

operated enterprise that provides a rapid response, cost effective approach to meeting weapon systems program manager's material requirements.

Mr. Chronister continues to serve our country diligently and with great honor. Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the work Mr. Chronister has done for the U.S. Army and our country.

TRIBUTE TO THE ARCHBISHOP
MOELLER HIGH SCHOOL BASE-
BALL TEAM

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Archbishop Moeller High School baseball team on winning the Division I Ohio High School Athletic Association State Championship. This is Moeller's fifth state championship in baseball. Moeller also won state titles in 1972, 1989, 1993, and 2004.

This year's team was led by Manager Tim Held, who recently took the reins from legendary Coach Mike Cameron. Following the example that Cameron set, Coach Held guided the Crusaders to a state championship in just his second season, finishing with a final record of 25 wins and 5 losses. Moeller beat Pickerington North 5–2 in the title game in Columbus, avenging a previous loss to them in the regular season. Pitcher Robby Sunderman tossed a resilient five innings giving up only two runs, one earned, to get the victory for the Crusaders. Five different Moeller players scored runs in the title game making, this victory truly a team effort.

I look forward to following the players on this year's team in the future. They will certainly be headed toward a bright future. Past prep stars from Moeller have included Major League Baseball players Ken Griffey, Jr., Barry Larkin, the Bell Family—Buddy, David, Mike, and Rick—and many others. I must not fail to mention that our own House Minority Leader JOHN BOEHNER is a 1968 graduate of this esteemed Cincinnati high school.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Moeller on yet another State Championship. Go Moe.

SENTENCING OF TWO AMERICANS
IN NORTH KOREA

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call for the immediate release of two U.S. journalists, Laura Ling and Euna Lee, sentenced to twelve years hard labor in North Korea.

On March 17, 2009, Laura Ling and Euna Lee were arrested by North Korean officials while investigating the plight of North Korean refugees fleeing to China. The North Korean government accused the two women of committing hostile crimes against the Korean nation and illegally crossing the North Korean

border. On June 8, after a four-day trial conducted largely in secret, Ms. Ling and Ms. Lee were sentenced to twelve years of hard labor in a North Korean prison camp.

North Korea's blatant disregard for due process and human rights in the treatment of these two women is unacceptable. International human rights organizations have unanimously declared their conviction the result of inflated accusations and a "sham trial". Despite being party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, North Korea's judicial system fails international fair trial standards for transparency, independence, and conviction based on recognized criminal offenses. Unfortunately, the arrest and conviction of these two American journalists is but one example of the oppression under which North Koreans have suffered for too long.

Ms. Ling and Ms. Lee's sentencing to prison labor camp is also a disturbing violation of human rights and humanitarian standards. The State Department reports that conditions in North Korean prison camps are harsh and life threatening, with beatings and torture a regular occurrence. Three months of detention have already exacerbated Ms. Ling's medical condition and caused significant trauma for Ms. Lee's young daughter and family. Sentencing these two women to twelve years hard labor is a severe breach of international humanitarian standards. Ms. Ling and Ms. Lee should be released immediately.

The draconian sentence handed down to the two American journalists raises serious concerns about United States-Korean relations. It is deeply disturbing that North Korea would consider using these women as a negotiating tactic to avoid punishment for its latest nuclear tests. If North Korea truly wishes to ensure its national security, it should begin by releasing Laura Ling and Euna Lee and participating in the global community as a fair player.

Madam Speaker, I call on my colleagues and the Obama Administration to work for the swift release of these two women back to their families.

HONORING MARY LASH

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Ms. Mary Elizabeth Lash, who is currently teaching in Paramount, California, in my Congressional District, and has been teaching for a remarkable 59 years. She is California's longest-serving credentialed teacher.

Nearly all of Mary's 59 years of teaching have been in the Paramount Unified School District. In 1950, the Compton Unified School District hired Mary as a Home Economics teacher at Paramount Junior High School. In 1953, when Paramount formed its own unified school district, she took a Home Economics position at Paramount Senior High School, where she continues to teach today.

In 1955, Mary began working with the high school youth organization known as the "Corsairs" as the assistant to its founder. This service organization remains under Mary's leadership 54 years later. She has influenced

many young men and women into a life of service to others through this organization.

Mary was also a charter organizer of Future Homemakers of America/HERO, which is a national service organization whose goal is to develop citizenship, leadership, life skills, and career goals through competition, recognition events, and club-sponsored activities. Paramount High School's chapter of Future Homemakers of America/HERO has earned several Silver and Gold Medals in prepared speech, community involvement, and chapter exhibit events on both the National and State Levels.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today in tribute to Ms. Mary Elizabeth Lash as she is being honored in California for being its longest serving teacher. Mary has shown an enduring commitment to educating the youth of Paramount and providing them with the tools and skills needed to contribute to their communities and prosper in their adult lives. She truly touched the future, reaching many generations of students. Students, both current and past, who had the privilege of being in her class or in an organization she advised, will continue to be influenced by her example of hard work, dedication, and public service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Monday, June 15, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on a number of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 336, 337, 338, and 339.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to inform you of the circumstances regarding my absence on June 15, 2009. Yesterday, I, along with members of the Maine and New Hampshire congressional delegations, met with the Honorable Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy, to discuss matters concerning the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Unfortunately, because of this meeting, I was unable to make it back to Washington in time to register my votes. If I were present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 430, H.R. 2325, H.R. 729, and H.R. 540.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2847, the Commerce,

Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010:

Requesting Member: Congressman JERRY MORAN

Bill Number: H.R. 2847

Agency/Account: DOJ, COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Dodge City Police Department

Address of Requesting Entity: 110 W. Bruce St., Dodge City, KS 67801

Description of Project: I have secured \$200,000 for the Dodge City Police Department Equipment and Technology Upgrade Project. Funding will be used for a variety of equipment and technology upgrades that includes crime scene mapping and surveying upgrades, building security and safety cameras, and training room upgrades.

Requesting Member: Congressman JERRY MORAN

Bill Number: H.R. 2847

Agency/Account: DOJ, COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Liberal Police Department

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 2199, Liberal, KS 67905

Description of Project: I have secured \$200,000 for the Liberal Police Department Equipment Upgrade Project. The department is in serious need of some upgrades to current equipment including portable and car radios, mobile vehicle recorders, firearms, and holsters. Their current radios are between 7 to 10 years old and are beginning to deteriorate. Patrol vehicles are equipped with mobile vehicle recorders which are 6 to 7 years old and have started to deteriorate as well. Funding will be used for the City of Liberal Equipment Upgrade Project to help remedy this situation.

Requesting Member: Congressman JERRY MORAN

Bill Number: H.R. 2847

Agency/Account: DOJ, OJP—Byrne Jag Program

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Hutchinson Police Department

Address of Requesting Entity: 210 W. 1st, Hutchinson, KS 67501

Description of Project: I have secured \$200,000 for the Hutchinson Police Department Emergency Response Team Equipment Upgrade Project. The Hutchinson Police Department is in great need of upgrading their tactical team equipment to include funding for new tactical body armor, helmets, weapon systems, cell disrupter, surveillance equipment and throw phone. Funding will be used to upgrade these much needed items.

BANK ACCOUNTABILITY AND RISK ASSESSMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the "Bank Accountability and Risk Assessment Act of 2009." This legislation, which I introduced today, will change the way that the FDIC charges premiums to federally insured banks in order to capitalize the Deposit Insurance Fund (DIF).

Specifically, my bill will do two things: First, it will create a risk-based assessment process

for all insured banks. Second, it will establish a special annual risk premium for the "too-big-to-fail" banks that represent a systemic threat to our financial system.

I am recommending these changes because I believe that our current system disproportionately advantages the largest institutions at the expense of small banks. For example, under the current system, the FDIC determines the regular quarterly premiums for each bank based only on the domestic deposits held by the bank, rather than on the bank's total assets. As a result, banks with assets of \$1 billion or fewer pay assessments on nearly 80 percent of their liabilities because domestic deposits are their primary source of funding. Meanwhile, banks with more than \$10 billion in assets pay premiums on only 47 percent of their liabilities.

So, under the current system, while small banks pay insurance premiums on nearly their entire balance sheets, large banks pay on only half. I think we have it backwards. I think the largest banks with the riskiest investments should be responsible for paying more into the Deposit Insurance Funds than our Main Street banks that generally stay away from subprime mortgages and don't invest in mortgage backed securities or credit derivative swaps.

The absurd result of the current system is that banks with fewer than \$10 billion in assets pay approximately 30 percent of the total assessment base, although they hold only about 20 percent of total bank assets. This discrepancy is exacerbated by the fact that the largest institutions are "too-big-to-fail," and it can be argued that their depositors and other creditors enjoy superior protection than do the depositors and creditors of "too-small-to-save" banks.

I believe that each institution should pay an insurance fee based on risk. And where does risk come from? It does not come from deposits, but from the assets and investments of banks. We've seen how assets—like mortgage backed securities—can turn from assets to liabilities overnight. It's just common sense that banks with risky investments should pay more in deposit insurance premiums.

In addition, small banks all across the nation, those under \$10 billion in total assets, will almost universally see their premiums go down under my proposal. For example, of the 655 federally insured banks in Illinois, 651 of them would see their premiums reduced. Only four banks would see an increase—the four largest banks.

I like to compare this bill to the risk-based pricing that the banks have forced on consumers. For years, the banks have argued that risk-based pricing for their products, such as credit cards and home mortgages, is not only logical but fair because they only raise rates on those customers they feel are the greatest risk to the overall health of their institution.

Well, many of the same banks that utilize "risk-based" pricing for consumers required hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars to survive. Their irresponsible actions not only created a huge risk for our nation's overall financial health, but also placed hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars at risk. Through the "Bank Accountability and Risk Assessment Act of 2009," I propose that the American people impose the same risk-based assessment on the banks that the banks have been imposing on our constituents for years.

The FDIC has already taken a step forward in recognizing the greater risk that large, money center banks represent to the DIF. Last month, the FDIC's Board of Directors voted 4–1 to base their emergency premium assessment off a bank's assets and not their deposits. By basing the assessment off the institutions assets and not the deposits, the FDIC has recognized that any threat to the fund through a bank failure is dependent upon the liabilities that exist in a bank's assets, not their deposits.

This was a good first step toward requiring systemically significant banks to pay their fair share into the DIF, but Congress must take action to codify this assessment base for all quarterly payments into the DIF and create system risk premiums for those banks deemed "too-big-to-fail."

I am introducing this bill today, because I think this issue should be on the table as we consider legislation to overhaul our financial regulatory system. Deciding who will bear the financial burden for the systemically important institutions is, I believe, a fundamental aspect of the regulatory restructuring debate. Above all, the "Bank Accountability and Risk Assessment Act of 2009" will return fairness to the deposit insurance assessment process.

I urge my colleagues to support this important regulatory reform bill.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
JAMES R. MYLES OF THE U.S.
ARMY AVIATION AND MISSILE
COMMAND

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and dedication of Major General James R. Myles of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command.

Major General Myles assumed command of the United States Army Aviation and Missile Command on July 19, 2007. He first began his career with the U.S. Army in 1974 upon graduation from Middle Tennessee State University, where he received a bachelor's of science degree in business management. He also earned a master's degree in business administration from Webster University.

His military education includes the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Transportation Officer Advance Course, Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College. His aviation training includes the initial entry Rotary Wing Course, Aviation Maintenance Officer Course, the UH–60 Qualification Course, and the Fixed Wing Qualification Course.

Major General Myles' first assignment was as an Infantry Platoon Leader in C–1/501st Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. While serving in Panama, his positions included Production Control Officer and Scout Platoon Leader of the 210th Aviation Battalion, 193d Infantry Brigade at Fort Clayton. After moving to St. Louis, Missouri, he served as the Fixed Wing Readiness Project Officer and Assistant SGS at TSARCOM. His final company-grade assignment came as the Aviation Maintenance Officer for USREDCOM at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida.