

The rest of the nation is expected to reign in their pocketbooks during times of economic uncertainty; yet the federal government keeps on spending. Specifically, H.R. 3170 proposes to spend \$1.5 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 or 6.4 percent over the FY 2009 funding level.

One of those new spending priorities in H.R. 3170 is to restore a federal loan subsidy in the SBA's 7(a) guaranteed business lending program, costing \$80 million a year. When I was Chairman of the House Small Business Committee, I was proud of my work to finally restore stability and predictability to the 7(a) program by removing it from the uncertainties of the annual appropriations process. In the past, the 7(a) program temporarily closed and then re-opened with severe restrictions on several occasions because Congress did not pass the annual spending bill covering the SBA account by the start of the new fiscal year (October 1st). The funding from the previous fiscal year simply ran out. After the annual federal subsidy was removed in 2004, more small businesses were helped by the 7(a) program, growing from a \$9.5 billion loan program serving 72,000 small businesses a year in 2004 to a \$13.5 billion program serving nearly 93,000 small businesses a year by the time I left the chairmanship in 2007. This was accomplished by a slight adjustment in the fees charged to the users of the 7(a) program. This fee adjustment resulted in an average additional \$10 a month increase in the loan repayment. In addition, the SBA received \$375 million in the so-called "economic stimulus" package last February for a federal small business loan subsidy in order to lower fees and increase the government guarantee rate. These funds have yet to be fully expended and are expected to last well into FY 2010. There was no need to pile another \$80 million on top of the money the SBA already has received for this purpose.

In addition, H.R. 3170 reverses a decade-old policy that restricts all public funds to pay for abortions in the District of Columbia. I am amazed that in spite all the rhetoric to encourage people who are pro-choice and pro-life to work together in a spirit of cooperation to lower the number of abortions in this nation, the Democratic-controlled House reinstates a public subsidy that will only encourage more abortions to be performed in the nation's capital. H.R. 3170 also removes ban on legalizing medical marijuana in the District of Columbia. It also gradually eliminates the D.C. school voucher experiment by prohibiting new enrollees from participating in a school choice option in one of the worst public school systems in the nation.

Thus, I regretfully decided to vote against H.R. 3170, notwithstanding my strong support for the LaTourette provision to restore the rights of terminated automobile dealers, because of the overspending in the bill and the new publicly-financed incentive to encourage more abortions in the nation's capital.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 2009

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information re-

garding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2638 Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, And Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 (109th Congress)

Requesting Member: SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

Bill Number: H.R. 2638—Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, And Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009

Account: Defense O&M Army

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: HMS Technologies

Address of Requesting Entity: 206 West Burke St., Martinsburg, WV 25401

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$1,200,000: The National Veterans Technology Consortium (NVTC) is comprised of Veterans and business leaders who have joined to create careers in information technology (IT) for Service Disabled and other Veterans. NVTC has teamed with the Army Publishing Directorate (APD) to develop a proof-of-concept program to digitize, tag, and database Army records and operational material in order to meet Army regulatory requirements and achieve APD's mission.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 2009

Mr. LATTA. 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 Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBERT E. LATTA

Bill Number: H.R. 3183, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Account: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Section 205

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The Village of Ottawa

Address of Requesting Entity: 136 North Oak Street, Ottawa, OH 45875

Description of Request: \$217,000 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for funding regarding the Village of Ottawa Flood Control and Mitigation Reconnaissance and Feasibility Studies. Funding would be used to complete the Section 205 Feasibility Study of flood risk management plans for the Blanchard River at Ottawa, Ohio. The funding would fulfill the Federal share needed to complete the Feasibility Study. In addition, the funds would be used to begin the design and implementation following the Section 205 Feasibility Study of flood risk management plans for the Blanchard River at Village of Ottawa, Ohio. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBERT E. LATTA

Bill Number: H.R. 3183, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Account: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Section 205

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The Village of Findlay

Address of Requesting Entity: 518 Dorney Plaza, Room 310, Findlay, OH 45840

Description of Request: \$248,000 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for funding regarding the Village of Findlay Flood Control and Mitigation Reconnaissance and Feasibility Studies. Funding would be used to complete the Section 205 Feasibility Study of flood risk management plans for the Blanchard River at Findlay, Ohio. The funding would fulfill the Federal share needed to complete the Feasibility Study. In addition, the funds would be used to begin the design and implementation following the Section 205 Feasibility Study of flood risk management plans for the Blanchard River at Findlay, Ohio. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBERT E. LATTA

Bill Number: H.R. 3183, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Account: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Construction; Ohio Environmental Infrastructure OH

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Village of Polk, Ashland County, Ohio

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 East Congress Street, P.O. Box 206, Polk, OH 44866

Description of Request: \$400,000 for the design, construction, and operation of a centralized collection and treatment system. The Village is under Ohio EPA Findings and Orders to address a large number of failing household septic systems in the Village. The collection will consist of a combination gravity/pressure sewer system, potentially two (2) lift stations, 50,000 gallons per day (gpd) average daily design flow (ADF) package extended aeration wastewater treatment plant suitable for direct discharge to Katotawa Creek. The existing on-lot systems will be demolished when the replacement system is available. The Village has 357 residents, with 129 homes and businesses. A recent income survey conducted by the Ohio Rural Community Assistance Program confirmed that the Village's Median Household Income has dropped significantly since the last census, and is now only \$35,000. An earlier survey conducted in 2007 also showed that the Village qualifies for CDBG funding with a Low-to-Moderate-Income (LMI) percentage over 60%. USDA Rural Development has advised the Village it needs to obtain additional grants in order to be funded by their program. Design engineering is underway. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBERT E. LATTA

Bill Number: H.R. 3183, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Account: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Construction; Ohio Environmental Infrastructure OH

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Village of Risingsun, Northwestern Water and Sewer District, Wood County, Ohio

Address of Requesting Entity: 12560 Middleton Pike, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

Description of Request: \$400,000 for extension of a public water main to provide fire protection and drinking water to the residents of Risingsun, Ohio. The Village of Risingsun &

US 23 corridor, including Lakota School, relies on private wells for water supply. Recent testing of groundwater indicates petroleum hydrocarbon contamination in several area wells. This project will greatly impact the environment by improving drinking water and fire protection in the Village and surrounding area. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBERT E. LATTA

Bill Number: H.R. 3183, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Account: U.S. Department of Energy; Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Bowling Green State University

Address of Requesting Entity: 106 University Hall, Bowling Green, OH 43403

Description of Request: \$1,000,000 for the Coastal Ohio Wind Project: Removing Barriers to Great Lakes Offshore Wind Energy Development. Funding would be used to support a workforce for Bowling Green State University to undertake the design parameter data gathering while the University of Toledo undertakes development of the advanced concept offshore Wind Turbine Generators (WTG). The long term goal is to reduce the cost of installation, operation and maintenance of WTG's on Lake Erie, in order to jumpstart offshore development of the Great Lakes and to support the transition from rust-belt to green-belt manufacturing. The project will build on a proven two bladed, teetered hub WTG design. This phase of the project will design a foundation and tower structure capable of surviving the severe wind, wave and ice loading conditions on Lake Erie. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

TRIBUTE TO SAI YANG

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 2009

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Sai Yang, a passionate and determined woman, a wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Sai was the matriarch of the Chang family and influential in the lives of not only her own children and grandchildren, but that of her entire community. Sai was also the mother-in-law of my good friend, Senator Mee Moua of St. Paul.

Sai was born in 1934 to Cha Doua Yang and Ying Kue in the remote jungle village of Nhu Ka in Laos.

After the United States left Laos in May of 1975, Sai and her family sought refuge in the jungles and remote villages of Laos for several years before finally arriving on freedom's shore in Thailand in 1979.

After six months in a Thai refugee camp, Sai's family was granted political asylum to the United States and arrived in Honolulu, Hawaii on February 1, 1980. A year later, her family moved to Minnesota.

In her new life in the U.S., Sai learned how to read and write in her native Hmong language and in conversational English. In 1997, she became a U.S. Citizen. She subsequently voted in five presidential elections and helped

to elect her daughter-in-law Mee Moua to the Minnesota State Senate; the highest among elected officials in the United States.

In 1995, Sai was chosen as part of the delegation of Hmong American women who attended the United Nation's Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China.

Sai Yang passed away on July 7, 2009 in St. Paul and is survived by five sons, three daughters, 39 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren, a brother, a sister, and the extended Chang and Yang families in Minnesota, across the U.S. and other countries.

Sai Yang enriched many lives and she will be missed dearly by all who knew her.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARK E. STRATTON, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, OF STAFFORD, VIRGINIA

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 2009

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Mark E. Stratton, United States Air Force, of Stafford, Virginia, for his service and supreme sacrifice for our nation.

Lieutenant Colonel Stratton graduated from Foley High School in Foley, Alabama, and then went on to attend Texas A&M University. There, he served as a member of the Corps of Cadets and graduated with a degree in Political Science. Following graduation, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force.

Throughout his remarkable career, Lieutenant Colonel Stratton served with honor and distinction as a communications officer, pilot, senior navigator, and staff officer. Some of Lieutenant Colonel Stratton's duty assignments include executive assistant to the 55th Wing commander in Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, student at the Joint Advanced Warfighting School, Taiwan desk officer on the Joint Staff, and executive assistant to the deputy director for Asia. In addition to his professional military career, Lieutenant Colonel Stratton was an active member of Stafford Baptist Church in Stafford Virginia, where he served as a beloved Sunday school teacher.

Tragically, on May 26, 2009, Lieutenant Colonel Stratton made the ultimate sacrifice for this great nation while serving as the Commanding Officer of the Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan. Just as many of America's heroes have taken up arms when the nation needed them, Lieutenant Colonel Stratton dedicated himself to the cause of our values, freedoms, and way of life. His valor and determination cost him his life, but his sacrifice will endure forever among the many dedicated heroes the United States has sent abroad to preserve liberty and freedom.

Lieutenant Colonel Stratton is remembered by his friends and family as a man of unquestionable character and loyalty. He was excited about the initiative he was leading in Afghanistan. In an e-mail to a friend he described the work of building roads, schools, canals and clinics as the best job of his Air Force career. It is easy to see why his friends describe him as someone who loved God, his family, his

friends, and his country fervently. This is the caliber of a man that truly leads our nation's men and women in uniform with passion and purpose.

Lieutenant Colonel Stratton is survived by his wife, Jennifer Stratton and his children, Delaney, Jake and A.J. My condolences and prayers go out to Mark's family, and I offer them my deepest sympathies and most heartfelt thanks for the service, sacrifice, and example of their hero, Lieutenant Colonel Mark Stratton.

LAKEWOOD, COLORADO 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the city of Lakewood, Colorado on their fortieth birthday.

For forty years, the city of Lakewood has celebrated its birthday in an arts and music celebration appropriately named Lakewood on Parade. Families from all parts of the city and surrounding areas come together with their friends and neighbors to enjoy this celebration. I, myself, along with my family, have attended Lakewood on Parade for many years. I am honored to recognize the Lakewood on Parade birthday celebration for helping Lakewood bring families together to enjoy this beautiful city.

Lakewood is the fourth largest city in Colorado and is located just west of Denver, in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. It is home to many historical sites of the old West making it a city rich in history. Families, friends, and neighbors truly live in a special place in Colorado and it is reflected in the Lakewood on Parade birthday celebration.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the city of Lakewood for achieving their fortieth birthday.

RECOGNIZING THE EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE PETE GEREN

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 2009

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished service of our former colleague Pete Geren as he steps down as Secretary of the Army.

Secretary Geren, a quiet and thoughtful leader, fulfilled the duties of his office with superb competence and compassion. Of his many achievements, his initiative to combat military sexual trauma deserves particular recognition. Secretary Geren called the epidemic of rape and sexual assault within the ranks of the Army "fratricide." He viewed its elimination as of equal consequence to the challenge of racially integrating the armed forces.

Last year, Secretary Geren launched the I. A.M. Strong campaign, a five-year program designed to eradicate rape and sexual assault in the Army. Secretary Geren was unwavering in his efforts to tackle this important issue. As he explained, "we're the United States Army and we live our values."