

was named one of the best lawyers in Dallas for 2003–2005 in Dallas' "D" Magazine and a "Texas Super Lawyer" for 2003–2004 in Texas Monthly.

Our communities and our country rely on the contributions of individuals like Mr. Weisbrod who rise above and beyond the call of duty to make a difference in the lives of others, both personally and professionally. He has demonstrated an unfaltering and tireless commitment to the betterment of Dallas County, the State of Texas, and the entire Nation. I am fortunate to know and to have worked with Mr. Weisbrod for the past 38 years, and I am so pleased to call him a dear friend.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to give a final salute to Les Weisbrod who has fought to ensure justice and fairness in our legal system. I wish him continued health, happiness, and peace throughout his professional and personal journey. His outstanding service on behalf of others truly makes a remarkable difference and serves as an outstanding example to us all.

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#### EARMARK DECLARATION

### HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2009*

Mr. McKEON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding Member priority requests I received as part of H.R. 3170, the "Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2010."

Requesting Member: Congressman HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

Bill Number: H.R. 3170, the "Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2010"

Account: Small Business Administration (SBA)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Palmdale, CA

Address of Requesting Entity: 38300 Sierra Highway, Palmdale, CA 93550

Description of Request: I requested and received a Member priority request totaling \$100,000 to assist the City of Palmdale and the South Valley WorkSource Center (SVWC) with their efforts to further develop and fully implement the second year of the Business Resource Network, an economic development support program that would connect area small businesses to available public and private business resources, which are designed to increase worker skills preparedness, reduce the potential for employee lay-offs and business closures, and promote continuing local economic development and growth.

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#### EARMARK DECLARATION

### HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2009*

Mr. UPTON. 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. 3183, the Energy and Water Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2010.

St. Joseph Harbor O&M Dredging  
Department: Army Corps of Engineers  
Account: Operations & Maintenance  
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Berrien County, Michigan

Address of Requesting Entity: Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main St., St. Joseph, MI 49085

This request is for securing funds for dredging both the inner and outer harbor of St. Joseph, Michigan, as well as performing much-needed structural repairs. The inner harbor is a key port for raw materials such as limestone, sand and gravel for state highways. Road and building construction projects in the area receive a majority of their aggregate materials through the three commercial docks located in this harbor. Additionally, it is a major hub for recreational boaters, with over 1,600 boat slips. This project has been authorized through many WRDA acts, is vital to the economic viability of Southwest Michigan, and has the support of the entire community.

The St. Joseph Harbor is an integral cog in the region's economic engine. A recent study by Purdue University gauged the harbor's economic impact at more than \$5.5 million dollars and more than 35 local jobs. The St. Joseph Harbor is among the top 50 in commercial activity among Great Lakes Harbors.

Amount: \$750,000

Funding Breakdown: The entirety of this funding will go towards dredging to the entrance, inner channel of the harbor and outer harbor. Supplemental funds will be provided by Berrien County and local municipalities.

New Buffalo Federal Channel O&M Dredging

Department: Army Corps of Engineers  
Account: Operations & Maintenance  
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of New Buffalo, Michigan

Address of Requesting Entity: City of New Buffalo, 244 W. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, MI 49117

This request is to secure funds for the dredging of the Federal Channel in New Buffalo Harbor, from the Whittaker Street Bridge to Lake Michigan. The floodwaters from the September 14, 2008 storm event discharged an immense amount of sediment into the federal channel which has restricted the access to Lake Michigan. The project would dredge the federal channel to remove the shoals (much worse than what normal dredging handles) which prevent boats from accessing Lake Michigan. Dredged material would be used to supplement a beach nourishment area established by the ACOE. The federal channel serves boat traffic for the south Lake Michigan area, including residents of Chicagoland and Northern Indiana. New Buffalo is a boating community with an economy that relies entirely on its harbor's access to Lake Michigan via the Gallen River. Without the dredging, the City and surrounding area will see a significant decline in tourism and related jobs. This project is authorized through the River and Harbor Act of 1962.

Amount: \$139,000

Funding Breakdown: The entirety of this funding will go toward the dredging of the Federal Channel in New Buffalo Harbor, from the Whittaker Street Bridge to Lake Michigan

Western Michigan University Green Manufacturing and Energy Conscious Design Program

Department: Energy

Account: Office of Science and Biological Research

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Western Michigan University

Address of Requesting Entity: 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008

This project will assist companies (small companies in particular) to take advantage of environmentally benign and energy conscious materials in their design and manufacturing processes. The proposal is a collaborative project involving WMU College of Engineering, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business, industry partners and community participants and seeks to enhance economic and workforce development and technology transfer through the advancement and use of environmentally friendly materials, designs, products and manufacturing processes and systems, building upon the already successful manufacturing, environment and energy research centers and programs at WMU.

Amount: \$1,000,000

Funding Breakdown: One third of this funding will go to equipment, one third to educational materials development and delivery to employees and students, and one third to program support. Western Michigan University will provide supplemental funding for this \$3 million project.

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#### TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL JOHN L. "JACK" HUDSON

### HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2009*

Mr. AUSTRIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lieutenant General John L. "Jack" Hudson, for his outstanding service to our nation on the occasion of his retirement.

On behalf of the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District, I am honored to congratulate Lieutenant General Hudson upon his retirement as the Commander of the Aeronautical Systems Center at Wright Patterson Air Force Base.

His dedicated service to the citizens of our nation and our area is both admirable and commendable. Hudson received his commission in 1971 upon his graduation from the U.S. Air Force Academy. Since that time, he has served as a T-38 instructor pilot; an A-10 pilot, instructor pilot and flight examiner; and test pilot at Edwards Air Force Base.

Over the course of his distinguished career, he has also served as the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force for International Affairs. Most recently, Lieutenant General Hudson has served as the Commander of the Aeronautical Systems Center at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, a position from which he will retire in 2009.

For his many years of service to our nation, I join the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District in extending our best wishes upon his retirement and wish him ongoing success in all future endeavors.

COMMUNITIES REBUILD AFTER  
HURRICANE IKE**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2009*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, at a time when the financial headlines are dominated by stories of financial institutions seeking taxpayer funds and other special privileges, I am pleased to call my colleagues' attention to a story from the Galveston Daily News about how four community banks came together to help their friends, neighbors and customers begin to recover and rebuild from Hurricane Ike.

Last fall, as the people of Galveston were assessing the damage from Hurricane Ike and Congress was beginning debate on spending billions of taxpayer funds to bail out irresponsible financial institutions, representatives of Frost, HomeTown, Moody National and Texas First banks meet to discuss how these banks could help jumpstart hurricane recovery efforts. The four banks agreed to make unsecured bridge loans to Galveston businesses to ensure these businesses had access to capital while they waited for federal assistance and insurance payments.

The four banks made more than \$40 million in recovery loans. These loans provided lifelines to many businesses struggling with both the devastation of Hurricane Ike and the credit crisis. Without the efforts of these four banks, several Galveston businesses would have had to shut their doors.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I extend my thanks to management and employees of Frost, HomeTown, Moody National, and Texas First banks for their efforts to help the businesses and people of Galveston recover from Hurricane Ike.

[From the Galveston Daily News, May 24, 2009]

BANKS STEPPED UP WHEN CHIPS, ECONOMY  
WERE DOWN  
(By Laura Elder)

Just days after Hurricane Ike, as failing Wall Street institutions roiled the U.S. financial system, civic leaders and representatives of four banks forged an agreement that would profoundly shape the island's economic recovery.

After several meetings, some in storm-swamped buildings under generator-powered lights, representatives of Frost, HomeTown, Moody National and Texas First banks agreed to make unsecured bridge loans to island businesses for rebuilding until federal money and insurance payments materialized.

The community banks made more than \$40 million in recovery loans at a time when lending by industry giants had all but ground to a halt. The 180-day loans, at 5 percent interest, were a lifeline to local businesses hoping to recover quickly from a hurricane that inflicted \$11.4 billion in damage along the upper Texas Coast.

Some island business owners said their livelihoods would have been lost for good had it not been for the help of community bankers.

## LINE OF CREDIT

Charley DiBella, owner of DiBella's Italian Restaurant, which took in 4 feet of storm surge, was helped by HomeTown Bank not once but twice after Hurricane Ike, which struck Sept. 13.

DiBella credits the bank and Gary Gilliland, chief commercial lending officer,

for providing a line of credit to the restaurant.

With the loan, DiBella's was able to make storm repairs and open in November. But in January, disaster struck again when a fire broke out on the second floor of the 20-year-old restaurant. HomeTown Bank helped again, DiBella said. DiBella's Italian Restaurant plans to reopen Tuesday.

"Without HomeTown Bank and Gary Gilliland, there wouldn't be a DiBella's Restaurant," DiBella said. "I had insurance, but you know what that's like."

Gilliland, who checked on properties for his clients who had evacuated and weren't allowed back on the island for days after the storm, was in May named Indie Banker of the Month by Independent Banker Magazine for his work during Hurricane Ike.

## BRIDGE OF DOLLARS

HomeTown Bank, at last count, had made more than \$6 million in bridge loans to area businesses after the storm, said Jimmy Rasmussen, president and chief executive officer.

Two days after Ike struck, Wall Street institution Lehman Brothers filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, deepening a financial crisis and already painful credit crunch that had stalled lending. Fast-and-loose credit practices by the banking giants had come home to roost.

## NO 'VOODOO' PRODUCTS

But independent and community banks were never caught holding a bundle of bad loans.

"We're not sitting here selling voodoo products to peddle to people," said Matt Doyle, vice chairman of Texas First Bank.

That local competing banks got together in one room after the hurricane wasn't so unusual, Doyle said.

"We may be competitors, but we're community bankers," Doyle said. "When our community is suffering, all that goes out the window, and it's never really even in the house."

Texas First Bank lent \$8.5 million in recovery loans.

Bankers are the first to say their efforts weren't without self-interest. They certainly earned money from the loans. And they made loans based on credit history, long-standing relations and with the understanding they would be repaid.

## IN IT TOGETHER

And if a lot of local businesses failed, the local banks were going to feel it, so they had an interest in the success of their neighbors.

"If Galveston business didn't recover, we're all going to be damaged, all going to take losses," said Vic Pierson, president of Moody National Bank, which made about \$21 million in recovery loans after the storm.

"It was in our best interest to do whatever we could to assist as rapidly as we could for business recovery on the island."

## STRONG RELATIONSHIPS

Those who didn't have strong relationships with their bankers were left waiting for help from the Small Business Administration and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Pierson said.

"Those programs are very good, but to finally get some dollars can take 90 to 120 days or longer," Pierson said.

"A business couldn't wait three or four months to get started and I think that's where the local community banks came in."

Watching a business rebuild can encourage others to follow, Pierson said.

"It was absolutely critical that people started putting their businesses back together and making a statement," Pierson said.

## NEED REMAINS

Albert Shannon, Frost Bank's group president in this region, and other bankers inter-

viewed for this story credited Mayor Lyda Ann Thomas and Jeff Sjostrom, president of Galveston Economic Development Partnership, for the idea of recovery loans. Island businessman Gerald Sullivan, who early after the storm was appointed by Thomas to help with recovery, also played a role in encouraging recovery loans, bankers said.

Frost Bank, headquartered in San Antonio, made \$5 million in recovery loans, Shannon said.

Sjostrom recently traveled to Manatee, Fla., to share ideas with officials there about recovery efforts.

"They were just amazed at the response of our local lenders," Sjostrom said.

Still only about 75 percent of the island's 2,500 businesses have returned, Sjostrom said. Many were uninsured for flood damage when Ike struck.

Businesses that aren't able to turn to the banks are doing what they can to recover, Sjostrom said.

"They're not sitting back waiting and crying," Sjostrom said. "They're going forward doing what they have to make it work. We still have a lot of businesses that need financial help."

## EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2009*

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.Q. 3183, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Chesapeake, VA

Address of Requesting Entity: 306 Cedar Road, Chesapeake, VA 23322

Description of Request: Provides \$100,000 to replace the existing 2-lane Deep Creek AIW Bridge with a 5-lane, dual bascule bridge, thus providing a new structurally sound bridge and reducing traffic congestion along the corridor. AIW Deep Creek Bridge (owned and operated by the Army Corps of Engineers) was built in 1934 and is functionally obsolete. The City and State (along with FHWA) have made improvements on either side of the bridge and now replacement of the bridge is critical to the movement of people and goods along U.S. Rt. 17 as well as the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, O&M

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: 803 Front Street, Norfolk, VA 23510

Description of Request: Provides \$2,620,000 for the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Albarle and Chesapeake Canal to protect the navigation route between the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River and the VA-NC state line in the North Landing River, a