

American Legion Post 50 of Clinton, Massachusetts for its generous contributions to the people of my district. The American Legion is a not-for-profit organization that seeks to advocate for our distinguished veterans and to also promote community involvement. This weekend, the James R. Kirby Post 50 will be celebrating its 90th year of service to the community.

For the past 90 years, the James R. Kirby Legion Post has helped friends and neighbors in Clinton, MA in a variety of ways. Allow me to provide some background on the organization. James R. Kirby, for whom the post is named, was born on July 18th, 1876. He graduated from Clinton High School and joined the military soon afterward. He attended the College of the Holy Cross to pursue a career in medicine. He later attended Baltimore Medical College and began his own practice. Kirby was one of the first veterans of World War I from Clinton. He signed up for the Draft at the age of 42 and tragically died shortly after on September 29th, 1918 of influenza. In his memory, the citizens of Clinton chose to name the new American Legion Post 50 in Kirby's honor. Over the past 90 years, the current members of the Legion Post have continued to honor and serve veterans.

The American Legion Post will celebrate its founding at an event being held on Saturday, June 27th, 2009. The goal of this event is to honor the contributions of the Legion Post and the veterans it has worked hard to represent over the past 90 years. The event will also serve as a day of enjoyment for the community it serves so well. Members of the Legion Post and their families as well as state and local representatives will pay tribute to the service of this American Legion Post to the community of Clinton over the past 90 years. The Legion Post's passion for serving the common good of the community through veteran's advocacy and community involvement continues to demonstrate the service that the James R. Kirby Legion Post 50 has provided for the past 90 years.

Madam Speaker, I commend this group for its dedication to the Town of Clinton and the veteran community. I congratulate the Clinton James R. Kirby Post 50 for its 90 years of service, and I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to its unyielding dedication to community involvement.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the FY 2010 Defense Authorization Bill.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 2647

Account: Navy—Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: General Dynamics

Address of Requesting Entity: 180 North Riverview Drive, Suite 300, Anaheim Hills, California 92808

Funding Authorized: \$3,600,000

Description of Request: The Deployable Autonomous Distributed System (DADS) is the future of Network-Centric Anti-Submarine Warfare. The DADS program integrates and demonstrates an autonomous undersea sensor system, deployable from multiple platforms, to improve the Navy's capability to conduct effective anti-submarine warfare and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations in the littoral environment. DADS enhances the automation and connectivity between sensors, operators, and weapons and feeds the network-centric antisubmarine warfare picture. DADS utilizes multiple, cutting edge sensor technologies to increase the probability of detecting threats and to reduce the false alarm rate. With a goal to be deployable by any available asset, DADS will serve as an unmanned, autonomous reporting entity, freeing surveillance platforms for other missions. This funding will help the Navy in developing a system small enough to support deployability goals and in the development of compact power sources.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 2647

Account: Navy—Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: L-3 Power Paragon

Address of Requesting Entity: 901 E. Ball Road Anaheim, California 92805,

Funding Authorized: \$5,000,000

Description of Request: This project is a design build prototype for a hybrid electric drive (HED) for the CG 47 Class Cruisers for the US Navy. This project contributes to the future of environmentally sound, fuel-efficient propulsion. The Navy believes that this improvement would realize a significant savings per year per ship. This HED for surface combatants such as the CG 47 would significantly reduce fuel costs, increase ship endurance and range, produce less environmental emissions, increase ship survivability through reduce signatures, and provide increased overall ship electric power generation capacity. This installation would leverage advances in lighter weight and more efficient electric propulsion technologies that have resulted from the Office of Naval Research investments over the last several years.

COMMENDING THE CONGRESS OF LEADERS OF WORLD AND TRADITIONAL RELIGIONS FOR CALLING UPON ALL NATIONS TO LIVE IN PEACE AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 535, to commend the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions for their call to action for the nations of our world to work toward peace and mutual understanding. Established in 2003, the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions is comprised of our world's major religions, including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism,

Shinto, and Taoism. Since its founding, the Congress has promulgated the tenet that religion should not be seen as a divisive limitation within the global community, but rather world religions should be the benchmark and arbiter for resolving ongoing international political conflicts. Accordingly, we turn to our global religious leaders to be the driving force in maintaining peace.

As a Member of Congress from Houston, Texas, my district is one of religious diversity. I represent constituents from all faiths and religious beliefs, and I stand here before you Madam Speaker to say that as a Representative of the 18th District of Texas, I am a humanitarian first and foremost. I believe in celebrating our differences in global theology, and in utilizing these differences as the basis of tolerance as we engage in multilateral interfaith dialogue.

As a Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I have worked hard to pass legislation in the foreign affairs arena which speaks to the importance of tolerance and recognizes the need for multilateralism. With respect to Pakistan and Afghanistan, I have worked to pass H.R. 2410 and H.R. 1886 which allocate U.S. support for both Afghanistan and Pakistan respectively. In turn, H.R. 2410 and H.R. 1886 emphasize the necessity of ongoing multilateral engagement with the U.S. in order to forge strong and enduring partnerships with these countries in a united effort to bridge global security disparity.

In his internationally esteemed doctrine on nonviolent protest, Mahatma Gandhi so eloquently stated, "All faiths constitute a revelation of Truth, but all are imperfect and liable to error. Reverence to other faiths need not blind us to their faults. We must be keenly alive to the defects of our own faith, and must not leave it on that account but try to overcome those defects. Looking at all religions with an equal eye, we would not only not hesitate but would think it our duty to adopt into our faith every acceptable feature of other faiths." In deference to Gandhi's wisdom, we must work toward our own "Revelation of Truth," in an international context. Despite the imperfections within every world religion, we must turn to our religious leaders to set the tone for understanding. We must work in concert to engage in interfaith dialogue to maintain peace and security in the world.

H. Res. 535 applauds the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions for regularly holding forums that address the need for religious freedom. Its inclusion of more than 26 nations, such as Israel, Egypt, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Armenia, South Korea, China, India, and the United States as its representatives is to be commended. The third Congress will be held in Astana, Kazakhstan, July 1–2, 2009, and I would like to recognize Kazakhstan for having been selected by the Secretariat to host the second and third Congress. As we move forward to promote freedom of religion and engage in interfaith dialogue as the foundation to global security, we turn to the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions to guide us in multilateral reform. I urge passage of this important resolution.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
KEN WARREN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Ken Warren, on the occasion of his retirement as director of the Lakewood Library after 25 years of dedicated service to our community. In his capacity as director of the Lakewood Library, Ken worked to promote and develop innovative projects and programs hosted at the Lakewood Library and throughout the Lakewood community.

Ken Warren has maintained an enthusiasm for books and the power of the written word since his childhood. His interest in community issues began when he was a teen, as editor of an underground paper at his parochial high school. He is founding member of the Lakewood Observer and has made the publication a critical instrument of exchange of ideas and opinions on important civic and community issues.

During his tenure as director, the Lakewood Library underwent major expansions and improvements, including the complete interior and exterior renovation of the main library building, the development of a new technology center, public auditorium, a children's wing, and an inspiring display of murals that grace the walls throughout the facility. Ken has consistently reached out to the citizens, agencies and community leaders of Lakewood creating strong working relationships and friendships throughout the city. His legacy is highlighted by his unwavering advocacy and innovation in promoting and implementing literacy and learning programs, connecting the library to the public schools.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Ken Warren, whose tenure at the Lakewood Library is framed by integrity, kindness, love for learning, passion for the written word, and above all, an unbridled commitment to the betterment of the entire Lakewood community.

WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE
IMPROVEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1211, "Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act." I would like to thank my colleague, Congresswoman HERSETH SANDLIN, for introducing this bill, and providing leadership on this important issue.

In the wake of the recent Democratic Presidential victory, we witnessed an historic time in our electoral system. Now is the time to address the major ongoing disparities that exist for our minority and women. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton once said, "There cannot be true democracy unless women's voices are heard. There cannot be true democracy unless women are given the

opportunity to take responsibility for their own lives. There cannot be true democracy unless all citizens are able to participate fully in the lives of their country." And today, there cannot be true democracy unless women receive the same care and treatment in the military as their male counterparts. In addition to the health care reform debate, H.R. 1211 "Women's Veterans Health Care Improvement Act" will be an essential piece to the health care reform bill.

As the 111th Congress and 44th President of the United States undergo swift actions to reform our health care system it's important we get reform right! It will be a long-term problem if we don't implement the right kind of change now, which needs to include all Americans of every race, every gender, and in every condition. Without comprehensive reform, our government will have failed to serve our people in a time when the people elected for change.

This legislation will expand and improve health care services available to women veterans, especially those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to: (1) study barriers encountered by women veterans to the provision by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) of comprehensive health care; (2) assess all health care services and programs provided by the VA for women veterans; (3) provide graduate education, training and certification for mental health professionals who provide counseling, care, and services to women veterans suffering from sexual trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); and (4) carry out a pilot program of child care for certain women veterans receiving health care from VA facilities.

For 19 out of the past 22 fiscal years, appropriated funds for medical care were not provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs before the commencement of its new fiscal year, causing the Department great challenges in planning and managing care for enrolled veterans.

By providing the access and care for women in the military, we will meet the vital obligation to provide health care to all veterans. Congress must take action in ensuring our veterans who return home sick, injured, or even healthy will receive the quality health care they deserve. As acts in an unprecedented time, I urge my colleagues to set aside the bickering and come together on a united front to ensure all of our citizen's happiness in a quality health care system. Only then can we live out the true meaning of our country, democracy.

RECOGNIZING BLACK EUROPEAN
SUMMIT: TRANSATLANTIC
DIALOGUE ON POLITICAL INCLUSION

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 the first "Black European Summit: Transatlantic Dialogue on Political Inclusion" and ensuing Brussels Declaration.

The Black European Summit (BES) was held in Brussels, Belgium at the European Parliament on April 15th and 16th. The historic 2-day Summit brought together political and intellectual minority leaders from the United States and Europe to exchange information on the roles of racial and ethnic minority policy-makers in developing and supporting policies and initiatives to address racism, discrimination, and inequality.

The event was hosted and organized by myself, Harlem Desir, Member of the European Parliament; Joe Frans, President of the United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and a former Swedish Parliamentarian; Claude Moraes, Member of the European Parliament and President of the European Parliament All Party Group on Anti-Racism and Diversity; and Glyn Ford, former Member of the European Parliament.

Participants included Parliamentarians, Congressional representatives, local and nationally elected officials, academics, representatives from European and international institutions, civil society, the private sector, and media from Black and other minority backgrounds.

During the Summit we exchanged information and best practices on addressing structural barriers that impact minority political participation, including implementing initiatives that address racism and discrimination.

Like in the United States, it was noted that despite the numerous contributions of minorities to European society, minorities still face the daily challenges of racism and discrimination. This includes being the targets of violent hate crimes, many of which in recent years have resulted in death. Existing inequalities in education, housing, and employment remain a problem and racial profiling is often a norm. Obstacles for addressing these problems, include the lack of minorities in leadership positions and the rise of racist and xenophobic political parties seeking to implement non-inclusive policies.

Summit participants committed to addressing these issues by adopting the Brussels Declaration, which calls for: (1) concrete action to assist ethnic and racial minorities in obtaining full access to participation in the political sphere and relevant areas of decision making, especially in the development and implementation of policy initiatives to address racial and ethnic discrimination and inequality; and (2) to support future opportunities to exchange and share perspectives in these areas through a sustained transatlantic dialogue.

As I continue to work on these initiatives, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this Resolution Recognizing both the Black European Summit and Brussels Declaration and encourage them to review the statements and submissions from the Helsinki Commission's Black Europe and Racism in the 21st Century Hearings at www.csce.gov and recently introduced Resolution on Black Europeans. Additionally, I would like to submit the following background materials on the Brussels Declaration and Black Europeans for the official record.

BLACK EUROPEAN SUMMIT—TRANSATLANTIC
DIALOGUE ON POLITICAL INCLUSION
BRUSSELS DECLARATION

Preamble

We, as members of the public, private, and voluntary sectors from Europe and the United States of America convening in Brussels, Belgium from the 15 to 16 of April for