

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican Standards on Congressional appropriations initiatives, I am submitting the following information regarding projects that were included at my request in H.R. 3170, the Fiscal Year 2010 Financial Services Appropriations Bill:

Pinellas County Business Assistance Partnership Network

Account: Small Business Administration

Legal name and address of requesting entity: Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, 315 Court Street, Clearwater, FL 33756

Description of request: \$262,000 is included in the bill for Pinellas County to support the Business Assistance Partnership Network, an innovative partnership program to grow small businesses and entrepreneurs in Pinellas County. The Pinellas County Economic Development office has implemented and seeks to expand, a tri-partnership with many of the county's municipalities, chambers of commerce, and libraries that provides free business planning, financial resources, and technical assistance services on issues ranging from start-ups and major expansions to permitting and zoning information and workforce development. Business development services include, but are not limited to: financing assistance with SBA loans, micro loans and conventional loans; commercial and real estate financing programs; reference library featuring a full-range of business publications; computer workstations and maintenance and enhancement of website portal; assistance with contacts, business agreements and business/marketing plans; qualification assistance for industrial revenue bonds; training classes for business start-up, entrepreneurial assessment, business financing, tax regulations, bookkeeping/accounting methods, marketing, and procurement opportunities; business counseling services, education training courses, customized business start-up guides, marketing plans and business plans, international export assistance, government contracts and certification assistance. The Business Assistance Partnership Network has a proven record of success. Since its inception in 1998, over 10,000 businesses have participated in face to face interviews and provided more than 35,000 business and technical solutions for local entrepreneurs. In the last three years, the program has secured more than \$2,300,000 in business loans to create or retain more than 300 jobs. It is anticipated that a continuation of the program would sustain 10 positions and potentially create/sustain 125–200 jobs annually. The Business Assistance Partnership Network provides services essential to small business entrepreneurs hurt by current economic conditions and will help

secure public sector jobs. Partner organizations include: Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce; Largo Mid-Pinellas Chamber of Commerce; Upper Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce; Palm Harbor Chamber of Commerce; Pinellas Park/Gateway Chamber of Commerce; Safety Harbor Chamber of Commerce; Seminole Chamber of Commerce; St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce; Hispanic Business Initiative Fund; Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce; Florida High Tech Corridor; STAR TECH; Tampa Bay Technology Forum; and regional local governments. No previous federal funding has been requested for this project.

Southwest Florida Partnership for Developing Business Infrastructure in Software Engineering

Account: Small Business Administration

Legal name and address of requesting entity: Florida Gulf Coast University, 10501 Florida Gulf Coast University Boulevard South, Fort Myers, FL 33965

Description of request: \$261,000 is included in the bill for Florida Gulf Coast University to establish a partnership with five other Florida state universities through its departments of Computer Science and Computer Information Systems, and local industrial companies active in software service industries, to spur innovation activities in a broad area of Information Technology. The primary objective of the proposed activities will include the interaction with small businesses whose primary line of business is software development, to foster commercialization of selected innovative software technologies developed jointly by FGCU and its industrial partners. Initial commitments have been obtained from a number of local companies in the following sectors: e-commerce, transportation, hospitality management, health care, financial services, and technology. Their participation has been documented recently by establishing two important initiatives: (1) Software Technologies Distinguished Lecture Series, conducted for the past two years (<http://lectureseries.fgcu.edu>), and (2) Southwest Florida Regional Technology Partnership (<http://www.swfrtp.org/>). Two supportive activities to achieve this major objective will be also conducted: (1) establishing the infrastructure for software innovation at FGCU by expanding a software engineering educational and training program and a software engineering lab; (2) systematically educating the workforce in innovative software technologies to help strengthen the local job market. The project will have economic and societal impact by establishing the innovation infrastructure in the region, producing graduates in software engineering specialization to feed the local industries, and, in the long run, by helping move to the knowledge-based economy. The project will boost software innovations originating in the region and thus change the structure of workforce and employment base by increasing the number of knowledge-based jobs and generating different employment patterns. No previous federal funding was requested for this project.

Turnaround Business Assistance Program

Account: Small Business Administration

Legal name and address of requesting entity: University of West Florida, 11000 University Parkway, Pensacola, FL 32514

Description of request: \$262,000 is included in the bill for the University of West Florida, in partnership with four other Florida universities, for its Turnaround Business Assistance Program which will become a statewide intensive technical assistance program for the statewide business community to halt the accelerated number of business failures and closures and enhance the survivability rate of small businesses. The program will use an innovative approach to assist these second stage businesses through the creation of an on-line turnaround tips training portal that includes emails, video clips and a blog to share effective tips on turnaround strategies; a comprehensive "intensive care" treatment package that includes use of an assessment tool to identify critical issues in marketing, finance, technology and management practices; and specialized training workshops on turnaround strategies. Reportable metrics will include items such as in-business status, employee retention/ growth, change in sales, and workshop attendance. The program will operate through the Florida Small Business Development Center Network's infrastructure of 33 centers located from Key West to Pensacola as well as utilize the outreach capacity of two mobile assistance centers to deliver and promote its services. This program will be implemented and administered by the highly successful Florida Small Business Development Center Network, designated through Florida statutes as the state's principal small business assistance program. The Florida SBDC program has shown a positive revenue impact on the state's budget and has directly assisted in the creation of more than 280,000 jobs and started more than 5,500 new businesses. No previous funding was requested for this project.

RECOGNITION TO THE FRANK LOWRY FAMILY FOR BEING SELECTED THE 2009 OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to extend congratulations to the Frank and Melinda Lowry family for being selected the 2009 Santa Rosa County Outstanding Farm Family.

Frank is the youngest of 14 children and is a third generation farmer. His dad was a row-crop farmer, had a dairy, and a herd of beef cattle. Frank took over the farm from his oldest brother Clifton and has been farming for the past 40 years. Today the Lowrys raise a variety of produce and row crops on 800

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

acres. This year's crops include vegetables, corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton, and peanuts.

Frank and his wife, Melinda, contribute their success on the farm to their six children who are instrumental in the operation of and activity on the farm. They have three sons: Jeremy, Ryan, and Jacob, and three daughters: Lindsey, Candice Gilbreath and Tabatha Hawthorne. Jeremy and wife, Araon, have three children: Eli, Layna, and Bailey. Candice and husband, Drek, have two children: Kade and Kaylee. Tabatha and husband, Jeff, have a daughter, Presley.

Frank and Melinda are very proud of their children for all their hard work and thankful for all the blessings they have received.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my sincere commendation to a family's tireless work, their dedication to family, faith and trade. They are a role model family for all of us. A deep sense of civic contribution and values has been instilled through all the generations of the Lowry family. It is my hope that this family's tradition continues for many more generations.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the Defense Authorization and Homeland Security Appropriations bills.

Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER

H.R. 2892

Homeland Security—FEMA State and Local Programs

Louisiana State University located at 156 Thomas Boyd Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803

National Domestic Preparedness Consortium. Louisiana State University's (LSU) National Center for Biomedical Research and Training (NCBRT), Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education is a founding member of the Consortium which consists of LSU, New Mexico Tech, Texas A&M University, U.S. Department of Energy's Nevada Test Site, University of Hawaii, Transportation Technology Center, Inc., and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Center for Domestic Preparedness. The National Domestic Preparedness Consortium shall identify, develop, test, and deliver training to State, local, and tribal emergency response providers, provide on-site and mobile training at the performance and management and planning levels, and facilitate the delivery of training by the training partners of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The current mission of the Consortium is to enhance the preparedness of federal, state, local, and tribal emergency responders/first receivers and teams, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to reduce the Nation's vulnerability to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction, terrorism and all-hazard high-consequence events by developing, delivering and assessing plans, training, technical assistance and exercises.

Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER

H.R. 2892

Homeland Security—FEMA State and Local Programs

Lincoln Parish Sheriff Department; 100 W Texas Ave., Ruston, LA 71270

Emergency Operations Center, Lincoln Parish Sheriff Department \$300,000. The funding requested will be used to construct The Lincoln Parish Public Safety Complex and Regional EOC. A Regional EOC in the northern part of the state will provide a fully capable emergency operation facility giving the state a much needed resource that can be utilized during any and all major emergencies throughout the state and bordering states. The Regional EOC located at the Lincoln Parish Public Safety Complex will provide a central location from which government at any level can provide interagency coordination and executive decision-making in support of incident response. The implementation of Regionalization will be established throughout the region and in the state of Louisiana. The project includes the construction of a 24,000 square foot; single-story building that will be designed to withstand hurricane force winds and will have a finished floor elevation above the 100-year flood elevation established for the area. The Regional EOC located at the Lincoln Parish Public Safety Complex will provide a central location from which government at any level can provide interagency coordination and executive decision-making in support of incident response. Region 8 is sitting in the middle of Region 6 & 7 with the major highways connecting to all parts of the state. Regions 6, 7 & 8 have a combined population of 1,180,558 or 27% of the state's population and 22,188 square miles or 43% of the land mass and 29 of the 64 parishes or 45%. This Regional EOC will be an ideal staging and holding area for emergency responders and resources. This will give the state a staging area for all emergency response agencies.

Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER

H.R. 2847

Department of Justice—COPS Tech Louisiana Sheriff's Association, 1175 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Law Enforcement Technology and Equipment; \$300,000. This funding request is for equipment for a new project and is a one-time expense. This funding is for the proposed LSA Institute, which will serve as an education and training center for local and state law enforcement officers. This funding will serve dual purposes in providing critical technology such as video, audio and communication equipment used for training/education purposes and real life emergency responses. In addition, the LSA Institute will also serve as a hub for the Louisiana Sheriffs' Emergency Task Force, a task force comprised of deputies across the state who respond to emergency events when needed. The LSA Institute will be housed at 1175 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. The LSA is uniquely positioned to perform this function as it is governed by the Sheriffs, and it is the Sheriffs who have the greatest Constitutional responsibility for law enforcement and public safety at the local level, and who have the manpower necessary to cover such functions. Additionally, the long history of cooperation and coordination among LSA, the Chiefs of Police, and other local first responder agencies, as well as the state, make this project a logical next step toward providing this training (i.e. emergency re-

sponse, FEMA/DHS rules and regulations, etc.) and securing the resources necessary to respond to the next catastrophic event in a timely, well organized manner.

Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER

H.R. 2647

Department of Defense—APA

Army National Guard; 111 S. George Mason Dr., Arlington, VA 22204

UH-60A to UH-60L Upgrade \$20,400,000.

The UH-60A to UH-60A recap program includes an airframe life extension, fleet-wide product improvements and the replacement of components with the latest UH-60L configuration. While performing this recapitalization, the addition of the UH-60L transmission and UH-60L 701D engines to complete the upgrade costs an approximate \$1.7M per aircraft.

Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER

H.R. 2647

Department of Defense—RDN

The Breast Foundation; 17050 Medical Center Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70816

U.S. Navy Vaccine Program \$4,000,000. The funding will be used for research, study and administration of cancer vaccines.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3082) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Chair, the increases in funding for veterans services contained in the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill are overdue and welcome. It continues increases in veterans' health care funding by providing \$53 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs. It also provides advanced appropriations for FY 2011 for medical accounts. I have long supported advance appropriations for veterans because it helps to stabilize funding instability and ultimately results in higher quality care for veterans. The bill provides \$3.2 billion, a 40 percent increase over last year, to combat homelessness. It provides \$4.6 billion for mental health care to help address the rising incidence of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in our newer veterans. It provides for the hiring of 1,200 additional claims processors to continue to work to eliminate the backlog of benefits claims.

Unfortunately, the bill also includes funds for building extensive infrastructure to support our military operations in Afghanistan. It is clear that this construction will support the expansion of ongoing operations in the region. This is particularly troubling because the Administration is still without an exit strategy for Afghanistan. Additionally, U.S. presence in the region has served to foment anti-American sentiment. I remain concerned that this combination of factors will not ensure U.S. "success" in the region but will ensure that the months and perhaps years ahead will be