

All to help her grow up, and about life and what she needs to know . . . and what really counts so . . .

As I will inspire her by my love . . . as in my heart, I hold her close and so very high above . . .

As I will show her, how to lift up her head each morn, even though such pain is worn . . .

To cherish each new shining day, to touch all hearts along her way . . . as I live on . . .

Showing her how not to be bitter and afraid, as out and along life's road as made . . .

For I know she needs me so very much, for her this my battle . . . for her I do so much . . .

Because so many children . . . will never know, and grow up with such loving daddies so . . .

And never have such a best friend . . . who will stick with them, through thick and thin . . .

Who at night will tuck them in, and tell bedtime stories . . . as together, our two hearts blend . . .

Who from them so much can learn, as it's for her and her future, that this my heart so burns . . .

As she will learn all from me, how great a heart can truly be . . . as to her, mine so speaks . . .

Showing her, arms and legs yes we may need . . . but, without hearts we can not live indeed . . .

And what really counts, all in the end . . . is what's in your heart, as where it all so begins . . .

So for my daughter I will wake . . . as each new day for her, these most courageous steps I take . . .

As I fight through all of my pain, as I venture out upon heartache's way . . . my soul will remain.

All so I can see those smiles upon her face, and watch her grow up with such happiness and grace . . .

And for all of my buddies who died, who shall never so look into their children's eyes . . .

It's for you too I wake, and to Be the Best Father our Lord God could make . . .

As I will tell your children, all about your love . . . and how you spoke of them, so high above.

Recalling, all of those words of love you spoke . . . and all about them, as their names you invoked . . .

For I stand stronger on this day, all because of this child who before me so lays . . .

For you Rian . . . give me a reason to live, at night as I watch sleep in your crib . . .

Daughter, all of this . . . I do, for you . . . my gift from God, that will help see me through . . .

And if I ever have a son, Juan, I but hope and pray he is like you the one!

For my Daughter, all this I'll do!

IN RECOGNITION OF SGT STEVE  
MAY

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2009*

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to recognize the passing of a great public servant, Sergeant Steve May of the Modesto Police Department who died from medical complications sustained from a 2002 accident that occurred

while on duty. As a 23 year veteran of the Department, Sergeant May gave the ultimate sacrifice to our community.

Sergeant May was hired by the Modesto Police Department on February 6, 1979 and promoted to Corporal on January 28, 1992. He was then promoted to Sergeant on September 20, 1994. Sergeant May was a respected member of the Department who was a consummate professional who served his community with distinction. The accident that took Sergeant May from his family and our community occurred on July 29, 2002. Stanislaus County Sheriffs Deputies saw a black pickup that they believed to be suspicious, and after the vehicle attempted to evade officers, it rammed the deputies' patrol car and sped off. Sergeant May was on patrol and spotted the suspect's vehicle in downtown Modesto. He followed the vehicle and pursued it vigorously as the vehicle reached high rates of speed. The suspect ran two stop signs and was evading police. While running a stop sign, Sergeant May's patrol car was struck and pushed into a tree as the suspect's vehicle hit a house. Sergeant May was trapped inside his car and freed by firefighters. Suffering severe injuries, he was rushed to the hospital for treatment.

Sergeant May's family and our community are deeply saddened by this loss. He leaves behind his wife Diana and their two children—Corinne and Michael. I offer my prayers and condolences as they grieve.

Sergeant May was clearly a remarkable individual, public servant and law enforcement officer who remained dedicated to public safety and service throughout his impressive career. Through his dedicated work, he touched the lives of many and helped change the face of our community. Madam Speaker, it is with respect and gratitude that I ask my colleagues to join me in this posthumous recognition of Police Sergeant Steve May for his dedicated service.

RECOGNIZING PIZZA 4 PATRIOTS

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2009*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the extraordinary efforts of the Pizza 4 Patriots Organization, Uno Chicago Grill, and DHL, in teaming up to provide Chicago-style deep dish pizzas on Independence Day to our service men and women serving in both Iraq and Afghanistan. The cumulative effort brought 28,000 pizzas to the troops, allowing them to celebrate our nation's day of independence with a taste and feel of home.

The initiative of retired Air Force Master Sergeant Mark Evans, Pizza 4 Patriots is a non-profit organization that seeks to honor the service of the United States' Armed Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. With pizzas provided by Uno Chicago Grill and international delivery service provided by DHL, Operation Pizza Surge broke the record for the "World's Largest Pizza Party," and will go down in the Guinness Book of World Records as such.

As our service men and women continue to courageously protect our freedom and liberties throughout the Middle East, the services pro-

vided by Pizza 4 Patriots, Uno Chicago Grill, and DHL are of the utmost importance. In garnering donations from individuals and organizations to make Operation Pizza Surge possible, they have helped raise awareness and recognition of the outstanding and courageous job that the United States' military continues to do to protect the liberty and safety of the American people.

We must always remember and pay tribute to the courage and sacrifice of those proud men and women who serve and protect the American people. The efforts of Pizza 4 Patriots, Uno Chicago Grill, and DHL remind us that as we celebrate our independence at home, it is the efforts of our armed forces that allow us to do so.

Madam Speaker, today we congratulate Pizza 4 Patriots, Uno Chicago Grill, and DHL for a successful completion of Operation Pizza Surge, and we thank them for providing our brave troops with a slice of home while they protect our country and our freedoms abroad.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2009*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the U.S. House of Representatives Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding one earmark I received as part H.R. 3326, The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010:

(1) Institute for Science and Engineering Simulation (ISES), University of North Texas—\$6 million—Account: 0602102F Materials—\$4,500,000.

ISES at the University of North Texas is currently working closely with the U.S. Air Force to remedy a critical requirement. Due to increased operations as a result of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan during the past 5 yrs, Air Force aircraft are often pushed to perform beyond their intended design criteria: this has created serious concerns for safety of both the aircraft and personnel. The Air Force requires modeling and simulation research of the performance and lifecycles of materials in aircraft in order to extend the life of current military aircraft and to perform testing on future aircraft structures and material. Utilizing state-of-the-art facilities and equipment at the University of North Texas, the research conducted at ISES will be used to predict/identify and reduce the risk of catastrophic failure in aircraft structural components, extend the life of current aircraft and increase the safety of pilots and personnel.

University of North Texas is located at Hurley Administration Building 175, Denton, TX 76203-2979.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF FORT  
GRATIOT FIRE CHIEF RONALD B.  
NICHOLS

**HON. CANDICE S. MILLER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2009*

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Fire Chief Ronald

B. Nichols from the Fort Gratiot Fire Department in St. Clair County, Michigan. This year marks the 50th year Mr. Nichols has been a member of the department—and during 31 of those years he has proudly served as Chief.

Chief Nichols has consistently raised the bar and set a high standard during his outstanding career in the fire service. The State of Michigan and the 10th Congressional District truly have been very fortunate to have him as one of our fire chiefs. During his tenure, the Fort Gratiot Fire Department experienced tremendous growth and commercial expansion. Through his continued leadership, he has been able to administer safe and effective fire codes while keeping pace with the latest technological advancements and changes in local fire prevention ordinances.

Chief Nichols has stepped forth to fulfill numerous leadership roles and positions. He is a 26 year member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, a member of the St. Clair County Fire Chiefs Association, a member of the St. Clair County Firefighters Association, and a member of the National Fire Protection Association. In 1992, he was recognized by his community, earning the St. Clair County Firefighters Association Firefighter of the Year Award.

First responders are often under-appreciated and taken for granted until crisis strikes and the public reaches out for help and rescue. Against all common sense and natural instinct, firefighters rush to the scene of an emergency and into harm's way without the slightest hesitation.

Firefighters are the backbone of our communities. Without the promise of any fame, fortune, or so much as a simple "thank-you", firefighters remain constantly vigilant and ready to serve. I know sometimes younger people idolize professional athletes and cheer for their favorite sports teams. And the same could be said for some adults too. But if you really want to see true teamwork search no further than your local fire station. It is here where men and women work together and count on each other to protect lives. Their service demonstrates courage, camaraderie, and bravery.

I am extremely proud of all the men and women who risk so much to protect our safety and well-being, so it is my honor to offer my sincere gratitude to Chief Nichols for his 50 years of service. His leadership, integrity, and dedication are greatly appreciated. I wish him, his family, and his wife, Carole, all the best as he continues to serve the citizens of Fort Gratiot. Thank you, Chief Ronald B. Nichols, for dedicating your life to a noble cause. And thank you for ignoring fear and always demonstrating incredible bravery. That is what a real hero does.

H.R. 3377, THE DISASTER RESPONSE, RECOVERY, AND MITIGATION ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2009

**HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3377, the "Disaster Response, Recovery, and Mitigation En-

hancement Act of 2009". This bill makes amendments to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) to improve the assistance that the Federal Government provides to States, local governments, and communities after major disasters and emergencies. I thank Full Committee Ranking Member MICA, as well as the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART), Chair and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, for joining me in sponsoring this bill.

H.R. 3377 is a consolidation of many issues brought to the attention of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in the last two and a half years and contains a series of proposals to enable the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to carry out its programs and activities related to preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation more effectively. Several provisions of this bill incorporate proposals put forth by Members on both sides of the aisle.

This bill reauthorizes core FEMA programs and activities, including the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program; codifies programs that FEMA is currently administering under the authority of the Stafford Act but which are not expressly authorized in statute, such as the National Urban Search and Rescue System and Citizen Corps; restores an essential program, the Mortgage and Rental Assistance program, which was eliminated in 2000; and amends eligibility under certain FEMA programs, including the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, by creating incentives for better building codes.

Congress made changes to the Stafford Act in 2000 with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, and in 2006 with the Post-Katrina Emergency Management and Reform Act. FEMA is still working to implement the changes required in these Acts. This bill makes a number of positive changes to FEMA's authority which, together with prior reforms that FEMA is still implementing, will enable it to become a more effective agency.

H.R. 3377 is a continuation of the Committee's work to address ongoing emergency management and disaster relief needs. In the 110th Congress, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure ordered reported a similar bill, H.R. 6658. We are reintroducing this bill, which is an updated version of H.R. 6658, with the intent to move it through Committee and the House as expeditiously as possible.

Specifically, H.R. 3377 reauthorizes the Pre-Disaster Mitigation ("PDM") program, a program to provide cost-effective technical and financial assistance to State and local governments to reduce injuries, loss of life, and damage to property through fiscal year 2012 at a level of \$250 million per year. While a one-year extension was included in the Department of Homeland Security

Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations Act to keep this vital program alive, Congress must act. If we do not, this worthy program will sunset on September 30, 2009. The bill also reauthorizes the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), which expired at the end of fiscal year 2008, to provide form and structure to interstate mutual aid and allows a State impacted by a disaster to request and receive assistance from other states quickly and efficiently.

The bill also specifically authorizes two existing FEMA programs that are not expressly authorized in statute but rely on broader language in the Stafford Act. The National Urban Search and Rescue System (US&R), is a robust system of 28 teams composed of state and local emergency responders who work together to respond to both local incidents and major disasters and emergencies, and codifies workers' compensation and other protections for US&R teams currently provided administratively by FEMA. The bill also specifically authorizes FEMA's existing citizen preparedness program, known as "Citizen Corps", to help coordinate volunteer activities to better prepare communities to respond to a disaster or emergency, as well as the Citizen Emergency Response Team Program.

The legislation directs the President to modernize the integrated public alerts and warning system to help ensure that our Nation's warning systems are prepared for all hazards, which is currently authorized by the Stafford Act. It also amends section 404 of the Stafford Act by providing for additional assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for States that actively enforce an approved building code throughout the State.

H.R. 3377 also authorizes the Disaster Relief Fund and Disaster Support Account, which provide funding for FEMA's Federal Disaster Programs authorized by titles IV and V of the Stafford Act. Since its inception, how the Disaster Relief Fund is set up and administered and what it can be used for has been determined by appropriations; this provision remedies this deficiency and gives the authorizing statute and the authorizing committee in the House and Senate an appropriate role.

The bill also takes small steps to address two very pressing issues that face our nation: health care and housing. This legislation makes temporary employees hired by FEMA in response to a disaster eligible to enroll in the Federal Health Benefits Program. Most of the employees that FEMA sends to disasters—many of whom have been employed by FEMA for years—do not have access to employer sponsored health insurance. This legislation would also restore the Mortgage and Rental Assistance program, which was eliminated in the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-390). The program provides assistance for up to 18 months in the form of mortgage or rental payments to or on behalf of individuals and families who, as a result of financial hardship caused by a major disaster, are at imminent risk of dispossession or eviction. This will protect communities and citizens who have been impacted by disaster from taking an additional hit by exacerbating the current housing crisis in those communities.

H.R. 3377 further provides new authority to allow FEMA to sell excess materials, supplies, and equipment to States, local governments, and relief or disaster assistance organizations to assist victims of smaller-scale natural disasters and other incidents that do not result in the declaration of a major disaster or emergency. This bill also authorizes FEMA to include household pet and service animal rescue, care, and sheltering to activities during emergency declarations under Title V of Stafford Act. Currently, such activities are only authorized under a Major Disaster Declaration under Title IV of the Stafford Act.

Finally, this legislation addresses an important issue from the aftermath of the response