

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 19, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, along with 136 of my colleagues, I was unable to return to the House floor in time for an unexpected recorded vote on a motion to rise late in the evening of June 16, 2009. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "no" so that the House would consider an amendment to assess the economic impact of the delay in enacting the Colombia Free Trade Agreement.

IN TRIBUTE OF DR. RANDOLPH E. BROOKS

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 19, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, later this month, doctors of optometry from around the country will assemble at the Gaylord Resort at National Harbor for Optometry's Meeting®, the American Optometric Association's 111th annual convention. On Saturday, June 27th, Dr. Randolph E. Brooks of Saccasunna, New Jersey will be elected as the association's 88th president. Randy's enthusiasm and many contributions to his profession earned him this prestigious recognition.

Doctors of optometry are the nation's largest eye care profession serving patients in nearly 6,500 communities nationwide, and in more than 3,500 of these communities they are the only eye doctors. Dr. Brooks has dedicated his life to serving the public both as an optometrist and a community leader.

Dr. Brooks' dedication and motivation will propel him to a most successful term as he leads the American Optometric Association in its mission to improve eye care in the United States.

Dr. Brooks has compiled an impressive record in his profession and his community. After graduating from the State University of New York at Albany, Dr. Brooks enrolled at the New England College of Optometry and later established Advanced Eyecare Associates, a three doctor practice in New Jersey with specialty interests in ocular disease, contact lenses, pediatric eye care and vision therapy. Starting out in 1977 in Budd Lake, New Jersey and later moving to Ledgewood, Dr. Brooks has grown his practice to a staff of fifteen at the Ledgewood facility.

Dr. Brooks was first elected to the American Optometric Association's Board of Trustees in 2000. Prior to the election to the AOA Board, Dr. Brooks was twice named the New Jersey Society of Optometric Physicians' Optometrist of the Year. He also is a past president of the New Jersey Society of Optometric Physicians. Randy's leadership record extends to his community service as a Paul Harris Fellow of the Roxbury Rotary Club, past president of the Mount Olive Lions Club, and as a Board of Directors member of Temple Shalom.

Dr. Randolph Brooks has distinguished himself in the Northwestern New Jersey community through his unique vision and spirit. I wish

to convey heartfelt congratulations to Randy and his family on the occasion of his installation as the 88th president of the American Optometric Association, as well as many thanks for working to enrich the lives of those around him.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Dr. Randolph E. Brooks.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. CHRIS C. DE LANEY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 19, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, south Alabama and indeed the entire state recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Chris C. De Laney, a devoted family man, lawyer, and philanthropist was dedicated to the continued growth and prosperity of Mobile. A 1948 graduate of the University of Alabama Law School, Mr. De Laney was the first attorney for the University of South Alabama (USA) and was instrumental in the school's negotiations to obtain the old Mobile General Hospital.

He also helped found The University of South Alabama foundation as well as USA Hospital, Southland and Doctor's hospitals, the Historic Blakely Foundation, The Southland Foundation, The Dauphin Island Foundation, and First Small Business Investment Company of Alabama.

Mr. De Laney was appointed as Mobile's acting district attorney in 1979. He also served as chairman of the Alabama Consumer Protection Council, chief executive officer and chairman of Altus Bank, as well as many other business, civic, and religious organizations including Boy Scouts of America and the Isle Dauphine Club.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout Alabama. Mr. Chris De Laney will be deeply missed by his family—his loving wife of 64 years, Cleo J. De Laney; his four sons, David C. De Laney, Bryan C. De Laney, Michael C. De Laney, and Robin C. De Laney; his nine grandchildren; and his four great grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2847) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this bill.

This legislation makes significant investments in two of our nation's top priorities—protecting Americans at home and in their communities, and encouraging scientific research and innovation.

One of the fundamental responsibilities of our government is ensuring the safety and security of our citizens by keeping our streets and neighborhoods safe. One of the most successful crime fighting programs in recent history is the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program. This bill provides \$802 million overall for the program and \$282 million for COPS hiring grants. When combined with the \$1 billion provided in the Recovery Act, more than 7,000 police officers will be hired nationwide, 287 of those in New Jersey.

Through this bill, the Office of Justice Programs will receive \$2.2 billion, \$155 million over the Fiscal Year 2009 level. Programs such as the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants Program will receive \$529 million to assist state and local law enforcement agencies in their efforts to control domestic crime as well as combat violent crimes, particular gang and drug-related criminal activity.

The bill also provides \$400 million (\$11 million over the 2009 level) to the Office on Violence Against Women to aid in the prevention and prosecution of violent crime against women. Funds allocated by this bill will be used to strengthen the services available to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

In the area of science funding, the bill provides over \$30 billion to support research at the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The appropriations in this bill support the plan to double funding for basic research, as expressed by Congress in the American COMPETES Act. History shows that our country and our economy benefit when the federal government invests in our national innovation and intellectual infrastructure.

This bill helps our students succeed in a global job market by investing \$1 billion to support all aspects of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education from kindergarten through graduate school. It is imperative that we ensure our future generations are equipped with the skills they need to be capable participants in a scientific and technological workforce. Our economic growth is intertwined with our ability to remain competitive in the areas of Science and Technology. I want to thank the subcommittee chair, Mr. MOLLOHAN, and the chairman of the full committee, Mr. OBEY, for demonstrating a commitment to make meaningful investments in science education to guarantee the success of our children in this global market place.

I also am pleased that the bill includes over \$2 billion to study global climate change, undoubtedly one of the greatest challenges facing our Nation. Over \$700 million will be used by the National Science Foundation and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for climate change research and educational programs. The Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory in my district is leading the national effort in climate change research by employing sophisticated mathematical models and computer simulations to improve our knowledge and ability to predict climatic behavior and

trends. An additional investment of over \$1.3 billion will be used to develop measurement techniques and for green building initiatives nationwide. It is vital to both our economic and our national security that we take whatever measures are necessary to gain a comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms that drive global warming in order to implement the full range of measures necessary to combat it.

Finally, this bill also ensures that we will be able to conduct an accurate decennial Census in 2010. On top of the \$1 billion that was provided for the Census in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, this bill matches the President's request for \$7.4 billion to conduct the largest and most advanced Census in our nation's history.

Mr. Chair, I commend the committee for bringing us a bill that reflects the priorities of the American people, and I urge my colleagues to vote for it.

HONORING A LOCAL MUSICIAN'S
CAREER

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 19, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, a great education is a well-rounded education. This means students should not only be exposed to technical subjects such as math and the sciences, but the humanities and arts as well. Today I wish to honor the life and career of a woman who made great contributions to Florida's music culture as well as inspiring many young students, Mrs. Billye-Mullins Smith.

A resident of Winter Haven, Florida, Mrs. Smith was a musician, music educator, and music composer who has impacted the life of many young school children since the mid-1940s. She authored the Opus I Music Study program, which provided a great study for aspiring young musicians. Her late husband, Carroll Smith II, provided the lyrics for the song she composed entitled, "I Want To Wake Up In The Morning Where The Orange Blossoms Grow," which is more commonly known as, "The Florida Song."

This song touched many Floridians statewide. It originally started as a piece to be played in front of the Winter Haven Lions Club meeting with her husband singing backed by her piano. In short order, this piece made its way from the Lions Club meeting into elementary school classrooms. Since then, several generations grew up singing about the orange blossoms and birds of the great state of Florida.

Mrs. Smith was honored on Sunday, March 22, 2009 at the Lakeland Center in the Yourkey Theater.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LEGISLATION TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PERMANENT FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGESHIPS IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 19, 2009

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation I introduced, along with my colleagues Congressman WALLY HERGER, Congressman DAN LUNGREN, Congressman TOM MCCLINTOCK, Congressman BUCK MCKEON, Congressman DEVIN NUNES, and Congressman GEORGE RADANOVICH, which would create four new permanent district court judgeships and one temporary district court judgeship in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California, as well as designate Bakersfield, California, as a place of holding court for the Eastern District of California.

For the year ending September 30, 2008, according to the most recent data available from the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, the Eastern District of California had 1,305 pending cases per judge, a 50.2% increase since 2003, and weighted filings of 970 per judge, a 26.5% increase since 2003, which is substantially above the weighted filing standard used by the Judicial Conference of the United States to determine when additional judgeships are needed. Moreover, in 2008, the Eastern District of California had the highest number of pending cases and weighted filings per judge of all other district courts in the Ninth Judicial Circuit, including the district courts that serve Los Angeles and San Francisco.

In the 2005 Biennial Judgeship Survey, the Judicial Conference of the United States recommended four additional permanent judgeships for the Eastern District of California. Specifically, the report states:

"The Court is requesting three permanent judgeships and conversion of the temporary judgeship to a permanent position based on a steadily increasing and consistently high weighted caseload. The Judicial Conference has recommended conversion of the temporary position since 1997, and also recommended one permanent judgeship and one temporary judgeship in 1997 and 1999, two permanent judgeships since 2001, and three permanent judgeships in the 2003 survey."

More recently, during the March 2009 biannual meeting, the Judicial Conference voted to ask Congress to create sixty-three new federal judgeships, fifty-one of which would be for district courts. Within this proposal, the Judicial Conference recommended the Eastern District of California receive four additional permanent judgeships and one temporary judgeship. My bill seeks to implement the Judicial Conference's recommendations for the Eastern District of California, which includes at its southern-most point, Kern County, which I represent.

My bill would also designate Bakersfield, California, as a place of holding court for the Eastern District of California. Such a designation does not require or imply a district court

be located in Bakersfield. This designation would simply make Bakersfield eligible to have the Eastern District of California locate a district court judge there should caseload require. Under current law, the City of Fresno, the City of Redding, and the City of Sacramento are all currently designated as a place of holding court for the Eastern District of California.

The current population of Bakersfield is 315,837, which is similar in size to Fresno (pop. 470,508) and Sacramento (pop. 460,242), and significantly larger than Redding (pop. 89,780). That said, Bakersfield is a fast growing city in California and, due to affordable housing and its proximity to Los Angeles, is expected to continue to grow in the future. To that end, the City's population is projected to grow by more than 14 percent to over 557,000 by 2015 and Kern County is projected to grow by more than 24 percent to nearly one million over the next decade, growth well above the 8.7 percent national population growth rate projected by the U.S. Census Bureau for 2010 to 2020.

Furthermore, Kern and Inyo Counties currently account for almost 23% of the Fresno division civil filings and 9% of Eastern District civil filings. As these counties continue to grow, it is reasonable to assume that filings will increase, and this designation provides the Eastern District of California the flexibility to locate a district judge in Bakersfield in the future.

In terms of geography, the Eastern District of California is the largest judicial district of the four federal district court districts in California, encompassing over 87,000 square miles (34 of California's 58 counties) and almost 600 miles long. According to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California, this judicial district is the eighth most populous and physically the tenth largest of all 94 U.S. District Court judicial districts in the United States. Thus, travel within the sprawling Eastern District is time-consuming, not to mention expensive.

Furthermore, there is no major metropolitan area designated as a place of holding court in the southern region of the Eastern District of California. Redding is located in the north of the judicial district, Sacramento is located in the north central area of the district, and Fresno is located in the south central area of the district. A designation for Bakersfield would make the largest city in the southern part of this judicial district at minimum eligible to have a district court judge in the future.

The Sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees "the right to a speedy and public trial." In order to preserve this constitutional right in the Eastern District of California, I fully support the Judicial Conference's judgeship recommendations, as well as making Bakersfield, California, eligible as a place of holding court. My bill would ensure the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California has the requisite number of judges to execute its duties in a timely manner for the citizens the Court serves, ensure the Court has the resources to adjudicate current and future cases, which are only expected to increase, and ensure the equitable administration of justice in California.