

Requesting Entity: Sharpsburg and Neighboring Area Water System is located at PO Box 355 Taylorville, IL 62568.

The funding will be used for the installation of infrastructure to serve the Sharpsburg and Neighboring Area Water System to serve residents on regional system that will replace bad wells.

“A JET EVEN THE MILITARY
DOESN’T WANT”

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2009

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, Congress is currently facing the choice of whether to support or hinder the efforts of President Obama and Secretary of Defense Gates to bring some sense of rationality to the military procurement process. In spite of the enormously difficult budget situation we find ourselves in, both short-term and long-term, this House recently approved legislation authorizing the procurement of twelve additional F-22 fighter planes at an initial cost of \$369 million, which if completed would carry an expected final price tag of \$2 billion. With President Obama threatening a veto should this provision remain in the final version of the Defense Authorization bill, this issue will likely require the further consideration of all Members in the coming months. In this regard, I am submitting into the RECORD an article written by Lawrence Korb and Krisila Benson, published on July 9, 2009 in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

I particularly appreciate the stress that these writers place on two key points. First, that these additional fighter planes are entirely unwanted by Secretary Gates, Air Force Secretary Michael Donley, and Air Force Chief of Staff Norton Schwartz. They are not even on the Air Force's list of unfunded requests, described in the article as “items excluded from the budget for which [the Air Force] would nevertheless like funding—a wish list of sorts.”

The other important point, which explains the Department of Defense's lack of interest in further planes, is that the F-22 was “designed to fight next-generation Soviet fighters that never materialized,” and is of no help in addressing the air-to-ground challenges we are facing now and are likely to face in the future. For example, the F-22 is entirely unsuitable for the irregular warfare and counter-insurgency operations we are facing in Afghanistan and Iraq, which is why it has seen no action whatsoever in either of these conflicts. Furthermore, with no other rival to its air-to-air supremacy either existing or in development, there is no serious support for the claim that the 187 F-22's that have already been approved would be inadequate for any reasonable contingency.

I strongly encourage Members to read this informative article.

A JET EVEN THE MILITARY DOESN’T WANT

(By Lawrence Korb and Krisila Benson)

Congress decided to end production of the costly F-22 Raptor fighter jet at 187 planes after a debate on the 2009 supplemental war budget last month. But the very next day, the House Armed Services Committee stripped \$369 million for environmental

cleanup from the fiscal 2010 budget to fund an additional 12 F-22s. The Senate Armed Services Committee went a step further, providing \$1.75 billion for seven more F-22s without clearly identifying the source of funds.

The F-22 costs nearly \$150 million per plane—twice what was projected at the outset of the program. Factoring in development costs, the price tag increases to about \$350 million per plane for the current fleet of 187.

It may look as if the House Armed Services Committee has added “only” \$369 million. But given that it would provide funds for 12 additional F-22s, each with a price tag of \$150 million (excluding development costs), the real cost to American taxpayers would be about \$2 billion.

The F-22 is the most capable air-to-air fighter in the Air Force inventory. Yet it has only limited air-to-ground attack capabilities, which makes it unsuitable for today's counter-insurgency operations. In fact, the F-22 has never been used in either Iraq or Afghanistan. It was designed to fight next-generation Soviet fighters that never materialized, and, as Defense Secretary Robert Gates has noted, it is nearly useless for irregular warfare.

The F-22 has no known enemy. It is the most advanced fighter plane in the world, and there are no other planes that could threaten its supremacy in air-to-air combat. The United States already has 187 F-22s on hand or on order—a silver-bullet force that is more than adequate to deal with any likely contingency. In fact, Gates said that even if he had \$50 billion more to spend, he would not buy any more F-22s.

The Air Force leadership itself no longer supports continued production of the F-22. Air Force Secretary Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz have publicly said they would prefer to move on. The plane is not in the Defense Department's proposed budget for fiscal 2010 (which begins in October). It's not even on the Air Force's list of unfunded requests, which consists of items excluded from the budget for which it would nevertheless like funding—a wish list of sorts.

Why are congressional committees willing to override the military and civilian leadership of the Pentagon on the F-22? The latest in a string of arguments offered by proponents in Congress is the need to protect our industrial base—as if our technical capacity to develop and produce fighter planes is in immediate, grave danger. This argument overlooks the fact that the Obama administration's fiscal 2010 budget includes 28 F-35 Joint Strike Fighters—planes better suited for air-to-ground combat.

Moreover, as has been noted by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, the era of producing manned aircraft is coming to an end. Mullen correctly points out that there will be a shift toward unmanned aircraft.

The F-22 is not an isolated case of unnecessary congressional equipment purchases. Congress has added \$2.7 billion to the 2009 supplemental budget to buy more C-17 and C-130 aircraft—planes neither requested nor needed by the Defense Department. It also added \$600 million to the 2010 budget for an unneeded alternate engine for the F-35, which will mean buying 50 fewer aircraft.

An administration policy statement issued on June 24 said the president's senior advisers would recommend a veto of a bill containing funding for more F-22s. If the entire Congress approves either of the armed services committees' recommendations on the F-22, President Obama should indeed veto the bill. Only then will Congress get the message that in this era of exploding national debt,

we cannot waste billions on unnecessary military equipment.

HONORING THE LIFE OF U.S. AIR
FORCE CAPTAIN GEORGE BRYAN
HOUGHTON

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2009

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of an esteemed constituent, Captain George Bryan “G.B.” Houghton of Candler, North Carolina. Captain Houghton, a member of the 421st Fighter Squadron, was killed on June 22, 2009 while on a nighttime Air Force training mission in Utah. This young man showed remarkable courage and dedication while serving our country. His family is in my thoughts and prayers.

Captain Houghton began his Air Force career while attending Enka High School where he was actively involved in the Air Force Junior ROTC Program. Through his hard work and dedication, Mr. Houghton achieved the rare honor of serving on the program's color guard as a freshman, and he eventually became the program's Corps Commander.

His dedication and leadership skills earned him an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy where he graduated with a degree in civil engineering in 2002. Captain Houghton earned his pilot wings at Laughlin Air Force Base, and between 2003 and 2008, he trained over 150 Air Force pilots.

Captain Houghton dedicated his life to serving others, from leading fellow Junior ROTC participants to training many men and women who are now defending and protecting our liberty. Every day we enjoy freedoms made possible by this heroic young man and the thousands of other members of our military who have risked or given their lives to protect us, to ensure that the United States remains the land of the free and the home of the brave.

I offer a prayer of comfort to the family he has left behind: his wife, Josephine Houghton; his parents, George and Darlene Houghton; brothers, Daniel and Patrick Houghton, and maternal grandparents, JoAnn and Herschel Greene.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our remorse at the passing of Air Force Captain George Bryan Houghton, an outstanding leader and an American hero, and I ask that we remember the men and women who sacrifice so much to protect our nation and ensure our freedom.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2009

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to defend funding for the Idaho TechConnect Proof of Concept Center. This project received \$285,000 in the FY2010 House Financial Services bill.

Idaho TechConnect is a non-profit organization. It was created as a state-wide private-

public cooperation that would bridge the gaps in the state's innovation pipeline. It has received significant funding from the Idaho State Legislature since its birth in 2007. In addition, the Idaho National Laboratory has provided funds to assist in its efforts.

The hi-tech industry is an important industry to the United States and to Idaho and the government plays an important role in helping to foster and encourage new innovations and ideas. The Idaho TechConnect Proof of Concept Center assists people and organizations with novel innovations from early stage projects to the launch of a viable start-up business or to license the product or service to an existing business. Over the last 3 years Idaho TechConnect has worked with more than 1,000 companies and individuals as well as all of Idaho's universities and colleges and the Idaho National Lab to get more ideas out of the research and development funding. It has been very successful at discovering ideas and assessing their potential. These funds will assist its efforts to turn promising ideas into products and services and assist businesses in efforts to mature these innovations into market-ready products and services.

The Center will provide assistance with business models, intellectual property strategy, and access to capital, resulting in more ideas becoming products. Innovation is key to creating new jobs and fostering new businesses and growing current ones. This funding will assist businesses and public entities in their efforts to mature their innovative ideas into market-ready products and services. During these difficult economic times, the federal government should seek every means possible to foster real economic growth and make our economy stronger in the short term but particularly in the long-term.

IN HONOR OF FRANK PINNEY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the public service career of Mr. Frank Pinney on the occasion of his retirement as Chief of the Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade after thirty-five years, seventeen as Chief. I have known Frank for a long time and have called him many things over the years: chief; mayor, community volunteer, community leader, mentor, neighbor, trusted advisor, public safety expert, friend, and above all, public servant. It is in this last capacity that I speak today about the great difference that Frank has made to the community that he has called home for nearly forty years.

Frank Pinney arrived in Big Sur in the early 1970s. At that time Big Sur residents relied upon Monterey based crews for fire protection along 70 miles of remote rugged coastline. It could take an hour or more for those trained firefighters to arrive at a house fire or other emergency. Soon after he arrived in Big Sur, Frank joined a community based effort to organize its own volunteer fire protection service. And so in August 1974, the Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade was born with Frank Pinney among its first members.

Frank soon displayed an unsurpassed commitment to the Fire Brigade's public safety

mission. In 1975, he became the Brigade's training officer and in 1978 won election as the Brigade foreman. Other milestones included engine company captain, 1982 Outstanding Firemen of the Year, and Assistant Chief for Administration in 1985. He also assisted the Brigades development by spearheading the effort to secure its 501(c)(3) non-profit status in 1983 and managing the capital fund and actual construction of the Brigade's firehouse in 1991. All of this work and devotion culminated in 1992 with Frank's election as Brigade Chief, a role in which he became synonymous with the Brigade itself.

Over the course of his career with the Brigade, Frank was at the heart of efforts to protect the local community and the millions of annual visitors to Big Sur from common car accidents to major wildfires. This included service during the 1977 Marble Cone fire, 1983 El Niño land slides, and the 1985 Rat Creek fire. As Chief he helped lead the response as a member of the incident command to the 1996 Sur fire, the 1998 winter land slides, and the 1999 Kirk fire.

Frank surpassed all this work with his efforts during last year's monumental Basin Complex fire. The Basin Complex fire, and the adjacent Indians fire, burned over 240,000 acres of Big Sur coastland and back country and over 25 homes. This event became one of the largest wildfires in California history and nearly destroyed the heart of the Big Sur community. Frank participated in the Basin Complex incident command and played a critical role in bringing his local knowledge and experience to the Forest Service and Cal Fire leadership running the massive fire fighting effort.

"Public service," "community organizing," and "volunteerism" are all frequently heard in conversations today. But these words alone fail to do justice to Frank for he has been the very embodiment of these ideals—all the more so in light of the purely voluntary nature of his Fire Brigade work.

Madam Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in both commending Frank Pinney for his dedication to the public good and in holding out his public service record as an example for the whole nation.

HONORING MR. ERNEST K. BUCK
OF PALL MALL, TENNESSEE

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and remember the life of Mr. Ernest Buck of Pall Mall, Tennessee. Ernest lived a long, full life in service to his country and community, and served as a model citizen for his neighbors, family and friends.

Ernest began his career as a student at Lincoln Memorial University, before transferring to Middle Tennessee State University and later to Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, where he graduated in 1936. For 42 years, Ernest dedicated himself to teaching young men and women of Tennessee at the York Agricultural Institute in Fentress County. This alone might endear him to his community, but Ernest went to incredible lengths, even beyond his work as a teacher, to serve those around him at every turn.

During the Second World War, Ernest traveled to Ypsilanti, Michigan, to serve his country making B-24 bombers and later to Oak Ridge, Tennessee, to continue the war effort. After the war, Ernest returned home to carry out his service as a member of the Greers Chapel Church, the Young Farmers and Homemakers, the York Institute Advisory Council, and the Union Bank Board of Directors. Ernest was also a Director of the Fentress Farmers Co-Op, and served with the Fentress County Retired Teachers Association and the Fentress County Historical Association.

I hold a special place for Mr. Buck, because when my mother was young, he was her teacher at York Agricultural Institute. He was my teacher as well, and a good friend, and I am better today for having known and learned from him at an early age. Tennessee was blessed to enjoy Ernest Buck's grace and service for ninety-six years, and while his presence is missed he will no doubt live on in the countless lives he touched.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on congressionally directed finding, I am submitting the following information regarding funding included in H.R. 3170—Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman HAROLD ROGERS

Bill Number: H.R. 3170

Account: Financial Services, SBA

Legal Name of Recipient: SEKTDA

Address of Recipient: 2292 South Highway 27, Somerset, KY 42501

Description of Request: Provide directed funding of \$685,000 for economic and small business development in southern and eastern Kentucky. SEKTDA is a non-profit, region-wide initiative created to attract travelers and tour industry businesses to the area. SEKTDA's 47 county region is in one of the most depressed areas in the United States and economic and small business development is essential. These funds will contribute to the economic growth of the region.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2009

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I am submitting the following earmark disclosure and certification information for three project funding requests that I made and were included within the text of H.R. 3183—The FY 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations Act.

Project 1

Project: Arkansas River Corridor Project

Project Amount: \$100,000

Account: Corp of Engineers Investigations