

CONGRATULATING PAIGE EPLER
ON HER GRADUATION FROM THE
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
HIGH SCHOOL

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Paige Laura Epler from Woodbridge, Virginia, on her graduation from the University of Oklahoma High School. Twelve year old Paige graduated on June 5, 2009 as the youngest girl to earn a high school diploma from an accredited high school. Paige had a 4.0 grade point average; however, she excelled in other areas as well. An extremely accomplished violinist, in addition to playing at her graduation, she was the selected violinist for NASA's 50th Year celebration and at President Obama's Inaugural Luncheon.

My colleagues also may know Paige from her passionate efforts to Save the Sharks. Starting at age eight, she has worked to educate people about sharks and dispel the myths that have led to a number of species becoming endangered. Paige has given briefings at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, the Science Museum of Virginia, and to the United States Congress.

Madam Speaker, Paige Epler represents the best this country has to offer, and her dedication to her studies bespeaks of the bright future before her. I congratulate her on her wonderful accomplishment and wish her well in all of her future endeavors.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE LATE
AUBREY EMMITT FALLIN

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of a truly great American, Aubrey Emmitt Fallin. Aubrey was a courageous veteran, a dedicated citizen, and a fiercely loyal friend and father.

Aubrey was a patriot by anybody's definition. He served as a marine during WWII, landing on Iwo Jima February 19, 1945. He demonstrated indestructible bravery and strength, enduring a grueling 24 hours in which 2,721 of his fellow patriots lost their lives. Within the following 36 days, over 7,000 American soldiers were killed in action. His presence during this historic struggle put him in one of the bloodiest battles in World history. If it were not for brave men like Aubrey the war would have been lost. Risking and overcoming much, Aubrey emerged from the war with deeply rooted pride, admiration, respect, and love for his America.

After his completion of service, Aubrey was not only a veteran, he was a veteran's veteran. Beyond his recollection and stories of this era he would also give lectures on how to apply yesterday's lessons to today and tomorrow. In peacetime, he was just as fierce of a freedom fighter as he was when bullets were flying all around him. Even as his health failed him, he kept a vigilant eye out for the best in-

terest of America. He used his devotion to our great nation to spur and awaken that very same passion within every individual he knew.

Beyond the battlefield, Aubrey served on the front lines of his local political community through his active leadership. He was a member of Coffee County Board of Registrars, The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign War, past chairman of The Coffee County Republican Party, former president of Douglas Hobos & Shriner Clowns, a member of the Masons and Shriners, and a past president of the Exchange Club. He manifested his faithful love for our country through continuing to sacrifice his time and serve his fellow citizens. His unwavering service, vigilance, and outspoken nature secured freedom for all.

Aubrey was an unquestionably loyal friend. I never left Coffee County without at least one bag of peanut brittle. Enjoying a treat made by such patriotic and loving hands was an honor. We will miss Aubrey as a friend and companion, and we will always be appreciative of the freedom we enjoy because of his and others' sacrifice. His life undoubtedly impacted all who came in contact with him for the better. Aubrey has left a lasting legacy of compassion, strength, and service. May God bless his memory forever!

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOMAS
RAE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Thomas Rae and in recognition of his dedication to his family and country.

Thomas was born on March 2, 1930 in Cleveland Ohio as one of five siblings. Upon graduating from high school, Thomas joined and served in the United States Army for three years before being honorably discharged. After returning to Ohio, he married Mildred Dziak, and they had four daughters who were raised in Strongsville, Ohio. While raising a family, Thomas worked as an inspector for Terex General Motors and later as a supervisor at NASA. Thomas enjoyed his later years in the company of his children and their families. He was fortunate enough to spend time with all thirteen of his grandchildren and especially enjoyed watching them participate in sports. Thomas also took pleasure in the outdoors, playing golf, and handy-work after retirement.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Thomas Rae, who lived his life with the enduring support of his family and in recognition to his dedicated service to our country. I offer my deepest sympathies to his wife, Mildred; children, Denise Kucinich, Karen Vraja, Arleen Miciunas and Cheryl Vanderwyst; and grandchildren, Gary, Matt, Ryan and Michael Kucinich, Amanda, Samantha and Tommy Vraja, Lukas, Alyssa and Alec Miciunas, Lindsey, David and Nicole Vanderwyst.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. LUJÁN. Madam Speaker, due to scheduling conflicts, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 431. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING EUROPE'S BLACK
POPULATION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution recognizing Europe's Black population and expressing solidarity with their struggle.

Last year, on April 29, 2008, I chaired the U.S. Helsinki Commission hearing entitled, "The State of (In)visible Black Europe: Race, Rights, and Politics" which focused on the more than 7 million people who make up Europe's Black or Afro-descendant population.

Despite their numerous contributions to European society, like African-Americans here, many Black Europeans face the daily challenges of racism and discrimination.

This includes being the targets of violent hate crimes, many of which have resulted in death. Existing inequalities in education, housing, and employment remain a problem and racial profiling is a norm. Few Black Europeans are in leadership positions and political participation is also limited for many, providing obstacles for addressing these problems.

In an effort to raise public awareness of these issues at the national and international level, the Black European Women's Council (BEWC) was launched on September 9, 2008 at the European Union's headquarters. More than 130 Black women from across Europe came to "insist on the recognition and inclusion of Black Europeans economically, politically, and culturally."

This resolution supports BEWC's fight for equality and urges European governments to implement anti-discrimination legislation and other plans of action, including a fund for victims incapacitated as a result of a hate crime.

Given the history of our own country, an increase in transatlantic cooperative efforts between our government and European governments, U.S. and European based civil rights groups, and within the private sector would also provide useful partnerships and assistance in combating racism and discrimination abroad and at home.

This resolution therefore also calls on the U.S. Government to increase support for public and private sector initiatives focused on combating racism and discrimination in Europe as part of our efforts to support global human rights.

It is for this reason that on April 15–16, 2009, I also co-hosted the "Black European Summit: Transatlantic Dialogue on Political Inclusion" at the European Parliament in Brussels with Black and other European minority parliamentarians to exchange information on the roles of racial and ethnic minority policymakers in developing and supporting policies

and initiatives to address racism, discrimination, and inequality.

As I continue to work on these initiatives, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this Resolution Recognizing Black Europeans and encourage them to review the statements and submissions from the Helsinki Commission's Black Europe Hearing at www.csce.gov.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MARY FALLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Ms. FALLIN. 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. 2647, "The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010."

Title of Project: Advanced Autonomous Robotic Inspections for Aging Aircraft

Amount of Project: \$2,000,000

Account: Air Force, Operations & Maintenance

Project Recipient: Veracity Technology Solutions, LLC 2701 Liberty Parkway, Suite 311, Midwest City, OK 73001

At my request, \$2,000,000 was included in the FY10 NDAA, H.R. 2647, for Veracity Solutions in Midwest City, OK, to implement a fully automated autonomous robotic vehicle that has the capability to inspect for corrosion, as well as crack detection around fasteners for the KC-135 aircraft. Current inspection methods are both antiquated and time consuming, which has increased maintenance downtime and unnecessary refurbishment. A state-of-the-art nondestructive inspection system and training, which decreases maintenance costs and improves safety, will have the ability to detect corrosion and cracking on the KC-135 wing skins (and other aging aircraft). This system will allow for condition assessment of aircraft structures, as well as continuous assessment through the historical comparison of previous and present inspection results.

Specifically, the funding will be used for the technical personnel, facilities, and equipment required to develop an integrated system that includes a medical grade ultrasonic inspection system, an advanced impedance plane analysis eddy current unit, and an autonomous inspection vehicle that will allow engineers and depot crews to accurately and instantly identify defects and that are currently undetectable with traditional nondestructive inspection methods. The end product will provide a permanent record of the structural member which can be stored on the network for future comparison.

Title of Project: E-6B Strategic Communications Upgrade Block 1A (VLF-TX & HPTS)

Amount of Project: \$4,000,000

Account: Navy, Research, Development, Test & Evaluation

Project Recipient: Rockwell Collins, 400 Collins Road, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52498

At my request, \$4,000,000 was included in the FY10 NDAA, H.R. 2647, to provide modifications to the Navy's E-6B Mercury TACAMO. The E-6B Mercury TACAMO is a manned airborne communications relay platform designed to provide a survivable, reliable, enduring airborne Command and Control communications link between the President,

Secretary of Defense, and U.S. strategic and non-strategic forces, especially in the time of crisis or national emergency. In performing the TACAMO mission, the platform's primary purpose is the relay of messages via survivable Very Low Frequency transmission (VLF-TX).

This funding will provide for the modification of the VLF-TX, in addition to the High Power Transmit Set (HPTS) subsystem. The current VLF-TX is becoming unsupportable for the mission at hand. The money requested would provide for an encryption function which extends the development cycle for deployment of new equipment. In addition, it would be used to upgrade improvement in the HPTS system and improve the wire control system and operational availability.

These upgrades are critical to the E-6B execution of the TACAMO mission located at Tinker AFB and provide communications to the nation's strategic ballistic missile submarine force as a part of the Minimum Essential Emergency Communication Network (MEECN).

Title of Project: FIDO EXPLOSIVE DETECTOR

Amount of Project: \$7,000,000

Account: Army, Other Procurement

Line Number: 135

Project Recipient: ICx Nomadics, 1024 S. Innovation Way, Stillwater, OK 74074

At my request, \$7,000,000 was included in the FY10 NDAA, H.R. 2647, for the FIDO Explosive Detector, which will provide soldiers in combat theater the ability to identify and disable explosive devices and those who manufacture these devices by detecting explosive vapors and residues. Over 1,500 FIDO systems have been fielded in support of current military operations.

The small, lightweight, handheld devices provide the soldier the ability to screen persons, packages, cargo, equipment, vehicles, and buildings and report vapor detections in real time with audio and visual feedback to the operator. The small detection devices can be mounted onto a unit's organic Unmanned Ground Vehicle (UGV) to provide additional force protection, while protecting the safety of the unit. Current FIDO systems have been successful in the field, and advances have been made to increase the ability of the sensor to detect additional substances in use today and into the future. This funding will accelerate the fielding of FIDO's in combat theater and providing explosive detection and protection to men and women in uniform.

Title of Project: Joint Fires and Effects Trainer System Enhancements

Amount of Project: \$2,500,000

Account: Army, Research, Development, Test & Evaluation

Project Recipient: Creative Technologies, 6255 West Sunset Boulevards, Suite 716, Los Angeles, CA

At my request, \$2,500,000 was included in the FY10 NDAA, H.R. 2647, to provide upgrades to the Joint Fires and Effects Trainer System (JFETS) located at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. The current immersive simulation training capability suffers from one significant drawback—the one-to-one instructor/student requirement. The funding provided for this project would increase the ability for this program to upgrade the voice recognition technology of JFETS and allow a single instructor to manage nine concurrent call for fire training sessions in the Open Terrain module simulta-

neously and improve efficiency by 800%. Additionally, the project will develop an interactive application to drill soldiers in the five essential elements of accurate predictive fires to prepare them before they train in the immersive environment and reinforce the training before the deploy.

Title of Project: T-9 Noise Suppressor Support

Amount of Project: \$5,100,000

Account: Air Force, Military Construction

Project Recipient: Tinker Air Force Base, 3001 Staff Drive, Tinker AFB, OK 73145

At my request, \$5,100,000 was included in the FY10 NDAA, H.R. 2647, to fund the construction of foundations and supporting facilities for two T-9 noise suppression systems at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma. This project would consist of the construction of reinforced concrete footings and slabs capable of supporting T-9 style engine testing facilities, a 20,000 gallon jet engine fuel storage and delivery system, utilities, access driveways, and a small office/restroom/break facility. Current engine test facilities are aging and unable to support the current test mission.

With the completion of the new Tinker Aerospace Complex (TAC) and the transfer of engine maintenance to this facility, construction of these test cells near the TAC will allow contiguous support of military jet engine repair, decrease maintenance downtime, and associated cost. This will allow the 76th Maintenance Wing and the 76th Propulsion Maintenance Group the capabilities to meet its mission of delivering engines on time and on cost and position Tinker AFB for increased mission capabilities in the future.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

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. 2047) 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:

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 2647, the National Defense Authorization Act and encourage its passage. Earlier this Congress I introduced H.R. 1267, "Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Act of 2009, which provides legislative authority to the Navy and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to jointly operate the new "Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center." In the other body, Senator DICK DURBIN has been working to include similar language in the Senate version of the National Defense Authorization Act.

After completion, the Lovell Federal Health Care Center will be the first health care facility in the nation to be operated jointly between the VA and the Navy saving taxpayers millions of dollars that would otherwise have been needed to rebuild or renovate the Navy's nearby hospital. Without this legislation, the Center will not be able to provide essential services to