

discovered; as the Washington Post reported last week, since the list of allowable non-organic substances was created in 2002, the number of such non-organic substances has ballooned from 77 to 245, and only one such substance has been removed.

As noted in the Washington Post article, the program's lax standards are undermining the program and the law, prompting the author of the law, Senator LEAHY, to state pointedly that "it will unravel everything we've done if the standards can no longer be trusted . . . if we don't protect the brand, the organic label, the program is finished." Indeed, the explosive growth of the industry itself requires us to increase our vigilance accordingly. Therefore, I thank and commend Chairwoman DELAURO for her support and leadership on this issue, and for including my amendment in the bill.

This bill funds many important nutritional and agricultural programs, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution of inquiry directing the attorney general to transmit to the House information in his possession relating to the attempted transfer of detainees held at Guantanamo Bay into the United States.

Congress has a well-established and essential obligation to provide robust oversight of executive branch agencies. When agency officials obstruct congressional efforts to conduct this oversight, the resolution of inquiry provides members of the House a tool to compel consideration of this request for information.

I have respectfully asked Attorney General Holder on three occasions—March 13, April 23, and May 13—for specific information about his intentions with regard to the transfer of detainees to the U.S. and how he would protect communities surrounding detainees held in the U.S. I do not believe that these were unreasonable requests.

As ranking member of the Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations subcommittee—which funds the Department of Justice—this information is particularly relevant given the subcommittee's jurisdiction over the department's spending.

However, when it came to my attention that Mr. Holder attempted to orchestrate a secret transfer of Uyghur detainees to northern Virginia for release earlier this spring, it became clear that he had no intention of informing Congress of his intentions.

According to Newsweek magazine, "As part of their efforts to shut down the Guantanamo Bay detention center, Obama Administration officials were poised in late April to make a bold, stealthy move: they instructed the U.S. Marshals Service to prepare an aircraft and a Special Ops group to fly two Chinese Uyghurs, and up to five more on subsequent flights, from Gitmo to northern Virginia for resettlement. In a conference call overseen by the National Security Council, Justice and Pentagon officials had been warned that any public statements about Gitmo transfers would in-

flame congressional Republicans, according to a law-enforcement official who asked not to be named discussing internal deliberations."

The article reported that efforts to transfer and release these detainees in the U.S. were scrapped when members of Congress became aware of the operation.

Once it became clear that the Justice Department's intended modus operandi were clandestine transfers, I began speaking out publicly on the House floor about my serious. I also offered an amendment to the fiscal year 2009 supplemental appropriations to prohibit the transfer of any detainees into the U.S. during the current fiscal year—allowing Congress the time needed to get additional information from Mr. Holder about his intentions.

Still I continued to wait for answers to very basic questions from my three letters.

After waiting 118 days for a response, I received only a cursory letter from the Justice Department's Office of Legislative Affairs last Thursday that failed to answer a single question. Worse, the information included was nothing more than summary and rehash of old DOJ press releases.

I can come to no other conclusion than the attorney general intends to continue to stonewall the American people. This is unacceptable.

During his May 21 speech at the National Archives, President Obama stated, "I ran for President promising transparency, and I meant what I said. That is why, whenever possible, we will make information available to the American people so that they can make informed judgments and hold us accountable. . . . In this system of checks and balances, someone must always watch over the watchers."

The attorney general's failure to respond to legitimate congressional inquiries is a disservice to this president and the American people.

This resolution would hold the attorney general to the president's public commitment to transparency and accountability.

I urge my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee to move quickly to consider this resolution and direct the attorney general to furnish this important information.

Madam Speaker, I also submit a copy of my resolution.

H. RES.—

Resolved, That the Attorney General is directed to transmit to the House of Representatives, not later than 14 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, copies of any document, memo, or correspondence of the Department of Justice, including the Federal Bureau of Investigations and United States Marshal Service, or any portion of any such document, memo, or correspondence, that refers or relates to—

(1) any guidance, recommendations, or logistical preparations made since January 20, 2009, for the transfer or release of the detainees held at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, into the United States;

(2) the identities of any detainees that have been cleared for release into the United States and as any information about the capture, detention, and threat assessment of such detainees;

(3) the countries that have been contacted by Government officials to request their acceptance of detainees currently held at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; and

(4) the legal guidance regarding the transfer, detention or release of detainees held at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, into the United States.

COMMENDING JAMES E. BRADFORD ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to commend James E. Bradford, a former Jackson Parish Police Juror of District 10, on the occasion of his retirement.

A man of many dimensions, Bradford's career includes 39 years with Smurfit-Stone Container Corp., where he most recently held the position of Central Regional Manager of Government Affairs. In addition, he spent five years as a high school teacher, totaling 44 years of career service.

Over the past few decades, he has been heavily involved in citizenship activities and community organizations. Among his many civic accomplishments, Bradford founded the Jackson Parish Community Action Center (now Pine Belt Multi-Purpose Community Action Agency), and served as the President of the Grambling State University National Alumni Association from 1992 until he retired from that position December 31, 2006. He has received numerous recognitions and awards for his invaluable leadership and dedication to his community.

Bradford also served as a member of the Jackson Parish Police Jury, District 10, where I had the opportunity to work alongside this devoted public servant. Not only did I have the privilege of calling him a colleague, but it was here, that I first had the honor of knowing him as a friend.

Beyond his professional career, Bradford and his late wife, Mae Calahan Bradford, have three children, Roderick, Berkita and D'Andra. They are the proud grandparents of William and Kiara, and their great-grandson, Kameron.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating James E. Bradford, a man who has served the people of Jackson Parish for many years. His commitment, compassion and leadership warrant this laudable recognition.

IN HONOR OF LITTLETON P. "LIT"
MITCHELL

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2009

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart but great honor that I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Littleton P. Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell, a man of great compassion and understanding, was a life-long advocate for human and civil rights. His influence and contributions have reached far and wide, both within and beyond our state and continue to have an effect on all of Delaware's communities.

Born and raised in a period when Delaware offered but one high school for black students, Littleton would hitchhike to Wilmington's Howard High School—a distance of more than 60 miles from his hometown of Milford. At a young age and upon the encouragement of his mother, Littleton joined Delaware's chapter

of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). It was through his involvement in the NAACP that Lit developed his impressive talent for public and inspirational speaking. During WWII, he left his studies at West Chester University and served as a Tuskegee Airman. He later finished school and used his degree to become an educator at the Governor Bacon Health Center and the first black teacher in Delaware to teach white students.

Littleton considered Louis L. Redding, the Delaware lawyer who was instrumental in the landmark decision of *Brown v. Board of Education*, as a close friend and mentor. Though the two may not have always agreed on strategy, Lit credited Redding with giving him sound and sage advice—advice that would help him challenge the status quo in his quest to bring justice and equality to all people. A public servant to the highest degree, Littleton helped secure a job for the first black state trooper; coordinated marches and boycotts that confronted public officials and those in power; and worked tirelessly and successfully to eliminate the poor conditions of migrant camps. As President of Delaware's NAACP for more than 30 years, including during the height of the civil rights movement, Lit led efforts to secure fair housing, equal access to public resources, and equal education and employment opportunities.

During his lifetime, Lit was honored by many groups and organizations and served on numerous committees and commissions, including the *Brown v. Board of Education* 50th Anniversary Commission, established by Congress in 2001. In 1993, the University of Delaware awarded Lit their Medal of Merit in recognition of his unwavering commitment to community service and his trailblazing efforts in the pursuit of civil rights. This was a special honor for Lit as Jane, his high school sweetheart and wife of more than 60 years, had been awarded with the Medal of Merit 13 years prior. Referred to by Lit as his role model and the person whom he admired the most, Jane was the first black nurse to work in a state hospital and later served as the director of nursing at Delaware State Hospital. The two of them worked together to successfully end segregation in Delaware hospitals. Littleton, with Jane always by his side, was a steadfast and committed leader, universally acknowledged as a trailblazer in Delaware's civil rights movement.

An educator who advocated for the dignity and respect owed to every human being, Lit was the active and leading force behind so many of Delaware's historical "firsts." He dedicated his time and his energy to what he felt in his heart to be true. He was blessed with the ability to motivate others and to organize a community. Referred to by a young man who knew him well as a "gentle soldier," Lit was able to fight intolerance and bigotry in a manner that put people at ease. He had a truly great and peaceful approach to how he pursued his justice, and, with a way of getting things done by bringing people together, he used his extraordinary sense of understanding and his exceptional talent for speaking (what Lit himself referred to as his "acid tongue") to bring change and progress to our state. Not afraid to stand up and speak out, Lit was a man whom I greatly admired and considered a friend, a man of his convictions—just and fair with a compassionate soul and an infec-

tious smile. He was a man who may have intimidated some, but was beloved by many and respected by all. I take this opportunity to recognize Littleton P. Mitchell for his unending dedication and his immeasurable contributions and to honor his life—a life spent in service to his state and his country.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2009

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3170—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

In the Army Corps of Engineers Operations and Maintenance account, an earmark to complete a study in the Lower Colorado River Basin of Texas was included on behalf of the President and me. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Lower Colorado River Authority. LCRA Headquarters are located at 3700 Lake Austin Boulevard, Austin, Texas, 78703. The funding would be used to complete the draft interim feasibility studies for the highland lakes. The study area is bounded by the Guadalupe, Lavaca, and Colorado-Lavaca river basins on the west, and the Brazos and Brazos-Colorado basins on the east. This study is investigating water resource problems, needs, and opportunities to determine whether improvements for flood risk management, ecosystem restoration and protection, water quality, water supply and allied purposes have a Federal interest.

In the Army Corps of Engineers Operations and Maintenance account, an earmark for Hords Creek Lake, Texas was included on behalf of the President and me. The entity to receive funding for this project is Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District. The District offices are located at 819 Taylor Street, Ft. Worth, Texas, 76102. The project is in Coleman County about 13 miles west of the city of Coleman, Texas. The funding would be used to for operations and routine maintenance.

In the Army Corps of Engineers Operations and Maintenance account, an earmark for the O.C. Fisher Dam and Lake, Texas was included on behalf of the President and me. The entity to receive funding for this project is Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District. The District offices are located at 819 Taylor Street, Ft. Worth, Texas, 76102. The project is located in Tom Green County, on the North Concho River, near the City of San Angelo, Texas. The funding would be used to for operations and routine maintenance.

In the Army Corps of Engineers Operations and Maintenance account, an earmark for Proctor Lake, Texas was included on behalf of the President and me. The entity to receive funding for this project is Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District. The District offices are located at 819 Taylor Street, Ft. Worth, Texas, 76102. The project is in Comanche County on the Leon River, about eight miles northeast of the city of Comanche, Texas. The funding would be used to for operations and routine maintenance.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

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 to 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. DINGELL. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 3082, the Military Construction, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010. This legislation continues the Democratic-Congress' dedication to our veterans by providing \$109 billion to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

I am proud to support the passage of a bill which does so much for our veterans. This year, like every other year, our veterans deserve quality and affordable health care, the services needed to transition into civilian life and prevent homelessness, and other important benefits that will help them succeed in their personal and professional lives. I am particularly pleased the bill provides \$4.6 billion for mental health care treatment, especially in light of the growing number of returning Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) veterans with post traumatic stress disorder. The bill also provides \$440 million to increase access for veterans who live in rural areas, \$580 million for research in prosthetics, \$533 million to expand eligibility for VA health care to an estimated 266,000 "Priority 8" veterans, or those non-service-disabled veterans earning more than \$30,000 a year, and \$1.1 billion for improving our VA medical facilities.

Madam Chair, of particular concern to me are VA medical facilities in Southeast Michigan, where many of my constituents receive care. The Department of Veterans Affairs Ann Arbor Health System (VAAHS) staff believe that any plan to make the Toledo Community-based Outpatient Clinic administratively separate will have the effect of reducing their budget and inhibit their ability to provide services, including specialty services to their constituencies.

I share this concern. The VAAHS is the only VA medical facility in Michigan providing cardiac surgery, interventional cardiology, and neurosurgery. We must ensure they can continue doing so. The VAAHS has a plan that would double the size of the existing clinic in Toledo, allowing Toledo-area veterans to receive an increased amount of care at the Toledo clinic, from 75 percent currently to 90 percent. We must ensure that we move forward with plans for the existing clinic without impairing the care that is provided to veterans by VA hospitals in Southeast Michigan, including the VA hospitals Battle Creek, Detroit, and especially the one in Ann Arbor.

Madam Chair, as a veteran of World War II, I have the utmost respect for those who have served our nation. I also believe that the VA provides veterans with excellent health services, and should continue to stand out as a