

River will honor those brothers who are still with us, Edward, Lyle, and Marlin, and those who are not Eugene, Harold, Edward, Donald, Gerald, Franklin and Leon.

The United States is what it is today because of the sacrifices of families like the Lothspeich's who gave so selflessly and served so bravely. These brothers helped win World War II and kept watch during the cold-est nights of the Cold War.

The sacrifices of the Lothspeich brothers are worthy of our highest respect and I can think of no greater duty of a member of Congress than to honor our nation's heroes. I stand today to honor their service as the city of Park River will next week.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD F. MELL

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of Richard F. Mell. Alderman Mell, who is celebrating his 35th year of service, is a vital part of the Chicago community.

Born in Muskegon, Michigan, Dick Mell began his career in public service shortly after moving to Chicago, starting as a precinct captain with the 33rd Ward Regular Democratic Organization and working closely with a variety of neighborhood organizations. Knowing he could do more to help the community by taking on a larger role, in 1975, he ran to be Alderman of the 33rd Ward and won. A year later, he became the Ward Committeeman and took his seat on the Democratic Central Committee of Cook County, representing his community on Chicago's Northwest side.

Alderman Mell has continued to take on important and influential roles throughout his successful career. He held the office of Vice Mayor of the City of Chicago for eight years and currently serves as Chairman of the Committee on Committees, Rules and Ethics. He is also a member of the Committees on Budget and Governmental Operations, Finance, Health, Housing & Land Acquisition, Human Relations, and Traffic Control and Safety.

As Alderman, Mr. Mell has always put his community first, remaining accessible to his constituents with an open door policy and frequent attendance at community meetings. He celebrates his multi-ethnic, multi-racial community and understands that diversity stimulates growth in all of its residents. He consistently strives to protect his entire community and has helped make possible social programs to assist the less fortunate.

Alderman Mell's list of accomplishments is longer than this statement will allow and includes setting new ethic codes for elected officials, fighting absentee slum landlords in housing courts, initiating an Adjacent Neighborhood Program that rids the city of vacant lots, and fighting to decrease graffiti in the city by banning spray paint and passing an ordinance that allows judges to sentence graffiti vandals to community service work.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Alderman Richard Mell and his extraordinary career, and thank him for his many outstanding contributions to the City of Chicago and its citizens. His commitment to public service stands as an example to us all.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2996) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 2996, the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY2010.

This legislation provides a 17% increase over FY09 levels for critical programs that protect our public health and environment.

Among other provisions, the legislation provides \$605 million for the Superfund program which will assist sites across the country clean up hazardous substances, including potentially the San Jacinto River Waste Pits site.

It also provides \$3.3 million to help EPA monitor air toxics outside schools, which I hope will ultimately include schools in our district in East Houston, as well as \$5 million to fund four new centers of excellence to study toxin and chemical impacts on children.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to highlight two important projects I requested funding for in this bill, but did not receive funding.

The first is the Mickey Leland National Urban Air Toxics Research Center to continue air quality public health research on air toxics in urban areas as directed by the U.S. Congress. The Center is a 501(c)(3) institution authorized by Congress in the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

Americans want to know whether they are at risk from pollutants in the air that they breathe. People who live near sources of air toxics such as major roadways, industrial facilities, or small businesses, are often especially concerned about their risk.

The purpose of air quality regulation and research is to protect public health. High quality air toxics research is the only way to assess peoples' risks and give policymakers the tools they need to protect public health. The Center develops and manages air toxics research with a focus on understanding the air toxics that people are exposed to in their daily activities, and how those compounds may impact their health.

The Houston Exposure to Air Toxics Study (HEATS) is an on-going project designed to study the relationship between personal exposures—the air people breathe as they go about their daily activities—and fixed site monitored concentrations of air toxics by measuring personal, residential indoor, and outdoor concentrations.

HEATS studies residents who live in the 29th district of Texas, in close proximity to an industrial neighborhood near the Houston Ship Channel and a comparison group with similar demographics in Aldine. Because it has been conducted according to rigorous statistical principles, study results will be applicable to the study participants, their neighborhoods,

and other, similar neighborhoods in Houston and nationwide.

Federal support for this project is critical to ensure this research continues and I hope to work with the Chairman as this bill goes forward, and with EPA to get funding for this research in the budget as Congress intended when it created the Center.

We also sought funding for a six-year Capital Improvement Project that will rehabilitate and upgrade the City of Baytown, Texas's wastewater and water infrastructure to comply with federal and state regulations, maintain its condition and reliability and save costs. The City has implemented an asset management program to assess equipment condition, optimize work practices and ensure funding remains in place to sustain infrastructure improvements over time.

The funding we requested under the State and Tribal Assistance Grant would help rehabilitate portions of the Central District Wastewater Treatment Plant to include elevation of redesign of critical components to reduce the storm surge impacts suffered during Hurricane Ike. These include the influent lift station, blower building, administration/laboratory building, and grit removal process. The internal piping needs to be replaced to improve energy and operating efficiency, along with the chlorine contact basin and plant pumping/transfer systems. Installation of post-storm emergency power systems are also a part of this effort.

This is an important project to help Baytown recover from damage caused by Hurricane Ike and overall to upgrade their wastewater system, and I look forward to working the Chair as we move forward to find assistance for this project.

I do have some concerns, however, with provisions of the bill and report language.

The bill defers \$50 million in funding from the Ultra-Deepwater Research Fund that was a part of the 2005 Energy Policy Act of 2005. The ultra deepwater fund provides \$50 million annually for research for recovering oil and gas from ultra-deepwaters in the Gulf of Mexico.

It also includes report language urging EPA to "review the risks that hydraulic fracturing poses to drinking water using the best available science, as well as independent sources of information."

I understand the concerns and desire to adequately protect the environment when developing our domestic resources, but hydraulic fracturing is a well-tested technology that has been used to develop energy for over 60 years.

First used in 1947, hydraulic fracturing has become a standard practice for improving the process of natural energy extraction. The practice involves the pumping of fluid into wells at high pressure to create fractures in rock formations that allow for complete production of oil. Hydraulic fracturing is responsible for about 30 percent of our domestic recoverable oil and natural gas. About 90 percent of currently operating wells use this technology. Hydraulic fracturing, as used to produce natural gas from shale formations, has created new opportunities for clean energy and employment without causing environmental damage.

Recent studies on fracturing conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2004 found no confirmed evidence of contamination

of drinking water. The study concluded that the injection of hydraulic fracturing fluids poses "little or no threat" to humans or the environment (EPA). The EPA did not find a single incident of the contamination of drinking water wells by hydraulic fracturing fluid injection.

The subject of hydraulic fracturing is adequately regulated by the states and needs no federal intervention. Hydraulic fracturing is a vital and safe technology that helps drive the United States towards energy security and independence. Congress should not restrict a technology that plays such an integral part of our nation's energy strategy.

H. RES. 543, DESIGNATING JUNE
AS HOME SAFETY MONTH

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I am proud to be a cosponsor of this of this legislation, which recognizes June as Home Safety Month.

I would like to thank Congresswoman HALVORSON for her leadership in introducing this resolution and her commitment to the safety of America's homeowners.

At a time when we are encouraging homeowners to stay in their homes and increasing our efforts to spur new homeownership, we must also recognize the importance of ensuring the safety of homeowners within their homes.

Each year, 20,000 deaths and an average of 21 million medical visits result from unintentional injuries in the home, according to the Home Safety Council. The top five causes of unintentional home injury deaths include, falls, poisoning, fires or burns, choking or suffocation, and drowning. Such home injuries can cost employers up to \$38 billion dollars a year.

Many of these deaths and injuries could have been prevented if homeowners were equipped with the knowledge of simple and inexpensive steps to reduce the injury of risk in each area of the home.

Furthermore, children and older adults have increased rates of unintentional home injury. We must encourage adults, parents, caregivers to take greater actions to reduce unintentional injuries to protect the most vulnerable family members.

H. Res. 543 encourages manufacturers to develop innovative safety products and features to help lessen home injuries and accidents and encourages all levels of government to support funding for critical home safety education programs to reduce the risks from home injuries.

I strongly support H. Res. 543 and cannot stress enough how home safety education and awareness can help save lives and money.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important resolution.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
COLONEL KIRK W. HYMES

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Colonel Kirk W. Hymes, U.S.M.C., the director of the Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate. After 26 years of honorable and distinguished service to our great nation, Colonel Hymes will be retiring.

Colonel Hymes is a native of Altoona, Pennsylvania and graduated from the United States Naval Academy. After attending the Basic School, he trained at the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He also attended the Amphibious Warfare School in Quantico, Virginia and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Colonel Hymes served in a number of different places and in a variety of capacities, including the Recruiting Station in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania where he served as the Operations Officer and Executive Officer and Twentynine Palms, California where he served with the 5th Battalion, 11th Marines. He also carried out a Unit Deployment to Okinawa, Japan and deployed with the 31st MEU (SOC). Following his return he became the Director of the 11th Marines Artillery Training School.

Subsequently, Colonel Hymes became the Fire Support Operational Test Project Officer at the Marine Corps Operational Test and Evaluation Activity, Quantico, Virginia. After transferring to the 2d Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina he served with the 10th Marine Regiment where he was the Operations Officer and Executive Officer for 2d Battalion, 10th Marines and then the Regimental Operations Officer.

After reporting to Okinawa for duty with III Marine Expeditionary Force, he served in the G-3 Exercise Branch as the South East Asia Exercise Branch Head and Tandem Thrust Exercise Planner. He then returned to Twentynine Palms, California for duty as the Commanding Officer, 3d Battalion, 11th Marines where he deployed the battalion to support Operation Enduring Freedom and then Operation Iraqi Freedom. Colonel Hymes was later assigned to the Expeditionary Force Development Center at the Marine Corps Combat Development Center as the Integration Branch Head and Deputy Director for Operations.

Madam Speaker, throughout his career, Colonel Hymes received many personal awards including the Bronze Star with Combat "V", the Meritorious Service Medal with four Gold Stars, the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon. Upon his retirement, I commend him for his outstanding service and wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on ear-

marks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996—the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010:

H.R. 2996 includes \$500,000 for a State and Tribal Assistance Grant to the City of Rose Hill, Kansas, for improvements to the city drainage system. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Rose Hill, 125 W. Rosewood, PO Box 185, Rose Hill, Kansas 67133.

This funding will facilitate the installation of a 48-inch drainage pipe, which will allow the area to handle up to a 10-year storm event, protecting homes in the area.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

The House Is Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration 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. SCHRADER. Madam Speaker, I want to take a moment and thank Chairman SKELTON and Ranking Member MCHUGH for their tireless work on behalf of the men and women of our Armed Services. I would also like to congratulate Congressman MCHUGH and wish him luck as he transitions to his new post as Secretary of the Army.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Skelton en bloc amendment which includes legislation I introduced requiring the Department of Defense to notify any member of the Armed Forces who is exposed to a potentially harmful material or contaminant and inform them of the health risks associated with that exposure. In the case the exposed soldier is a member of a reserve component, the Secretary of Defense will be required to notify the State military department.

Back in March I spoke with one of my constituents, Larry Roberta, a member of the Oregon National Guard who is suffering the health effects of being exposed to toxic chemicals on the battlefield. In 2003, while serving in Iraq, Oregon National Guard Members like Larry were unknowingly exposed to Hexavalent Chromium while assigned to protect contractors rebuilding a water treatment facility near Iraqi oil fields. The problem with chemicals like Hexavalent Chromium is they can cause severe illnesses that may not appear until months or years after the exposure.

Their exposure to this cancerous agent was withheld from them while they were in the theater, and many of our soldiers are still unaware the symptoms they are experiencing may be related to a toxic exposure. Fast forward six years and the Oregon Guard is still having a difficult time tracking down all the soldiers they feel may have been exposed.

The estimated number of exposed Oregon soldiers is in the hundreds—many of these soldiers are still unaware they may have been exposed to toxic substances that are impacting their health. Had there been a notification