Means Committee, is far, far too valuable to both Congress and the nation to waste toward dilatory efforts to ruin his good name and bring him down. I know that, based upon the merit of the case, that the Chairman will be exonerated, the Chairman's innocence will prevail, and he will continue to handle the people's business in the manner that has brought honor, dignity and respect to the U.S. House of Representatives.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I submit the following earmark request:

1. Project—Security Forces Operations Facility.

Requesting Member: MICHAEL TURNER.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Account: Air Force, Mil Con.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Address of Requesting Entity: Dayton, OH.

Description of Request: $14,000,000 is appropriated for a Security Forces Operations Facility in fiscal year 2009. The entity to receive funding for this project is Wright-Patterson Air Force Base located at Dayton, OH. The funding would be used to house the operations of the 88th Air Base Wing Security Forces Squadron (88 SFS), which provides security and police services for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

TRIBUTE TO BURT RUTAN

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Elbert Leander ''Burt'' Rutan, a renowned aerospace engineer, who celebrated his 65th birthday on June 17, 2008.

Burt was born in Portland, Oregon, on June 17, 1943, though he was raised in Dinuba, California. As a young boy, Burt produced award-winning model airplane designs; a prodigy in the making. When Burt was sixteen, he obtained his pilot's license and went on to receive his aeronautical engineering degree from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Soon after, the United States Air Force hired Burt as a civilian flight test engineer at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

Throughout the years, Burt has established himself as a leader in innovative aircraft design. With the start of his own private company, Rutan Aircraft Factory, based in Mojave, California, Burt began to market sleek, light, and efficient aircraft such as the VariEze, Quickie, and the Long-EZ; it was during this time that the concept for the Voyager was generated. Burt's passion for aeronautical engineering soon found him leading Scaled Composites, the world's most productive aerospace prototype development company. Some of the most innovative and successful aircraft developed by Scaled Composites have been the Triumph jet for Beechcraft, the CM–44 UAV for California Microwave, the Scarab Model 324 drone for Teledyne Ryan Aeronautical, and the McDonnell Douglas DC–X single stage rocket structure. His designs utilized lightweight composite materials, rendering him with copious amounts of success and praise for his entrepreneurial skills and insightful knowledge on the subject to which he has dedicated his life.

One of Burt's most famous designs, the Voyager aircraft, piloted by Burt's brother, Dick Rutan, set a record-breaking flight around the world without stopping to refuel in 1981. Model 218 Proteus, a tandem-wing high-endurance aircraft designed by Burt, holds several altitude records. SpaceShipOne gained Burt significant recognition as it was the first privately-built, funded, and flown aircraft to enter space in June of 2004. This feat was acknowledged with the Ansari X Prize, while his team was honored with the 2004 Collier Trophy later that year, awarded to them by the National Aeronautic Association.

Today, SpaceShipOne, Burt and his team's spacecraft that launched men successfully into space, is displayed in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum's ''Milestones of Flight'' gallery in Washington D.C. Other prestigious awards given in recognition of Burt's aerospace expertise include the Chrysler Award for Innovation in Design, the British Gold Medal for Aeronautics, ''Engineer of the Year'' by Design News, the Presidential Citizens Medal presented by President Ronald Reagan, and the Lindbergh Award.

As Burt has soared through his creative and competitive career, he has been commended for his innovative efforts. His maverick aerospace expertise continues to be highly sought after. Today, Burt and his company, Scaled Composites, are currently engineering SpaceShipTwo for Virgin Galactic with the prospect of offering suborbital trips into space by 2009. Burt has never given up on his dreams and he continues ''looking up, way up.''

REMARKS ON THE OLYMPIC JOURNEY OF LEONEL MANZANO

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, a son of Burnett County, Texas is going to the Olympics. I rise today to congratulate Leonel Manzano on his outstanding achievement in making the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Team.

It seems Leonel was born to be an Olympian. His work ethic is legendary, his character is impeccable, and he can just flat out run. His dedication to his sport has earned him a spot to compete on the biggest stage in athletics and prove to everyone that a young man from a small corner of Texas can be the best in the world. It will be a joy to watch him represent my district, the State of Texas, and our entire country.

As Leonel travels to Beijing, he will go with the hope and prayers of the entire Texas Hill Country with him. His neighbors, family, coaches, and even competitors have all helped forge him into the man he has become and we will all be watching in rapt attention when he steps into the blocks.

If I could remind Leonel of just two virtues that bring success, it would be to always fulfill your God given talents and never forget to be gracious under pressure. If he can manage these two feats, as he has done so well in the past, he will return home an Olympic hero.

It is my honor to represent Leonel, as well as his parents, Jesus and Maria Manzano, here in Washington. I share their pride in all that Leonel has accomplished. As he heads to Beijing, I wish him good luck and safe travels.

A TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL MINORITY EDUCATORS, INC. 33RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE—SEPTEMBER 17–21, 2008

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor today to rise and recognize the National Association of Medical Minority Educators, Inc., also known as NAMME, for their years of support for health professionals from traditionally underrepresented and disadvantaged populations.

Established in 1975, NAMME aims to increase the presence of minority health care providers. To achieve this goal, the founding members of NAMME have worked tirelessly over the years to provide motivated students with access to education, training, and practice in the health care profession.

Since its inception, NAMME has strived to prepare students for success in health related fields including dentistry, optometry, public health, and veterinary medicine. The organization holds as its core values its ability to develop and sustain productive relationships and to produce action oriented programming for stakeholders. NAMME has established an extraordinary reputation of providing exceptional professional development opportunities for its members. NAMME is hopeful that these significant opportunities will ultimately translate to the reduction in health disparities among underserved populations. Madam Speaker, I commend NAMME for its vision and foresight in identifying this service which is so greatly needed in disadvantaged communities.

Today, with alumni across the country, NAMME stands as one of the leading organizations for providing the type of training and informational resources that will greatly benefit small communities. Programs are available that nurture and support individuals through all stages in their pursuit of a career in health care.

NAMME will hold its 33rd Annual Conference in Arlington, Virginia on September 17–21, 2008 where House Majority Whip, The Honorable JAMES E. CLYBURN will serves as the keynote presenter.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, I hope that you will join me today in honoring NAMME and the substantial contributions this organization has made to provide access to health care education for underrepresented and disadvantaged communities.