

views on transatlantic relations, the differences between the European and U.S. views of the world, the future role of NATO, relations with Russia, and the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The next day, the delegation met with Sten Tolgfors, the Minister of Defense for Sweden. The Minister briefed us on Sweden's global outlook, their participation with NATO in the Balkans and Afghanistan (they have 290 troops and lead a PRT in the north), Russia, and the reforms they have instituted within the defense establishment, including the decision to pursue an all-volunteer professional military (they, like the Finns, have a conscript military). Sweden, like Finland, does entertain the possibility of future NATO membership but the Minister told the delegation that currently the parliament is split on the idea and so it is not on the government's current agenda. The delegation then proceeded to a working lunch hosted by Ms. Karin Enstrom, head of the Swedish delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and attended by other parliamentarians. The discussion was lively and covered the entire spectrum of U.S.-Swedish relations. Following lunch, the delegation met with State Secretary Frank Belfrage from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Discussions centered on Russia, Afghanistan, and Sweden's upcoming presidency of the European Union. One of Sweden's priorities will be climate change and preparing the EU's positions for the Copenhagen Conference on climate change that will be held in December. The Secretary expressed his hope that the United States and EU will work closely together on this issue and to help forge a consensus on the follow-on efforts to the Kyoto Climate agreement.

Madam Speaker, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly provides a unique opportunity for Members of Congress to engage in serious discussions on critical issues with our colleagues from other NATO member states, associate and observer states. I believe our delegation, and thus this Congress, benefits greatly from the information we exchange and the personalities we meet during these meetings. I look forward to our next NATO PA session in November in Edinburgh, Scotland.

In conclusion, I would like to again acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our Embassy staffs in Oslo, Helsinki, and Stockholm, and the men and women of the U.S. Navy vessels we visited while in Norway. I especially want to thank our entire military escort group from the United States Air Force, including the pilots. Our diplomatic corps and military personnel provide a quiet but invaluable service in ensuring our safety and this group of diplomats, servicemen and women was no exception. I thank them for their hard work and their dedication to duty.

HONORING SISTER FRANCINE
LAGOCKI, PRINCIPAL OF SAINT
RICHARD SCHOOL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Francine Lagocki, Principal of Saint Richard School in recognition of her ca-

reer of devoted service. Sister Lagocki's retirement at the end of the 2009 school year will mark the end of nearly seven decades of selfless service to our nation's youth. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sister Lagocki's outstanding commitment to educational excellence. Sister Lagocki embodies the positive influence that teachers and school administrators can be on students every day across this great country.

In Sister Lagocki's accomplished career as an educator, she served as a classroom teacher in three parish schools before becoming assistant principal at Good Council High School. Sister Lagocki then served as principal of St. Mary School and St. Roman School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, before returning to Illinois to serve as Principal for St. Wenceslas in Chicago, and then finally St. Richard School on the Southwest Side.

St. Richard School is a Catholic school that serves the parish community and is both an expression of and a witness to the faith of its people. Believing that a child's development best occurs within the framework of a positive and structured environment, St. Richard School offers innovative and high quality educational programs. The aim of these programs is to challenge each student while teaching basic skills, within a Christian atmosphere where mutual respect, order, and values are high priorities.

It is my honor to recognize Sister Francine Lagocki, who served as an example of one of the best in K-8 school leadership and helped foster a greater understanding of the principal's key role in meeting the challenging responsibility of educating children.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on Congressionally-directed project funding, I am submitting the following information regarding project funding I requested for Southeast Louisiana as part of the Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill.

Requesting Member: Congressman STEVE SCALISE

Bill Number: Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Bill

Account: Department of Justice, COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Washington Parish Sheriff's Office

Address of Requesting Entity: 1002 Main Street, Franklinton, Louisiana 70438

Description of Request: I have secured \$291,000 for the Washington Parish Sheriff's Office. The funding will provide law enforcement equipment, and provide proactive and reactive law enforcement activities for the safety of citizens and law enforcement officials engaged in law enforcement activities. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman STEVE SCALISE

Bill Number: Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Bill

Account: Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs—Juvenile Justice
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Boys Town Louisiana

Address of Requesting Entity: 700 Frenchman Street, New Orleans, LA 70116

Description of Request: I have secured \$147,000 for Boys Town Louisiana, New Orleans, LA. The funding would be to expand an integration of the Boys Town Treatment Family Home program and its Home Family Services program to serve more at-risk girls and boys and their families. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

CONSUMER ASSISTANCE TO RECYCLE AND SAVE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, though I voted for the Consumer Assistance to Recycle and Save or the CARS Act, I have serious reservations about it. Unfortunately, despite its good intentions, it will send jobs overseas and it does little to help our ailing climate.

I cosponsored H.R. 1550, an earlier version of the bill. That version allowed consumers to get a voucher for cars assembled in the U.S. The version under consideration today has no such assurances, which means that significant amounts of the funds will go toward the purchase of cars made in countries like China. We are giving with one hand and taking with the other.

Our auto industry needs our help more than ever. Yet we are handing over money, jobs and infrastructure to our international competition. It is made worse by the terms of the GM bankruptcy which requires that plants in the U.S. are closed while shipping auto manufacturing jobs to other countries like Mexico and South Korea. We can't protect the auto industry by sending their work to other countries.

ENERGY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I would first like to thank Rep. ELLISON for holding this special order tonight as Congress works to break away from business-as-usual with regards to our nation's energy future.

I would also like to thank the Chairs of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, Representatives WOOLSEY and GRIJALVA, for your leadership and your tireless efforts to promote proper stewardship of our communities by protecting the environment.

It is so important that we continue to call for action on these issues surrounding global warming and the continued degradation of our environment that is perpetuated by our dependence on fossil fuels.

As I have said time and time again—there is no denying the interconnection between our stewardship of the environment and the state

of the economy, public health, and our communities.

The drastic acceleration of greenhouse gas emissions has often been concentrated in low-income and minority communities, putting these vulnerable populations on the "front lines" of the fight against environmental degradation and global climate change.

Simply put, climate change has, and will continue to exacerbate the problem of poverty and inequality, and none of us can afford to take this lightly.

The health of our community and our neighbors affects all of us.

Let me take a moment to reflect upon the urgent need to finally put a price on carbon emissions and make polluters pay for the pollution they produce.

As a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, I look forward to working with my colleagues here in Congress to pass responsible and comprehensive climate legislation that will establish a price for carbon emissions and spur the development of clean, renewable energy and the deployment of much-needed energy efficient technologies.

Legislation which sets us on the path toward energy independence and a new, low-carbon economy will help to maintain the United States position as a leader in innovation while at the same time creating hundreds of thousands of good paying green jobs.

The biggest misconception out there today regarding our environment is that the public isn't engaged, or willing to transition to a sustainable, environmentally-friendly economy.

In reality, the shift to a low-carbon economy represents an economic opportunity for individuals across this country.

One of the most exciting and inclusive solutions to the many issues facing environmental health is the possibility afforded to us by promoting Green Jobs Training and the growth of the Green Economy in America.

To that end, I have reintroduced legislation entitled the Metro Economies Green Act, or MEGA, H.R. 330, which establishes grant programs to encourage energy-efficient economic development and green job training and creation.

This legislation would also create a national institute to serve as a clearinghouse for best practices information in order to facilitate the successful expansion of the green jobs movement on a national scale.

As the Representative of California's 9th Congressional District, I would also like to take a moment to recognize the role that California's East Bay is playing at the forefront of the Green Jobs and Green Industry movement.

We have a number of innovative initiatives in my district in particular, including the East Bay Green Corridor Initiative, the Oakland Green Jobs Corps, the Joint Bio Energy Institute, the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and the Energy Biosciences Institute at Berkeley.

I recently visited the site of the Oakland Green Jobs Corps with Special Advisor to President Obama on Energy and Climate Change, Carol Browner, in order to show her a truly groundbreaking example of green-collar workforce development already up and running in Oakland, CA.

The Oakland Green Job Corps is a partnership of community organizations, trade unions, private companies, and the City of Oakland. It provides Oakland residents with the necessary

training, support, and work experience to independently pursue careers in the new energy economy.

The fact is, "Green" has already become the fifth largest industry in the nation—80 percent of venture capital investments in 2008 were in the clean energy and energy efficiency sector.

Between 1998 and 2007, job growth in the clean-energy economy outperformed total job growth in 38 states and the District of Columbia, and we are just beginning to tap into our nation's clean energy potential.

Passing comprehensive clean energy and climate legislation, especially one which includes a robust Renewable Energy Standard, is essential to delivering cleaner energy and good-paying jobs to communities across the nation.

A strong Renewable Energy Standard will spur innovation and the expansion of economic opportunities surrounding the green movement.

The current draft of the American Clean Energy and Security Act sets America on a path to meet 20 percent of our electricity demand through renewable energy sources and energy efficiency by 2020.

This is an important start, but I am also confident we can do more.

It is the time to think big, not small, and I urge my colleagues to consider strengthening this standard so that we might take full advantage of the enormous renewable energy potential across this country.

This is only one of many important priorities we must address in order to ensure no communities are left behind in the transition to a low-carbon economy.

There is no doubt in my mind that a greener future will lead to a more prosperous future for our communities, the Nation, and the world.

I urge my colleagues to act swiftly to move America beyond its dependency on oil, address the climate crisis, and help protect America's natural resources for our children's future.

CONSUMER ASSISTANCE TO RECYCLE AND SAVE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the CARS Act for the fleetwide fuel efficiency gains it will create, the energy security it will enhance, the air quality it will improve and the boost it will give our flagging economy.

Under this "Cash for Clunkers" legislation, consumers with vehicles getting less than 18 MPG can get vouchers for \$3500 towards the purchase of a new vehicle that gets at least 4 MPG better than the vehicle they are retiring—and \$4500 towards the purchase of a new vehicle that gets at least 10 MPG better than the vehicle they are retiring.

While I am among those who would favor even stronger standards, this legislation nevertheless points American drivers in the right direction and will stimulate new car sales during a period of time when the auto industry and their dealer networks can use that business the most. I urge my colleagues' support.

CONDEMNING SHOOTING AT U.S. HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2009

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, as Ranking Member of the Africa Subcommittee, I joined several colleagues at an important Foreign Affairs Committee meeting with Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai of Zimbabwe.

It was an extraordinary opportunity to discuss Zimbabwe's progress towards democracy and away from dictatorship, hyperinflation, and multiple health crises, including cholera—and obtain a fuller understanding of what additional steps the U.S. can take to help.

That meeting, however, occurred at precisely the same time the House considered H. Res. 529, a resolution condemning the June 10th violent attack on the Holocaust Memorial Museum—a despicable anti-Semitic act that killed Officer Stephen Tyrone Johns. As so eloquently articulated by many colleagues yesterday, I—we—salute officer Johns for his bravery and courage and extend our deepest condolences to his family.

I rise today to not only express my support for H. Res 529 but also to thank my friend and colleague Mr. Klein for introducing it and for including me as a co-sponsor.

Mr. Speaker, the Holocaust Memorial Museum is a noble and vitally necessary attempt to remember and honor the victims of the Holocaust. The memorial itself is a witness to truth and promotion of human dignity and tolerance.

Wednesday's attack on that museum by a crazed, hate-filled gunman is yet another chilling reminder that our society still harbors a dangerous collection of bigots and racists who hate Jews.

Unparalleled since the dark days of the Second World War, Jewish communities around the world are facing violent attacks against synagogues, Jewish cultural sites, cemeteries and individuals. Anti-Semitism is an ugly reality that won't go away by ignoring or wishing it away. It must be combated with resolve and tenacity.

The sad deeply troubling reality is that James von Brunn cannot be dismissed as an aberration, but is connected to a whole hate-promoting movement that results in violence against Jews in America and around the world on practically a daily basis.

The Anti-Defamation League recently issued its annual Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents. While the ADL is to be congratulated for its careful research on an unpleasant but absolutely necessary subject, the ugly facts that the report documents make for painful reading.

In 2008, the ADL noted 1,352 reported incidents of vandalism, harassment, and physical assaults on Jewish people or Jewish-owned property nationwide.

Sadly and shamefully, my own state of New Jersey had more reported anti-Semitic incidents—238—than any other state.

But the attack on the Holocaust Memorial Museum, Mr. Speaker, is the most ominous aspect of this wave of evil. The Holocaust Memorial Museum is a unique institution. It is a