

These 21st century explorers achieved a great engineering and scientific triumph earlier this year when the 770-pound Phoenix traveled 420 million miles and successfully parachuted to the rocky surface of Mars. That odds-defying landing, however, was only the beginning of Phoenix's awe-inspiring accomplishments.

On the surface of the Red Planet, Phoenix harnessed the power of the sun to scoop up and analyze the Martian soil. This data—including a series of remarkable photographs—was transmitted back to Earth where scientists made what must surely be one of the most significant discoveries in human history: the presence of frozen water.

For as long as humankind has peered into the heavens, we have wondered whether or not we are alone in the universe. From our earliest ancestors to medieval theologians to the scientists of our day, this question has loomed over us like the stars themselves. Mars has been the focus of much of this speculation. More than 40 missions have been launched to explore this planet but only six have been successful. Foremost among them is the University of Arizona-led Phoenix Mars Mission.

The discovery of frozen water on Mars by Phoenix did not definitively confirm or deny the age-old question of our uniqueness in the universe. No one ever expected it would. But it did give us a deeper understanding of the fourth planet from the sun. This new knowledge is a testimony to the creativity of the men and women who made Phoenix possible at the University of Arizona, the first public university to lead a mission to Mars.

The Phoenix Mars Mission Team members are: Cherie Achilles, Douglas Archer, Chris Adams, Paul Allvin, Maria Banks, Stephanie Barnes, Jean Barret, Carla Bitter, Rolfe Bode, Matt Bomhoff, William Boynton, Robert Bovill, Dennis Bowers, Cassie Bowman, David Burke, Sanlyn Buxner, Ryan Brestel, James Cantone, Chewie Chu, Kevin Corcoran, Jesse Cornia, Michael Drake, Gerard Droege, Alex Ebadirad, Jacob Egan, Heather Enos, Lisa Fahey, Charles Fellows, Tony Ferrow, Michael Finch, Kenny Fine, Mike Fitzgibbon, Gwennie Furr, Connie Garcia, Justin Giacotto, Gabrielle Gilbertsen, Joseph Gotobed, Stephen Gray, Dave Hamara, Sara Hammond, Lori Harrison, Dustin Harshman, Karl Harshman, Chelsea Hodson, John Hughes, Robert Jaw, Monty Kennedy, Hamza Kolaghsi, Frankie Kolb, Melissa Lambertson, Jeffrey Landgreen, Lynn Lane, Therese Lane, Pamela Larrow, Abel Levario, Colleen Lester, Andrew Levine, Robert Logan, Douglas Lombardi, Peter Manning, Katelun May, Rick McCloskey, Evan McKelvy, Trevor Merkley, John Moores, Bryan Morgante, Sean Mulvey, Julie Norwood, Carroll Oquest, Jerry Penegor, Federico Pennacchini, Ian Phillips, Amy Philips, John Pursch, Siddhartha Ray, Robert Reynolds, Garret Richards, Joaquin Ruiz, David Sage, Tisha Saltzman, Walter Seaman, Jeff Seligman, Andrew Shaner, Adam Shaw, Robert Shelton, Chris Shinohara, Peter Smith, William Sperry, Lori Stiles, Johnathan Stroottman, Kari Sturm, Tomoeda, Lisa Tatge, Lisa Tidwell, Cheryl Tomoeda, Kimmie Varela, Cindi Ward, Heather Weisacosky, Mike Williams, Galen Woida, Patrick Woida, Rigel Woida, Patricia Wroblewski.

I commend them for their success and for all they have done to expand our knowledge of the planet Mars.

## HONORING SISTER'S JOURNEY AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, the first of November will mark an important milestone for an outstanding organization in my community—the 10th Anniversary of Sister's Journey. Founded by my dear friend, Linda White-Epps, as she coped with her own battle with breast cancer, Sister's Journey has been an invaluable source of comfort, compassion, and support for women diagnosed with this disease for the last decade.

The diagnosis of breast cancer can be overwhelming—not only for the woman who has been told she has this battle to face but for her loved ones as well. It is important for women to know that they are not alone and that there are others who are facing comparable challenges, asking the same questions, and enduring similar hardships, physically and emotionally. That is what Sister's Journey is all about.

In facing her battle with breast cancer, Linda White-Epps saw the need in her community for a group that could help women to heal physically, emotionally, and spiritually. She recognized the need for education and advocacy, for women to share the trials and tribulations of cancer, and to celebrate survivorship. What began as a monthly support group meeting has grown into a community educator and a strong voice of advocacy for early detection and quality treatment for every woman fighting breast cancer. But perhaps the organization's greatest contribution has been that of the Sister's Journey annual calendar. With each month comes the face and the story of a woman still facing breast cancer or who has survived—each page highlighting their personal journeys. The calendar has proven to be a tangible example of the encouragement, support, and vision that is Sister's Journey.

Though Linda lost her battle in 2003, today her legacy—Sister's Journey—is carried on by her family; her mother Phyllis White, and her daughter, Dawn White-Bracey, who serves as its current President. Today as members gather for the annual Pink Tea, we celebrate the remarkable 10 years this organization has been supporting those struggling with the ongoing challenges of breast cancer. I am proud to stand today to pay tribute to Sister's Journey and their decade of good work. We all hope for a time when breast cancer will no longer be a threat to our health, until then, our community could not be more fortunate than to have Sister's Journey for those in need.

## EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to identify an earmark that I obtained in H.R. 2638—Homeland Security Division D for the Coast Guard account for the Elgin, Joliet, and Eastern Railway Company Bridge, Morris, IL in the amount of \$2,000,000.

In February 1995, the Coast Guard declared the EJ&E Bridge across the Illinois Waterway to be an unreasonable obstruction to navigation and issued an Order to Alter. The EJ&E Bridge is the most hit bridge on the entire inland river system.

Funding will allow design and construction for widening the width between the bridge piers. Currently, the width of the EJ&E Bridge is only 113 feet. Typically, barge tows that operate within the inland river system are 105 feet wide, leaving only a total of 8 feet of room for the barge to fit between the piers. According to the Coast Guard, modifications made to this bridge will save \$1.1 million in damage each year. Funding this project will make the Illinois River safer for maritime traffic and will substantially reduce the number of accidents at this site.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the United States Coast Guard located at Office of Bridge Administration, CG3-PWB Room 3500, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street, SW., Washington, DC 20593. It is my understanding that the funding would be used to the design and construction for widening the width between the bridge piers. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any direct financial interest in this project.

Consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge this request (1) is not directed to an entity or program named or will be named after a sitting Member of Congress (exception must be justified here); (2) is not intended for a "front" or "pass through" entity; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

## HONORING HELEN JONES, M.D.

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Helen Jones upon being awarded with the "Community Health Champions Award" at the 2008 West Fresno Health Care Coalition's 4th annual "This is Your Life of Service" dinner and award ceremony. This year the ceremony will be held at the Radisson Hotel Conference Center in Fresno, California on Friday, October 24th.

Dr. Jones was raised in San Francisco, California. She graduated from Lowell High School, one of the oldest and most prestigious schools in the San Francisco school district. She earned a Bachelor's of Arts in biochemistry from the University of California, Berkeley and her Medical Doctorate from the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Jones also attended classes at the Universities of California, Irvine and Riverside and attended summer courses in biomedical engineering at Clark College in Atlanta, Georgia. She originally made her way to Fresno to train under Dr. Howard Morelli, the former dean at the University of California, San Francisco. Currently, Dr. Jones is in private practice with Internal Medicine Associates and was formerly with Linder-Quann Medical Group.

In addition to being an internist, Dr. Jones specializes in palliative medicine, a form of medical care or treatment that concentrates on reducing the severity of disease symptoms

rather than halting or delaying progression of the disease itself or providing a cure. This form of medicine allows seriously and terminally ill patients comfort and relief from the pain of their disease. Palliative care educates the patient on symptom management, provides information about their illness, communicates with the patient and their families about their disease and provides them with emotional and spiritual support. Dr. Jones has served as the Hospice Medical Director and Ethics Chair of Saint Agnes Medical Center. She is a past president of the Fresno Madera Medical Society. She has developed an obesity prevention toolkit for medical providers through the California Medical Association and has been an advocate for cleaning the air throughout the San Joaquin Valley. Dr. Jones has also served as Chair of the Fresno Unified School District Wellness Policy and was a board member of the Central California Blood Center.

Dr. Jones has been a tireless advocate for accessible healthcare particularly in West Fresno. Through various faith-based and community organizations she has assisted in promoting the awareness, prevention, and care of breast cancer. She is a strong believer that proper education and awareness in disease prevention is the key to keeping the residents of Fresno County healthy. Dr. Jones credits her success to her parents' guidance. The family motto growing up was "Keep it real, roll up your sleeves and get it done." She has held that motto close to her heart.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Dr. Helen Jones upon being awarded with the "Community Health Champions Award". I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Jones many years of continued success.

#### TRIBUTE TO ST. BONAVENTURE PARISH

#### HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding religious institution, St. Bonaventure Parish in Paterson, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 130th Anniversary of dedicated service to its parishioners, and by extension, the greater community.

It is only fitting that St. Bonaventure Parish be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, for all the spiritual home it has provided to American families, especially those just embarking on their path to the American dream, and the dedication to the entire community that helps keep this deeply rooted parish family growing towards the future.

St. Bonaventure Parish was founded in 1876 by a group of six Franciscans who had been expelled from Prussia by Otto Von Bismarck. They came to the United States and asked Bishop Michael Corrigan of Newark for a place to live and minister. Just then, a group of Carmelite priests who had been displaced from Bavaria returned to their homeland, leaving a partially constructed monastery on

Ramsey Street in Paterson. The Franciscans moved to the building and in 1877 the bishop elevated the church to parish status. Soon the monastery was completed and the religious community built a parish church. St. Bonaventure's was the area's first Franciscan community, and served for many years as its center of activity. The monastery functioned as a seminary, a novitiate, a retreat house and a motherhouse of the Holy Name Province, established in 1901. Thousands received the Franciscan habit here and began their period of initiation into religious life.

From St. Bonaventure's, the Franciscans established dozens of missions and parishes in New Jersey and throughout the Eastern United States. Many others who studied at the monastery went on to serve abroad. The monastery once operated St. Anthony's Guild, which published countless books and pamphlets here before its move to New York City.

The parish has built its tradition by giving its parishioners spiritual roots in their neighborhood, providing a deep sense of community to those who have grown in the church, receiving their sacraments there, as well as welcoming newcomers to the surrounding area. The St. Bonaventure's parish family has expanded throughout the years to include many parishioners who have moved out of the neighborhood, but return with their families to worship at the parish. Building on its legacy, it is looking to reach out to some of the newest residents around the parish, many of whom are from Central and South America, and just beginning their American journeys.

They are seeking as they move into the future to see more parishioners young and old become involved in the church's ministries that reach not only their faith community but the greater Paterson region. I am certain that St. Bonaventure's will continue to thrive and enrich not only those who worship there but so many others in need throughout the area.

The job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to learning about and recognizing the efforts of wonderful, thriving community like St. Bonaventure Parish.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join all of the parishioners and clergy of St. Bonaventure Parish, all those whose faith has been enriched throughout the years, and me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of St. Bonaventure Parish to the church community and beyond.

#### HONORING KENANIAH THOMAS REISER

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kenaniah Thomas Reiser of Farley, Missouri. Kenaniah 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.

Kenaniah has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities.

Over the many years Kenaniah 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 Kenaniah Thomas Reiser for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF JOYCE SANDERS UPON HER RETIREMENT AS PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER OF EMBARQ CORPORATION

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joyce Sanders, who is retiring as Public Relations Manager of EMBARQ Corporation. Ms. Sanders has played a vital role in the community service organizations of Northwest Florida, and I am honored to recognize her achievements.

Joyce Sanders moved to Northwest Florida in 1993, and she has been a community leader ever since. Her local leadership includes serving on the Board of Directors of the Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Trustees of the Okaloosa County Economic Development Council, and the Board of Directors of the Walton County Economic Development Council. Ms. Sanders is actively involved with the United Way of Okaloosa County and the March of Dimes WalkAmerica program. She has been a mentor to numerous young women across Northwest Florida by working with the University of West Florida Small Business Development Center. Through EMBARQ, Ms. Sanders provides numerous scholarships to the UWF Women in Business Seminar and to underprivileged students at Northwest Florida State College.

Ms. Sanders' commitment to service can be seen through her numerous awards, including her selection in 1998 as Honorary Commander for the Eglin Air Force Base 33 Fighter Wing Program. This award recognizes the value of military and civilian partnerships, a fundamental component of Northwest Florida. Awards alone, however, cannot describe the true value of Ms. Sanders' service to our area. In the aftermath of natural disasters Hurricane Opal and Hurricane Ivan, Ms. Sanders used her position at EMBARQ to place mobile telephone trailers throughout the affected regions so those displaced from their homes could contact their families and friends. Her courage in the face of these disasters exemplifies Ms. Sanders' devotion to the people of our community.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to thank Joyce Sanders for her years of public service to the community of Northwest Florida. Vicki and I wish her and her family best wishes for continued success.