

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2010 (H.R. 2998).

My Congressional District received \$500,000 for the City of Omaha Public Works Department, located at 1819 Farnam Street, Suite 600, Omaha, NE 68183. This money is from the State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) account, and will be used by the City of Omaha for the design and construction of improvements to portions of the City's combined sewer system. These projects will allow the City of Omaha to reduce the amount of sewage overflowing to receiving streams. These efforts are consistent with the latest requirements from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) to achieve the goal of improved water quality in the United States.

A TRIBUTE TO MAJOR EARL G. ANDERSON, JR.

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and military service of Major Earl G. Anderson, Jr. who was recently named the 2009 Aviator of the Year at the Indianapolis Air Show.

Born in Rockford, Illinois in 1920, twenty-two-year old Earl Anderson, Jr. enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps in April of 1942 leaving behind his wife Geraldine to serve his country in its time of need. By September 1943, Aviation Cadet Anderson had completed his State-side training and was assigned to the United States 15th Air Force flying The Consolidated B-24 Liberator bomber over Europe. The B-24 was an American heavy bomber that still holds the record as the most produced U.S. military aircraft.

Between December 1943 and June 1944 Major Anderson flew fifty-one successful combat missions against enemy targets before being shot down. He spent the remainder of the war as a Prisoner of War (POW) in a camp outside Munich, Germany. For his heroic and courageous flying, Major Earl Anderson, Jr. was awarded by order of the President of the United States the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with 6 clusters, and the Distinguished Unit Badge with one cluster.

Earl's prison camp was eventually liberated by allied troops in 1945 and after debriefing Earl was sent back to the United States to spend some time on furlough before returning to duty. Major Anderson continued serving both on active duty and as a member of the Reserves until he was Honorably Discharged in 1961.

Fortunately for all Hoosiers, Earl's passion for aviation stayed with him after he left the service and he's been an active part of Indiana's aviation community for many years. Earl and his wife Geraldine (Gerrie) have been married for 67 years. They have two daughters, Marilyn and Barbara, and five grandchildren.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me now to thank Major Earl Anderson, Jr. for his service and his sacrifices for our country, and to congratulate him on being named the 2009 Indiana Aviator of the Year.

HONORING LT. COLONEL CHARLIE PARNELL

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an unsung hero from Southwest Colorado; Lt. Colonel Charlie Parnell of Durango. Charlie Parnell has selflessly and tirelessly been serving the veterans of Southwest Colorado for many years and it is time that he is recognized for this service.

In 1988, Lt. Colonel Parnell retired from the United States Air Force after 26 years of honorable service, including tours of duty in Germany, Thailand, Vietnam, Korea, Turkey and Saudi Arabia. He is the proud recipient of the Bronze Star.

After struggling for 15 years to receive the disability benefits he had earned from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Lt. Colonel Parnell dedicated himself to helping his fellow veterans wade through the challenging VA benefits system so they too would receive the compensation they had earned. Since then, he has helped over 1000 veterans receive their benefits, and has done so completely at his own expense.

It is this type of above the call-of-duty service that makes this nation great. And it is this kind of service that deserves all of our recognition. When asked why he does what he does for his fellow disabled veterans, Lt. Colonel Parnell says simply, "Because I can."

Madam Speaker, today I rise to join the 1000 veterans in Colorado's Southwest region to thank and honor Charlie Parnell for his service to this country and to my constituents in the Third Congressional District.

Thank you, Lt. Colonel Parnell for your hard work and dedication to our nation.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding an earmark I received as part of H.R. 2996, the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. This legislation appropriates \$500,000 to the Department of the Interior National Park Service account for the Castillo de San Marco National Monument in the City of St. Augustine, Flor-

ida, which is in my district. The entity to receive this funding is the U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, Castillo de San Marco National Monument located at 1 South Castillo Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32084.

The City of St. Augustine, founded 444 years ago in 1565, is our nation's oldest enduring settlement of European design. Prominent within the Historic Spanish Colonial District, which features thirty-six original colonial buildings, is the majestic Castillo de San Marcos stone fortress that began construction in 1672.

As the only existing 17th century fort in North America, the Castillo de San Marcos is an important historical and cultural landmark that features the oldest surviving masonry in our nation. About 538,500 people visited the Castillo in 2008, hosting as many as 3,751 tourists in just one day.

Authorized by Public Law 108-480, this funding will be used for the planning and design phase of the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument Restoration Project, as outlined in Alternative C of the March 2007 Final General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

This planning will help preserve and expand the Castillo by constructing a visitor center in the Spanish Quarter of St. Augustine and removing a portion of the visitor parking lot to restore the glaci.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2647) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Chair, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Chairman SKELTON and his Committee for the important work they have done on this legislation and the strides they have made to ensure that individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI) are identified and afforded the benefits that they deserve.

TBI is the signature injury of our current conflicts overseas. As many as 20 percent of the 1.8 million deployed troops—or an estimated 360,000 soldiers—have sustained traumatic brain injuries while in Iraq and Afghanistan. Unfortunately, many of these men and women in uniform are falling through the cracks. We must ensure that these individuals are properly identified and provided with the world class health care that they deserve. H.R. 2647 takes important steps to achieving both of these goals.

First, I applaud the inclusion of language submitted by myself and Congressman TODD PLATTS, who is both a member of the Armed Services Committee and serves as my Co-Chair on the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, that calls on the branches of the Armed Services to implement long-term tracking for

blast exposures, as the Army National Guard (NG) has already done. The NG initiative records the exposure to blasts in troops' personnel records in order to document the incident in the event of problems associated with traumatic brain injury or exposure to contaminants. This database will help determine eligibility for appropriate treatment, care, and disability entitlements. A comprehensive blast tracking system will also assist in efforts to research blast injuries and mild TBI and improve outreach, education, and follow-up for injured personnel who might otherwise fall through the cracks.

Second, I am appreciative of the inclusion of language that I submitted regarding the awarding of the Purple Heart to individuals who have sustained traumatic brain injuries, which calls on the Secretary to review its policies and procedures for determining eligibility and awarding of the Purple Heart as it relates to TBI. Media reports and anecdotal evidence have suggested that Purple Hearts may have been awarded inconsistently to service personnel who have sustained combat-related TBIs, suggesting that individuals with more severe TBIs may be eligible for the distinguished Purple Heart while individuals with less severe ones often receive refusals.

We believe that the Purple Heart criteria set out in regulation encompass soldiers who sustain a TBI or concussion as the result of enemy action. The Department of Defense's own Legislative Affairs has, however, stated that a brain injury that requires minimal medical attention would not suffice. I would caution against the use of such absolutes in the face of uncertainty about the effects of blast-related TBIs. Because the field of science still knows relatively little about effective interventions and the long-term consequences of traumatic brain injuries, particularly mild ones and those caused by blasts, the Department of Defense's interpretation of treatment should not preclude injured soldiers who fulfill all other Purple Heart criteria from receiving the recognition and benefits they deserve.

Third, I am pleased to see the inclusion of legislation introduced by Congressman WALTER JONES, of which I am an original co-sponsor. This important language permits separated service members to seek a review of their discharge if their post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or TBI was not taken into consideration when determining their separation and mandates a physical exam for active duty service members before an administrative separation proceeding if the service member had been diagnosed with PTSD or TBI. The effects and prevalence of PTSD and TBI have become too harsh and too widespread for our military leaders to overlook, and ensuring that the full facts of soldiers' injuries are considered upon discharge is the least we can do to ensure these individuals receive the care and benefits they deserve.

Finally, I praise the Committee for its recognition of the need for civilian and military collaboration in the science of the brain by providing for a Visiting NIH Senior Neuroscience Fellowship Program. This will provide an important opportunity for the military to learn from the work occurring at the National Institutes of Health on neuroscience and vice versa.

Thank you again to Chairman SKELTON, and I look forward to continuing to work with the Committee as we make further improvements

to the care and benefits that we provide to the brave men and women that put their lives on the line for our freedom.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY E. REIDER

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Larry E. Reider, a resident and community leader from Bakersfield, California, on his retirement as Kern County Superintendent of Schools and to recognize his remarkable and distinguished leadership while serving the students of Kern county. Over the last 44 years, Larry has been instrumental in advancing Kern County's public education system.

Larry was born in the State of Washington and was raised on his family's farm. In 1965, he earned his bachelor's degree from Central Washington State University and made the move to Kern County to teach in the Arvin Union School District. A dedicated math teacher, Larry spent 19 years in Arvin schools' classrooms and later as a school administrator. He also earned advanced degrees from the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and the University of Southern California.

In 1984, Larry joined the Office of the Kern County Superintendent of Schools as a district advisory consultant. Recognizing his dedication and commitment to the schools, students, and parents of the community, the Kern County Board of Education tapped him to be the Kern County Superintendent of Schools in 1999.

Since becoming Kern County Superintendent of Schools, Larry has been integral to a plethora of local initiatives and projects designed to enhance the reading, writing, and mathematical skills of elementary school students in the county. For instance, he partnered with the Bakersfield Californian to develop the Community Reading Project, which places volunteer reading tutors throughout various classrooms in the county to aid second graders in becoming more proficient readers. Additionally, he developed the Kern Reading Collaborative, an association that analyzes which reading programs are productive and investigates ways those programs can reach more students. Larry also established the Do The Math program, a bi-weekly television homework help channel where teachers assist students in both English and Spanish with their math problems both on and off the air, as well as Ready to Start, a summer pilot program that prepares pre-kindergartners to learn more efficiently as they begin their academic career.

As a former teacher, Larry was always cognizant that highly qualified and effective teachers in the classroom are the best recipe for successful students. To that end, he co-chaired a task force which formulated various approaches to recruit and retain highly qualified teachers in Kern County schools and get them in the classroom. This initiative has been highly successful, and our schools have some of the best and brightest teachers in the region. He also recognized that new generations of students are exceedingly technology savvy,

and so opened a learning center that helps teachers integrate technology into the classroom to better teach and engage their students. This not only helps teachers be more effective, it also helps ensure their students continue to develop the skills necessary to be successful in the technology-driven workplace of today.

Not only has Larry harnessed cutting-edge technology in the classroom, he has also been an advocate to use technology to help keep our environment clean. Under Larry's leadership, Kern County schools are in the process of converting their current diesel school bus fleet to clean burning Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). More than half of the diesel buses have already been replaced. As part of this initiative, in 2006, the Superintendent of Schools opened a CNG fueling station, which serves Kern County school buses and is open to the public. As Kern County unfortunately has some of the dirtiest air in the United States, this initiative is extremely important to helping clean the air in the Central Valley.

Larry is also active in several community organizations, including the Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce, Kern County Network for Children, United Way, Rotary Club of Bakersfield, and Vision 2020. He has also been honored by several local and state organizations over the years for his leadership by organizations such as the Community Action Partnership of Kern, California State University-Bakersfield School of Education, Association of California School Administrators, California Teachers Association, Kern Council of Governments, and Kern Reading Association.

Larry exemplifies how one can serve their community with great enthusiasm, fortitude, and dedication. Over the years, I have enjoyed working with Larry and always found his perpetual optimism infectious. There was never an obstacle he did not challenge head-on in his amiable, but no-nonsense style, and fight for the best interests of the students of Kern County. After 44 years in public service, I know that Larry looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Sandy, a retired junior high language arts and drama teacher, and his daughter Mikhail. I know that Larry will be missed in the Kern County public education system, and I salute his lifetime of service and wish him the best as he begins this new chapter in his life.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. LANCE. 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. 2996, The FY 2010 Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act:

Agency: Environmental Protection Agency
Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Amount: \$500,000

Project: Railroad Avenue/Main Street stormwater improvements, Borough of Califon, NJ

Recipient: Borough of Califon, 39 Academy Street, Califon, NJ 07830