

Inc. Mr. Hill purchased the Mobile operation of the Belford Company in 1968 and soon expanded the company into the Florida panhandle. Leroy Hill Coffee Company, Inc. today has 22 locations throughout the Southeast, and its products can be found in restaurants, grocery stores, and convenience stores.

Mr. Hill and his wife, Debbie, also ran a successful cattle business that started with the purchase of his first acreage in Grand Bay in the late 1960s. He was a longtime member of the Alabama Cattlemen's Association and ABBA Shrine. He also made many charitable donations as a way of thanking his community; he donated the playground equipment for Breitling Elementary School in Grand Bay.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout the state of Alabama. Leroy Hill will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Debbie; his three sons, Roy Wayne, Todd, and Brian; his daughter, Debra Stewart; his stepdaughter, Brandy Ramsay; his 13 grandchildren; and his two sisters, Doris Gatlin and Dorothy Brooks Hicks—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this difficult time.

#### HONORING EIGHT DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOLS

#### HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 10, 2009*

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of five high schools located in the Eighth District of Washington that for the third year in a row were named to Newsweek Magazine's ranking of the top 1,500 public high schools in the country in academics. In 2009, all five high schools earned "top 100" recognition—the most coveted honor in the magazine.

The International School, Interlake High School, Newport High School, Sammamish High School, and Bellevue High School each earned the prestigious "top 100" recognition and two of the schools, Interlake High School and Sammamish High School, moved several places higher on the list than their positions last year.

During my tenure in the House, I've remained an outspoken advocate for investing in public education and the need for welcoming and safe learning environments. The five schools singled out for recognition by Newsweek have clearly developed a wonderful and unique learning environment to help students reach their full academic potential. The selfless, hardworking teachers and administrators who serve in these schools deserve equal recognition for the time and energy they devote to educating our children; they deserve our admiration and gratitude for their efforts.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

#### HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 10, 2009*

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

marks as well as in accordance with Clause 9 of Rule XXI, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks for my Congressional District as a part of H.R. 2847, Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman BILL POSEY

Project Funding Amount \$600,000

Bill Number: H.R. 2847

Account: COPS, Technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Palm Bay, Palm Bay, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: City of Palm Bay, 120 Malabar Road, Palm Bay, Florida 32907.

Description of Request: In order for our law enforcement officers to respond to critical incidents quickly and effectively, they need the proper resources. This funding would be used to help the City of Palm Bay outfit a vehicle with technology to provide on-site command, control, and coordination during critical incidents. Accordingly, the command center will be used as a headquarters for on-scene investigations and provide various agencies the necessary resources required to respond and complete missions.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 10, 2009*

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on June 24, 2009, I missed rollcall 450, a vote on final passage of the Fiscal Year 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. I was detained off the House Floor with legislative business.

If I had been present for the vote, I would have voted "aye."

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF BERT BANK

#### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 10, 2009*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory. Bert Bank, a World War II hero, an Alabama state legislator and radio pioneer, was an Alabama legend.

Mr. Bank attended the University of Alabama Law School and graduated in 1940. He served his country in the Air Force during World War II rising to the rank of major. He survived the Bataan Death March as a prisoner of war for 33 brutal months. When he returned to the United States, he spent two years in the Valley Forge General Hospital recovering from malnutrition. He later wrote the book *Back From the Living Dead*, which recounted his experiences as a prisoner of war.

When he returned to Tuscaloosa, he started the radio stations WTBC-AM and WUOA-FM and, in 1953, he started the University of Alabama Football Network.

In 1966, Mr. Bank was elected to the House of Representatives and served two terms. In

1974, he was elected to the Alabama Senate and served one term before running for lieutenant governor. During his twelve years in the Alabama House and Senate, he introduced legislation making it a felony to burn the American flag—Alabama was the first state to pass such legislation. He also authored legislation to make it a felony to burn a draft card, another first for the state of Alabama.

Mr. Bank was a champion for veterans. He introduced legislation that made it possible for veterans of the Gulf War to participate in the state sponsored college education program. He also authored legislation that rewarded the 21 Alabama Vietnam Prisoners of War with a \$500 bonus.

Mr. Bank's years of service to Tuscaloosa, the broadcast industry, and the state of Alabama were recognized with numerous awards throughout his life. He received the Thad Holt Distinguished Broadcasters Award in 1969 and the Alabama Broadcasters Association Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2008, he was inducted into the Alabama Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame. He was also awarded the Silver Medal as Man of the Year by the Tuscaloosa Advertising Club and was named a Distinguished Service and Outstanding Alumnus by the University of Alabama College of Communication and Information Sciences. Mr. Bank was also presented the Bronze Star by the U.S. Air Force for his service during World War II.

Mr. Bank was a member of the disabled American Veterans, the American Legion, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He also established The Bert Bank Endowed Patriotism Scholarship Fund at the University of Alabama.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout the state of Alabama. Mr. Bert Bank will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Gertrude, and his two sons, Jimmy and Ralph—as well as his many friends. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO LADY MUSTANGS

#### HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 10, 2009*

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Lady Mustangs of Portage Central High School on being named the 2009 Division 1 State Soccer Champions. This team of young ladies, lead by 24-year Mustang Coach Pat Norman, has put in endless hours of hard work and dedication making them the first program west of Ann Arbor and Saginaw to win a Division 1 Women's Soccer State Title since the debut of women's soccer in 1971.

Winning a state championship is a memory that will last a lifetime. It is a remarkable achievement that few teams ever experience, and it is a legacy that will live with the 2009 Lady Mustangs forever. This young team, lead by captains Shannon Bennett, Lauren Brown, and Courtney Havens-Mitchell, played a close game against the Utica Eisenhower Eagles and came out victorious beating the Eagles 3-2 in overtime.

It is an honor to pay tribute to the entire Lady Mustang team: Lindsey Arnett, Mara Bennett, Shannon Bennett, Samantha Bowditch, Lauren Brown, Lunden Carpenter, Natalie Hall, Katie Hamilton, Courtney Havens-Mitchell, Shelby Humphries, Jaime Morton, Taylor Peterson, Lindsay Shafer, Charlie Socia, Meghan Sokolowski, Colleen Unsworth, Katelyn Weissert, Paige Wester, and Jordan Wolf. We are so proud of all of you.

On behalf of all the residents of southwest Michigan, congratulations again to the Lady Mustangs, Coach Norman and the entire Portage community—you are an inspiration to us all. It is Portage Central Pride at its finest. Go Mustangs!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LAFAYETTE-LEXINGTON DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION CHAPTER

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 10, 2009*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this moment to recognize the Lafayette-Lexington Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter for creating the Susan Skelton Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship was created in memory of my late wife Susan Anding Skelton, honoring her dedication to higher education and Lafayette County.

Susie, a native Missourian, graduated with a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Missouri, Columbia in 1958. In 1976, she served as the first president of the 95th Congress group, the organization representing spouses of new Members of Congress. Susie also played a prominent role in the Congressional Club, serving as treasurer for 2 years and then as president. She was only the second Missourian to serve in that position. As president, she presided over one of the largest memberships in the history of the organization. Additionally, she was president and vice president of International Club III, an organization for spouses of Members of Congress and Ambassadors and was a member of the Congressional Families for Drug-Free Youth.

In Missouri, Susie served two consecutive terms as Regent of the Lafayette-Lexington Chapter D.A.R. She also served 4 years on the Democratic State Committee during the 1970s. In Lexington, she taught Sunday school, was a Cub Scout den mother, and a local first grade teacher. Susie was also active

in Missouri University Alumni Association events in Lafayette County.

Our family friend, LaVeda Cross, was aware of Susie's great involvement in both Washington, DC, and Missouri. As a result, LaVeda and the Lafayette-Lexington D.A.R. Chapter have offered a collegiate scholarship to those individuals that embody the values of Susie. I appreciate the D.A.R. chapter for recognizing the achievements and contributions of Susie. The scholarship is open to any female student who is a permanent resident of Lafayette County and a graduate of one of the following schools: Concordia R-H, Lafayette County C-1, Lexington R-V, St. Paul's Lutheran, or Wellington-Napoleon R-IX and plans to attend college after graduation.

Madam Speaker, Susie was influential in Lafayette County and Washington, DC. I am honored that the D.A.R. has created this scholarship in her name. I know the Members of the House will join me in recognizing the Lafayette-Lexington D.A.R. Chapter for assisting hard-working young women in achieving a higher education.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE MASTER BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF KING AND SNOHOMISH COUNTIES

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 10, 2009*

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Centennial celebration of the Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties in my home state of Washington—the oldest and largest local homebuilders association belonging to the National Association of Home Builders. For one hundred years, the Master Builders have been committed to creating well-built homes and utilizing solid business practices to help in making the Pacific Northwest a wonderful place to live.

Even as our country struggles through an economic downturn and many sectors of our economy, especially home builders, are feeling the negative effects of a reduced workload, the Masters Builders continue to work hard to better families, communities, and the environment.

The Master Builders continue to place an emphasis on community projects such as building free access ramps for disabled homeowners and building and maintaining shelters

for the homeless. The Master Builders work with community-centered organizations like Vision House in Renton, Washington, and the Mercer Slough Environment Center in Bellevue, Washington. The Master Builders are celebrating their Centennial by performing 100 community service projects in King and Snohomish counties throughout 2009—projects that guarantee improvement in communities where people work, live, or play.

The Master Builders also formed Built Green, an environmentally-friendly, non-profit, residential building program to provide sustainable housing in the region and actively reach out to all levels of government to ensure our laws protect the environment and provide attractive and affordable communities.

I am pleased to consider the Master Builders as partners in our efforts to protect our environment and build up our communities. I congratulate them on this milestone and wish them continued success in their current and future projects.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. BILL POSEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 10, 2009*

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks as well as in accordance with Clause 9 of Rule XXI, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks for my Congressional District as a part of H.R. 2997, the Agriculture Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman BILL POSEY (along with other Representatives)

Project Funding Amount \$1,217,000

Bill Number: H.R. 2997

Account: National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Florida

Address of Requesting Entity: University of Florida, Institute for Food and Agriculture Sciences, Post Office Box 110180, Gainesville, FL 32611-0180

Description of Request: For critical continuation and expansion of vital Citrus Greening and Citrus Canker research to improve technologies for treatment and detection, methods of movement and containment, and means to control and eliminate these devastating diseases.