

our deepest thanks and appreciation to Bill as he brings his career in state government to an end.

Visionary, community leader, activist, teacher, advocate, mentor, and friend are just some of the descriptions one could use for Bill Dyson. He is one of those rare individuals who has dedicated a lifetime to public service. As an educator and one of Connecticut's most respected lawmakers, Bill has been a powerful voice in the State legislature as well as in the New Haven Public School system.

In the more than 3 decades that Bill served in Connecticut's House of Representatives, Bill has served on a variety of committees and caucuses including many years as the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. He has been a champion of the arts, securing funding which has helped New Haven's rich arts community to flourish and is perhaps best known for his leadership on issues dealing with children, ex-offenders and the mentally ill as his work on their behalf has translated into meaningful public policy.

During his tenure he was often the strong voice of reason in what at times could be a chaotic session. I have no doubt that his colleagues will long remember his booming voice—commanding their attention and calling for common sense dialogue. His straight-forward, no nonsense attitude garnered him the respect of his colleagues and constituents alike. Bill is a reflection of all that we hope our political leaders will be and his presence at the Capitol will certainly be missed.

I must also take this opportunity to thank Bill for his many years of special friendship—one which harkens back to my own service in city government. Bill is an extraordinary man whose impact on our community and our public policy cannot be understated. He has left an indelible mark and a legacy—both political and personal—that is sure to inspire many generations to come.

It is for these reasons and countless more that I am honored to stand today to pay tribute to my dear friend, the Honorable William R. Dyson, as he is recognized by the New Haven community for his outstanding contributions. He is one-of-a-kind and I wish him many more years of health and happiness as he enjoys his retirement.

RECOGNIZING HOWARD JAMES
STRICKLER OF LAKE COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Howard Strickler on the occasion of his retirement from the Kelseyville Fire Protection District of Lake County, California after 32 years of service, 28 of them as Fire Chief. Chief Strickler's leadership will be truly missed by his colleagues and the people of Lake County.

Chief Strickler is a native son, graduating from Kelseyville High School in 1967. His career in public service began in the U.S. Army, where he served from 1970–1973. After his discharge, he worked with the White House Communications Agency before coming home and joining the Fire Protection District.

Chief Strickler has lived in Kelseyville for 47 years and has done more than perhaps anyone else over that time to keep Lake County residents safe. During his tenure he was instrumental in the implementation of the county's first paramedic program as well as the first countywide Hazardous Materials Response Team. He also helped develop a 911 First Responder Agreement that is now used by all fire departments, EMS and law enforcement agencies in the county.

Chief Strickler has earned the undying admiration of all who have worked for him and with him. To a person, they describe Chief Strickler as the consummate leader, someone who instills confidence in everyone around him and whose compassion and love for the community shines through. He is a family man whose quiet sense of humor and listening skills always made his employees feel comfortable and at home. He will be missed a great deal.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Chief Howard Strickler for his many years of service to Kelseyville and all of Lake County, California, and to thank him for his many contributions on behalf of our country and his community. I join his wife, Debbie, his two children, and five grandchildren in wishing him the best as he enters this new phase of his life.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act (H.R. 2638):

Requesting member: Ron Paul.

Bill number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Rdt&E Defense Health Program.

Legal name of requesting entity: Gulf Chemical and Metallurgical Corporation.

Address of requesting entity: PO Box 2290, 302 Midway Road, Freeport, TX 77542–2290.

Description of request: The project earmarks \$3,000,000 for a Department of Defense lead study of vanadium to assess the health safety and risks of military and civilian workers exposed to vanadium through work in military applications.

HONORING DR. PETER G. MEHAS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with Congressman RADANOVICH to congratulate Dr. Peter Mehas upon his induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. Dr. Mehas was honored at the 50th anniversary enshrinement dinner of the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame on Thursday, November 6, 2008.

Peter Mehas' love of sports was nurtured during his childhood, as he shagged baseballs as a bat boy for the Fresno Cardinals at Eu-

less Park. Although he never considered himself a great athlete, Dr. Mehas was an All-American center/linebacker at Fresno City College, and a member of the 1961 California State University, Fresno Mercy Bowl team. After graduating from California State University, Fresno, Dr. Mehas coached the football, soccer and tennis teams at Roosevelt High School. His tennis teams won five straight North Yosemite League titles.

After receiving his masters degree, and coaching football at University of California, Los Angeles, Dr. Mehas returned to Fresno where he taught and coached future Fresno Hall of Famers Charle Young and Charles Anthony, both football players at Edison High School. Dr. Mehas moved into administration for Clovis Unified School District, and assisted in the development of many programs and facilities; including Clovis High School's Lamonica Stadium and the Clovis West High School Olympic Swim Complex. He earned his doctorate in Education from the University of Southern California in 1979.

Dr. Mehas has served as the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame president for 15 years. At the time of his induction, his professional and civic career is a notable example of applying the lessons learned in athletics to other endeavors. Under his leadership, the Hall of Fame expanded on its mission of honoring the Valley's greatest sports heroes and inspiring youngsters to follow in their footsteps. He also has been instrumental in expanding athletic opportunities for women.

Politics came next as Dr. Mehas served as Governor George Deukmejian's secretary of education and a trustee for the State Board of Education and California's Community Colleges. In 1990, he was elected to the first of four terms as the Fresno County superintendent of schools. In 2007, he was appointed to the California State University board of trustees.

Madam Speaker, we rise today to commend and congratulate Dr. Peter Mehas upon his achievements and induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Mehas congratulations on his many accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING JAMES P. CHITWOOD
UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of James P. Chitwood upon his retirement as the Executive Director of the College Advancement and Foundation for Northwest Florida State College.

As executive director of the College Advancement and Foundation for Northwest Florida State College, an organization that provides educational and charitable aid to the Northwest Florida State College, Mr. Chitwood has greatly expanded the fundraising abilities of the school and has helped it obtain the sixth greatest endowment among community colleges in the United States.

Over the past 20 years, the Foundation for Northwest Florida State College, under the direction of Mr. Chitwood, has evolved into an

outstanding institution that greatly promotes education. In just 20 years, the foundation's assets grew by over \$45 million and created some of the most notable foundations and buildings in the area. The expansion of the Chautauqua Center in DeFuniak Springs was one of the first projects undertaken by the organization. Its success was followed by the construction of the Robert L. F. Sikes Center in Crestview, Florida, and the South Walton Center in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida. The foundation also launched the Arts Center Endowment Campaign and, when the college's focus shifted to health programs, the foundation began the Nursing and Health Technology Campaign.

For many years to come, the Northwest Florida community will continue to benefit from the lasting impression made by Mr. Chitwood. His inspiring involvement in the community and dedication to expanding education has provided infinite opportunities to the surrounding area. Though retirement will signal the end of Mr. Chitwood's formal career with the Northwest Florida State College, it is merely the beginning of the lasting legacy that he leaves behind.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize James P. Chitwood upon his retirement and for his exemplary service in the First District of Florida.

HONORING MARK LEHN BALDWIN III

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mark Lehn Baldwin III of Kansas City, Missouri. Mark 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 1314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Mark has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Mark 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 Mark Lehn Baldwin III for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING 1998 CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO, SOFTBALL TEAM MEMBERS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with Congressman COSTA to congratulate the 1998 California State University, Fresno, Softball Team upon its induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. The team members and coaches will be honored at the

50th anniversary enshrinement dinner of the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame on Thursday, November 6, 2008.

On a hot day in late May 1998, second baseman Nina Lindenberg sent the first pitch in the bottom of the sixth inning over the left-field fence and the Lady Bulldogs into history. The home run off Arizona ace, Nancy Evans, was Lindenberg's 13th of the season, gave the Bulldogs a 1-0 lead in the championship game at Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Women's College Softball World Series Most Valuable Player, Amanda Scott, then polished off a three-hit shutout, and the Wildcats, as California State University, Fresno, claimed its first NCAA Division I team championship in any sport.

The 1-0 victory capped a magical season for Head Coach Margie Wright's Bulldogs, who started the season with a 2-2 record and finished with 52 wins 11 losses. The season was highlighted by 4 wins and 1 loss in the Women's College World Series (WCWS) with victories over Nebraska, Michigan, Washington and top-ranked Arizona. The national title was a united effort as four Bulldogs made the All-Women's College World Series team: outfielder Laura Berg, first baseman Angela Cervantez, Nina Lindenberg and Amanda Scott. The Bulldogs captivated all of the San Joaquin Valley as their games were aired on local radio and ESPN. Seeded seventh in the field, they arrived in Oklahoma City determined to win the title for a school that had finished second in the WCWS four times.

The team was led throughout the year by a pitching staff that included Amanda Scott (25-4, 0.79 ERA) and Lindsay Parker (21-4, 1.54 ERA) and a balanced hitting attack keyed by Laura Berg (.458 batting average, 72 runs), Nina Lindenberg (.449, 77 RBI), outfielder Becky Witt (.392, 69 runs) and Amanda Scott (14 home runs, 72 RBI). The team included: OF Laura Berg, 1B Angela Cervantez, 2B Nina Lindenberg, Lindsay Parker, P Amanda Scott, Becky Witt, OF Candice Bowlwin, OF Kara Campbell, SS Alicia Dowland, C/1B Jennifer Jokinen, 3B Jaime Maxey, P Kim Peck, C Jennifer Slaney, C Janna Todd, 1B Vanessa Valenzuela, C Amber Wall, C Carolyn Wilson, OF Daviana Wisener. The coaching staff was headed by Margie Wright, assisted by Margaret Sutter and Mary Ivy. Also involved with the team was Maribel Campos, manager, and Andrew Weeks, trainer.

Madam Speaker, we rise today to commend and congratulate 1998 California State University, Fresno, Softball Team upon its achievements and induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the 1998 Fresno State Softball Team congratulations on its many accomplishments.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding an earmark I received as part of H.R. 2638—The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009:

Requesting Member: The Honorable THOMAS E. PETRI.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638—The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

Account: Army Operations & Maintenance, Operating Forces 115 Land Forces, Operations Support Account.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Deere & Company—World Headquarters.

Address of Requesting Entity: One John Deere Place, Moline, IL 61265.

Description of Request: Provide \$3,200,000 to complete the manufacturing of approximately 215 Light-weight Tactical Utility Vehicles at John Deere Horicon Works in Horicon, Wisconsin. (Joint request with Representative MIKE MCINTYRE of North Carolina.) The Light-weight Tactical Utility Vehicle is a rugged, air droppable, highly mobile diesel-powered tactical utility vehicle to expedite casualty evacuation and resupply activities of Corps units. They have been heavily utilized during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. This request is consistent with the intended purpose of the Department of Defense, Army Operations and Maintenance account.

IN HONOR OF THOMAS V. FUENTES

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Thomas V. Fuentes, who is retiring after 25 years of service in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Throughout his career with the FBI he has served his country with honor and integrity.

Mr. Fuentes began his distinguished career with the Bureau in 1979 as a Special Agent in the Chicago Field Office. Serving in this office for over 10 years, Mr. Fuentes led the fight against organized crime and mob corruption. As an Organized Crime Task Force supervisor, his efforts were instrumental in bringing countless Chicago criminals to justice. I had the privilege of serving with Mr. Fuentes in the Chicago Field Office and witnessed firsthand his tremendous skill and dedication.

Mr. Fuentes was promoted to FBI Headquarters in 1990 as a supervisor in the Organized Crime Section. As a result of his continued success against organized crime targets, Mr. Fuentes was eventually appointed as the assistant special agent in charge of the San Francisco Field Office. There he established the International Cybercrime Squad and was selected to serve as an FBI tactical commander at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia.

In August 1997, Mr. Fuentes was promoted to the Senior Executive Service as the chief of the Organized Crime Section at FBI Headquarters. Among his many ground-breaking law enforcement initiatives, Mr. Fuentes created the Organized Crime Task Force consisting of FBI Agents and Hungarian National Police Officers in Budapest, Hungary—the first such multinational organized crime task force of its kind in the FBI.

Mr. Fuentes' extraordinary career with the FBI has been marked by his transformational