

fl. fit-out, vivarium (funding unidentified): \$10,311,000; Anatomy Lab Renovation (this request): 2,500,000; Biomedical Sciences Renovation (this request): 2,975,000; PRIME Telemedicine (state general obligation bond funding): 5,000,000; TOTAL COST: \$60,475,000

OCCASION OF UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CHANGE OF COMMAND AND RETIREMENT OF COLONEL PAUL GROSSKRUGER

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the service and contributions of Colonel Paul Grosskruger of the United States Army Corps of Engineers—Jacksonville District as he passes Command to Colonel Pantano and prepares to retire from military service. He has had a long and admirable career, worthy of distinction and worthy of our gratitude.

Colonel Grosskruger assumed command of the Jacksonville District on July 25, 2006 and it has been my distinct pleasure to work closely with him for these past several years. Most notably, I have worked with Colonel Grosskruger on the Merrill-Stevens Expansion Project and was also fortunate to assist the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as they completed the restoration of Virginia Key Beach. Each time, Colonel Grosskruger impressed us with his clarity, candor and fairness. Colonel Andrew Pantano has large new responsibilities to fill, but from reading his resume and noting his experiences, I am confident that he will be more than up to the task.

Below is a brief biographical sketch of Colonel Grosskruger's long and distinguished career. We have come to expect nothing less than great things of this career officer and we look forward to hearing from Colonel Grosskruger again, though as a private citizen. I know that many members of Florida's delegation join me in wishing him the best as he enters this new stage of life and we have every confidence that Colonel Pantano will continue the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Jacksonville District's fine tradition.

Born and raised in eastern Iowa, Colonel Grosskruger was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers upon graduation from the United States Military Academy in 1983. Colonel Grosskruger is a graduate of the U.S. Army Engineer Basic and Advance Courses, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering mechanics from the United States Military Academy and a Master of Science degree in civil engineering from Iowa State University. He is a registered professional engineer in both the Commonwealth of Virginia and the State of Florida.

His assignments include platoon leader, battalion S2 officer and company executive officer in the 317th Engineer Battalion, Eschborn, Germany; company commander and battalion

S4 officer in the 82d Engineer Battalion, Bamberg, Germany; company commander of the 535th Engineer Company (Combat Support Equipment), Grafenwoehr, Germany; project officer and deputy resident engineer in the Omaha Engineer District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Colorado Springs, Colorado; battalion executive officer, 317th Engineer Battalion, Fort Benning, Georgia; group operations officer, 36th Engineer Group, Fort Benning, Georgia; Instructor, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Chief of Engineer Operations and Assistant Corps Engineer, V Corps, Heidelberg, Germany; Commander of the 94th Engineer Combat Battalion, Vilseck, Germany, where he planned and conducted operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His prior assignment was as the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Engineer School, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Colonel Grosskruger's awards include the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal (seventh award); the Army Commendation Medal (three awards and the "V" device); the Joint Commendation Medal; the Army Achievement Medal (fifth award); the NATO Medal; the Joint Meritorious Unit award; and the Humanitarian Service Medal. He has earned medals from Nicaragua and Poland. He has the U.S. and German parachutist badge and the air assault badge. His battalion earned the Presidential Unit Citation for service with the 3d Infantry Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I would be remiss if I did not also take this opportunity to thank Colonel Grosskruger's wife and family for their support and dedication. It is a well known fact that the hardest job in the military is that of the military spouse; our service men and women would not be able to do what our country asks of them without the backbone of a loving family. Claudia Grosskruger is to be commended as much as Colonel Grosskruger for their work in service to this country and for their efforts in raising Jerry, 20 and Jennifer, 18.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 649, H.R. 1121, the Blue Ridge Parkway and Town of Blowing Rock Land Exchange Act of 2009, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 648, H.R. 1376, the Waco Mammoth National Monument Establishment Act of 2009, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 647, H. Res. 593—Recognizing and celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the entry of Hawaii into the Union as the 50th State, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise to state that I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote on rollcall votes 644, 645, and 646. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Nos. 644 and 645, and "nay" on No. 646.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Monday, July 27, 2009, I was unable to cast votes a number of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 647, 648, and 649.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN T. FINLEY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished life of John T. Finley, retired Ramsey County District Judge and lifelong public servant. Judge Finley passed away unexpectedly in June at the age of 69, while visiting his daughter and grandchildren. While our community has lost a beloved civic leader, we celebrate John's legacy of compassion, fairness, and service to others.

On the judicial bench, John's steadfast impartiality and willingness to take on tough cases earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues. No matter how politically charged or publicly scrutinized the case, John approached each one with a fair and impartial mind. He was, in this regard, an exemplary judge.

John's public service began when he was elected as a Ramsey County commissioner in 1970, only one year after graduating from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul. He would become the longest-serving member of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners before being elected as a judge in 1996. His vision and leadership helped to craft a comprehensive transportation plan for the region that includes light rail transit. His advocacy for investments in parks and recreation helped to put Ramsey County on the map as one of the most livable communities in America.

Whether serving on the board or the bench, John's love for the community was remarkable. He was a proud native and lifelong resident of St. Paul, and he lived to serve its people. His sense of duty and honor are irreplaceable, and his leadership will be sorely missed.

Madam Speaker, please join me in this tribute to former Ramsey County Judge John T. Finley.

HONORING MR. AND MRS. DICK RIDINGER, COMMENDABLE ARMY VETERANS AND ADMIRED WOODBURY, NJ COMMUNITY CITIZENS

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Dick and Mrs. Tommie Ridinger, residents of Woodbury, NJ for the past five decades. Dick and Tommie are 86 and 89 years old respectively, and have been married for the past 61 years. They met each other in Southern France while serving in the United States military during World War II.

Mr. Ridinger was a second lieutenant and Mrs Ridinger was a nurse on the front lines in Marseilles, France. Mr. Ridinger is a short man, and when he was young he was self-conscious about his height. During combat in France, an enemy soldier fired a bullet at him. It skimmed off the top of his helmet, just barely missing his forehead. Never again has Mr. Ridinger complained about his height.

At another point, Nazis attacked a house while Mr. Ridinger's platoon was inside. While seeking shelter inside a closet, he found a French book. The book contained a poem titled, in English, "I Know Something Good About You." From that day forth, he embraced the teachings of the book and modeled his life philosophy after it.

In Marseilles, France, Mrs. Ridinger aided wounded soldiers on the front lines back to health. When the war ended, Tommie returned home to New Jersey with Dick. Tommie was a nurse at Redbank and Oakview elementary schools for over 20 years.

After the war, Mr. Ridinger served as a teacher, vice principal and a high school football coach at Paulsboro and Collingswood High Schools. His success led to his induction into the High School Coaches Hall of Fame in Canton, OH.

Madam Speaker, Mr. and Mrs. Ridinger have served their country in extraordinary ways. Assisting our country both in World War II and in their community for decades, they deserve tremendous recognition for their service. I congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Ridinger and wish them best of luck.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, July 27, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 647 (On the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.Res. 593, as Amended), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 648 (On the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1376), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 649 (On the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1121).

HONORING MR. HAROLD MIKELL

**HON. ALLEN BOYD**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Mr. BOYD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a long-time employee, a trusted advisor, and a good friend of mine, Mr. Harold Mikell. Over the course of his career, which has spanned six decades, Harold has tirelessly worked for the people of Florida—both at the Florida Division of Forestry and as my Agriculture and Natural Resource liaison in North Florida.

Following his service in the United States Navy during World War II, Harold joined the Florida Division of Forestry as an Apprentice Forester. Over his 41 years with the Division, Harold rose through the ranks and distinguished himself as an expert in Fire Control.

Harold retired as Director of the Division in 1991, but his retirement proved to be short lived. In 1993, Harold accepted a position with my predecessor, Congressman Pete Peterson, to serve as his Agriculture liaison in the North Florida community, a role that Harold continued when I was elected to Congress in 1996.

The people of Florida truly owe Harold Mikell a debt of gratitude for his tireless commitment to our great state, and I look forward to his continued friendship, expertise, and counsel.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM JP BANKS

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of Chicago Alderman William JP Banks. On August 31, 2009, Alderman William JP Banks will retire from his career in public service after 26 years.

Born in the Galewood-Montclare community, Alderman Banks graduated from DePaul University and the DePaul University College of Law, never straying far from his Chicago roots and the city he went on to serve for so long. He and his wife, Shirley, have lived in and have raised their two children, Lisa and Joseph, in this same community.

In 1983, Mr. Banks won a seat in the City Council and has since become the highest ranking Italian-American in the Council's history. Throughout his illustrious career in public service, Alderman Banks has stood out as the Chairman of the City Council's Committee on Zoning, where he created an incentive program that has generated more than \$12 million for affordable housing developments in neighborhoods throughout the city. Additionally, he has authored and co-sponsored hundreds of legislative initiatives benefitting the people of Chicago that promote responsible government, support our troops and improve law enforcement.

Mr. Banks' role in the community did not stop in his office. It would be impossible to list all of Mr. Banks' involvements with community organizations, but a select few show his wide-reaching involvement with all members of his community. For example, he is an active

member of the Galewood-Montclare Community Organization, the North Austin Business Association, the Polish National Alliance, and the Fraternal Order of Police, and is a Board Member of the Chicago Shriner's Hospital.

One can judge a public servant's work by his community support, and looking at Alderman Banks' accolades, one can see how invaluable he has been to his constituents. He has received more than 600 awards from Youth Sports Activities and Educational programs throughout the city, a Friends of Downtown award, and numerous Person of the Year awards from organizations throughout Chicago.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate and thank William Banks for his lengthy and influential career and his many outstanding contributions to the city of Chicago. I wish him the best of luck and continued happiness in his retirement and all his future endeavors.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, consistent with the House Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, to the best of my knowledge the requests I have detailed below are (1) not directed to an entity or program that will be named after a sitting Member of Congress; and (2) not intended to be used by an entity to secure funds for other entities unless the use of funding is consistent with the specified purpose of the earmark. As required by earmark standards adopted by the House Republican Conference, I submit the following information on projects I requested and that were included in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010 (H.R. 3326).

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Army

Project Name: Brain Safety Net

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: University of Oregon, 103 Johnson Hall, Eugene, OR 97403

Project Location: Eugene, Oregon

Description of Project: H.R. 3326 appropriates \$3,000,000 for the Brain Safety Net project. According to the requesting entity, the appropriated funds for this project will be used to help develop and optimize evidence-based treatments of soldiers and civilians suffering from amputations, traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and neurological disorders such as epilepsy. According to the requester, this will be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it has the potential to improve the lives of many Oregonians including veterans injured during service in Iraq and Afghanistan. An individual's ability to effectively use a prosthetic device or manage the consequences of a traumatic brain injury means a higher quality of life and better opportunities for employment.

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Army

Project Name: ONAMI Miniaturized Tactical Energy Systems Development

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Oregon State University/University of Oregon/Portland State University/Oregon Nanosciences and Microtechnologies Institute, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331