduates continue to share stories of how Clark College was a starting point for professional and personal achievement.

During the 2007-2008 academic year, 1,129 Clark College students earned more than 1,252 associate degrees and certificates from Clark College. In addition, 25 students received their high school diplomas and 853 men and women earned their general educational development certificates. Clark also welcomed more than 1,000 "Running Start" students from 29 local high schools.

Besides diplomas and certificates, Clark College students receive career and technical training that provides access to immediate employment. Through these programs, displaced workers receive retraining. Mature students and other lifetime learners have access to a variety of courses to enrich their lives.

Clark College forges community links by consulting with businesses to ensure that students are meeting the needs of employers. Clark College assists businesses with training and has formed partnerships with companies to offer specialized workforce skills.

Clark College is also a community resource for political forums and arts-related events such as concerts, plays, lectures, exhibits, films and its perennially popular jazz festival. Together with YWCA Clark County, Clark hosts the annual Women of Achievement awards, an occasion of regional significance.

Not content with merely following trends, Clark's faculty and staff members have taken the lead in devoting their time and talents to many pioneering efforts. In 2006, Clark became the first college in the state to become tobacco-free. Clark was one of the first Washington community colleges to harness the Internet for student education, and continue to expand technical programs such as eLearning, which provides classes via the Internet and multimedia formats.

On behalf of the citizens of Washington's Third Congressional District, I am proud to congratulate Clark College on its 75th anniversary. Members of the Clark College community can rightfully take pride in their history, their legacy, and—more importantly—their future in building a foundation for student success.

HONORING MARY OLSON ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, it is a great privilege for me to rise today to recognize the contributions of Ms. Mary Olson, a resident of Mahtomedi, Minnesota who has served as a dedicated Department of Defense civilian employee since 1980. On this, the occasion of her retirement, it is fitting to reflect on her remarkable career as a public servant.

For 28 years, Ms. Olson has tirelessly supported the United States and the Department of Defense as a Policy Program Manager and Human Resources Specialist focusing in the areas of pay, leave and quality of work life issues. Her insights and policy initiatives have contributed greatly to the Department's ability to acquire and sustain the talent required to successfully accomplish its mission. It is a pleasure to commend her for her service and to extend to her the gratitude of a grateful nation.

Ms. Olson has served both in the continental United States and overseas. When leadership and managers needed an answer on which they could rely, they called on Ms. Olson. Her expertise is in and of itself worthy of recognition. However, she has also mentored untold numbers of human resources personnel in a manner that instilled unparalleled professionalism, a strong work ethic, and a model for persistence in resolving issues adeptly and accurately. She leaves a legacy of comprehensive compensation policies, as well as a cadre of expertly prepared human resources practitioners who will ensure the Department has and will continue to have the policies it needs for talent management.

Mary has been an inspiration and example for younger Federal employees and to her family. She battled back from a debilitating accident that would have caused most to give up. In Mary's case, however, her courage, fortitude and generosity of spirit spurred her on to be a major contributor to the Department's Civilian Personnel Policies, and a leader for all with whom she came in contact. Her zest for life was and is contagious!

After many years away, Mary has returned to Minnesota where she will no doubt continue to inspire others. With Mary's retirement from Federal service, Minnesota has reclaimed a fine daughter who will be a great contributor to her community. Mary may be retiring, but, we can be assured that she will continue working in some form, and will through her words and deeds be an exemplary citizen.

On behalf of myself and the many Federal employees, managers and leaders who have been helped directly by her work, I offer sincere gratitude to Ms. Mary Olson and wish her and her family all the best in her retirement years.

TRIBUTE TO THE "NO LIMITS" AWARD WINNERS

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the winners of the "No Limits" awards from the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona. HealthSouth has presented these rehabilitation awards to members of their community who have remained steadfast in overcoming an illness or disability. This year I congratulate: Trudy White, winner of the "No Limits" Advocate Award and Dustin Dillon and Franklin Foster, winners of the "No Limits" Personal Achievement Awards.

In March 2007, Trudy White was admitted to the Altoona Hospital for shortness of breath with both respiratory and congestive heart failure and was placed on a ventilator for several