

workers lose rights and protections, and the federal and state governments lose out of billions of dollars in much-needed revenue.

This legislation is similar to the measure I introduced last year, along with Representatives RICHARD NEAL, and JOHN TIERNEY. I am pleased we have joined together again this Congress to reintroduce this initiative. Our efforts to construct this bill were informed by information obtained through public hearings on this issue in the House Committee on Ways and Means and the House Committee on Education and Labor.

The Taxpayer Responsibility, Accountability, and Consistency Act would close the tax loophole that allows employers to misclassify employees as contractors at will. It aims to put all employers on a level playing field, protect workers, and reduce the federal budget deficit. The intention of the bill is not to deny businesses the ability to use legitimate independent contractors; instead it is to ensure that laws that determine what an employee or independent contractor is are evenly applied. They are not today.

I recognize that this issue is one that has vexed the Congress for some time and that forging the necessary degree of consensus to address this problem will be difficult. I intend for the legislation introduced today to serve as a basis for discussion and look forward to working with many stakeholders to perfect the bill and help push for its passage.

RECOGNIZING TREENA TUBBS

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Treena Tubbs of Malad, Idaho. Treena is celebrating her twentieth year of work for the U.S. Government. She began her career with the USDA-FSA in the Malad office. After three years, she was recruited to work for the Veterans Administration. She traveled to Pocatello to work at the Veterans Affairs Community-based Outreach Clinic of the George E. Wahlen Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Treena quickly became known as a friendly and helpful assistant to the veterans who came to the clinic for services. Throughout her career, she has proved herself to be a compassionate ally of those who have bravely served their country and now are in need of medical care. By contributing her time and talents, Treena has ensured a brighter future for our veterans.

It is not enough for Treena to assist in meeting the needs of veterans during office hours. She always makes time from home to help fill out paperwork, answer questions, and remind of appointments. Because it is often difficult to remember all the questions while in the doctor's office, Treena welcomes calls at home to clarify issues the veteran may have regarding his or her care.

The son of one veteran tells of Treena calling in the evening to make sure his father was alright, as he had missed his appointment that day. Another vet said he spent several hours asking questions at Treena's kitchen table on a Saturday.

Although the drive from Malad to Pocatello is difficult, Treena makes it to the clinic unless the winter roads become truly impassable.

In keeping with her commitment to make positive contributions to her community and her sincere willingness to serve, Treena has recently been appointed to the Oneida County Hospital Board.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to have a constituent in my district who is dedicated to improving the lives of our veterans and who devotes her time in selfless service to others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I missed some recorded votes on the House floor on Wednesday, July 29, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 655 (on agreeing to H. Res. 685), "present" on rollcall vote No. 656 (on motion to table the Boehner Privileged Resolution).

HONORING MR. DAVID HAWPE

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. CHANDLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of one of Kentucky's premier journalists, a man who has shaped countless events and policies in the Commonwealth of Kentucky for decades, Mr. David Hawpe. After 40 years of public service journalism, tough reporting, and insightful analysis as editorial director, he will retire on August 14, 2009. I cannot begin to adequately describe the immeasurable contributions Mr. Hawpe has made to better the lives of all Kentuckians.

After graduating from the University of Kentucky in 1965 with a focus in journalism, Mr. Hawpe began his career as a reporter for the Associated Press and then moved to the The St. Petersburg Times in Florida, where he was an editorial writer.

In 1969, he came back to his home state and took charge of the Hazard bureau of The Courier-Journal in Eastern Kentucky, and in 1972, he moved to the Louisville home office. Mr. Hawpe held many positions, including editorial writer, assistant regional editor, managing editor and editor of The Courier-Journal and also served as city editor of the former afternoon newspaper, The Louisville Times.

Through his decades of reporting, Mr. Hawpe's influence can be seen in nearly every corner of the state.

He covered the Hyden mine disaster in 1970, bringing to light the many hazards and realities of coal mining. In later years, he played a significant role in strengthening laws and regulations governing the mining industry, and attacked abuses related to the broad deed and strip mining.

Through his reporting and advocacy, he helped bring about new regulations of toxic

chemicals, improved school bus safety, better enforcement of drunk driving laws, and reform in the medical license system.

Through his and his colleagues' legislative coverage, Mr. Hawpe and his coworkers literally helped reshape the Kentucky General Assembly—my home state's legislative body—into a more influential, co-equal branch of state government. In conjunction with formidable investigative reporting, Mr. Hawpe also played a critical role in the momentum to rewrite Kentucky's campaign finance laws.

And also, very notably, Mr. Hawpe has been instrumental in the reform of Kentucky's public education system. Through his direction of relentless and informed reporting, he helped convince the public that Kentucky was in need of meaningful, extensive higher education reform, which paved the way for the 1997 Kentucky Higher Education Reform Act. He has been credited by many, including a former governor and key policy makers, with being the main force behind this historic legislation.

In light of these achievements, it should be no surprise the newspaper won four Pulitzer prizes under his direction.

Mr. Hawpe is a member of the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame and has long been a strong advocate for ethics and diversity initiatives. A Nieman Fellow at Harvard, he was also prominent in national news organizations, having served as president of the Associated Press Managing Editors Association.

Through Mr. Hawpe's editorials and columns, he has been called "the voice and conscience of The Courier-Journal" and, in my opinion, in many ways, he has been the voice and conscience of reform and good policy in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Over the years, he has held individuals and institutions accountable for their actions, reined in unfair practices, and been an unwavering advocate for the underprivileged. Mr. Hawpe will be sorely missed, but the impact of his work will be felt in my state, and, indeed the nation, for many years to come.

Madam Speaker, there is no doubt in my mind that he has made our great state even better.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the Commerce, Justice Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, H.R. 2847.

Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER

H.R. 2997

ARS

Louisiana State University located at 156 Thomas Boyd Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Formosan Subterranean Research—\$2,600,000. The Formosan subterranean termite has infested 32 of the 64 parishes in Louisiana, with the most severe infestations in the New Orleans and Lake Charles areas. This insect has caused millions of dollars worth of damage including over \$300 million in New Orleans alone. Clearly, it is the most costly

pest in the state and the management of this termite is essential to Louisiana's economic well-being. For the last seven years, the LSU AgCenter has participated in the USDA/ARS project, Operation Fullstop. The AgCenter is the lead agency in management programs for this termite in the French Quarter and 16 public schools in Orleans and Jefferson parishes. The AgCenter has received approximately \$10.4 million since the initial appropriation in FY 1998. Sixty-six percent (66%) or (\$6,874,724) of these funds has been pass-through money to the pest management professionals (PMPs) and thirty-four percent (34%) or (\$3,520,606) has been used to conduct research and extension educational programs. During the past year, the AgCenter received \$750,000 for research and extension activities. Plans for 2010 include expansion from 77 blocks currently to the entire French Quarter (95 blocks), funding permitting. Termite numbers in the French Quarter have been reduced 75% in Part 1 blocks and 50% in other blocks after two years in the program. Plans for 2010 also include an education program with residents in New Orleans to develop neighborhood programs, in which residents would receive education, inspections, and program evaluation from the AgCenter. Significant numbers of property owners outside the program are adopting the French Quarter model of the program. Research would include use of molecular methods (mainly microsatellite genotyping) to determine colony affiliations of termites. This permits tracking of colony movement and permits assessment of colony elimination after treatment and floods (Katrina), i.e., are colonies detected after treatment survivors or new colonies. Research would also include use of molecular markers to establish colony origin and flight range of alates. This aids in understanding termite swarm behavior. Extension would continue to provide the critical tasks of educating the citizenry on all aspects of integrated pest management (IPM) of structural pests. Results of research and education outreach conducted within this request will benefit the State of Louisiana and the rest of the nation in combating the spread of the Formosan Subterranean Termite and in educating the public regarding its control.

Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER
H.R. 2997

ARS

USDA Sugarcane Lab, 5883 USDA Road, Houma, La

ARS Sugarcane Research \$3,654,000. The domestic sugarcane industry and others are interested in developing cellulosic opportunities to reduce our dependence on foreign sources of fossil fuel. The ARS's Sugarcane Research Laboratory (SRL) scientists at Houma are involved in a multidisciplinary team effort to develop superior varieties of sugarcane, for both sugar production and for the bio-energy industry that is evolving across the southeast. Additionally, the SRL is developing production practices needed for profitable production of sugarcane for both sugar and energy. The current facilities are not designed to handle an expanded program and lack many of the safeguards (environment, employee, and security) required by current federal standards.

Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER
H.R. 2997
NIFA SRG

Louisiana State University located at 156 Thomas Boyd Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Aquaculture \$150,000. Louisiana contains one of the most diverse aquaculture industries in the U.S. The state continues to lead the nation in production of crawfish, oyster, alligator, and pet turtle sales. Catfish production has declined in recent years but is still important. The total farm-gate value of aquaculture production in 2007 exceeded \$281.6 million. Research is needed to: 1) enhance crawfish harvesting technology and efficiency and to improve crawfish broodstock reproduction, 2) to further develop tools to facilitate genetic improvement of cultured finfish, 3) to determine the economic potential and effective culture techniques to facilitate the development of a marine baitfish industry, 4) to further refine finfish nutrition and feeding practices so that feed cost is reduced and water quality is improved, 5) to further protect cultured aquatic species from disease, and 6) to develop new value-added aquaculture food products and waste by-products.

Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER

H.R. 2997

NIFA SRG

Louisiana State University located at 156 Thomas Boyd Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Tillage Silviculture \$188,000. This special grant addresses critical environmental concerns in Louisiana. Alternatives to traditional tillage in southwest Louisiana rice production are needed to improve floodwater quality, reduce soil erosion, and reduce production costs. Stand establishment and early-season plant density have been shown to be critical components of a reduced tillage system. Development of herbicide-resistant rice varieties has allowed drill seeding of rice, which increases flexibility with nutrient and vegetation management. However, the effect of rotational crops on rice grain yield and soil physical condition is not well understood and requires more research. Cotton and corn production are major components of the agricultural economy in northeast Louisiana. Reduced tillage practices and herbicide tolerant crops are being adopted to sustain soil productivity and reduce surface water contamination and are improving production efficiency. However, conservation tillage systems provide a favorable microenvironment for insect populations, which have the potential to limit economic value. Basic biological information is needed on insect population dynamics in reduced tillage systems. The animal waste management component of this project will develop data and systems that allow proper use of waste products and dairy lagoon effluent in two areas of the state. The dairy industry in southeast Louisiana and the poultry industry in north Louisiana will benefit from research on pasture runoff, background indicator organisms, optimum land disposal rates for poultry litter, and new uses for poultry litter particularly as it relates to forest productivity. Treatment alternatives that generate additional revenue to the dairy and poultry operator will also be explored. Critical environmental concerns relative to agriculture and forestry production practices on water quality will also be addressed. Enhanced research on Best Management Practices (BMPs) will help reduce both point and non-point source discharges associated with crop, animal, and timber production activities.

Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER
H.R. 2997

NIFA SRG

Louisiana State University located at 156 Thomas Boyd Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803.

Wetland Plants \$188,000. Since the 1930s, 1,000,000 acres of Louisiana wetlands have been lost by human activities and natural forces such as the hurricanes of 2005. This directly affects U.S. security, navigation, energy consumption, and food supply. The potential for loss of life, industry, ecosystems, and infrastructure is enormous. The Coastal Plants Program (CPP) represents a major commitment to focus proven scientific technologies and outreach capabilities on issues critical to restore the coastal wetlands of Louisiana. This program combines the expertise of AgCenter plant breeders, ecologists, and other plant and soil scientists to facilitate the development and utilization of improved native plant resources to preserve remaining marshes and stabilize those that are being re-created. This project will develop strategies for genetic improvement leading to the economic and rapid establishment of critically important wetland plant species over large areas of threatened and reclaimed coastal wetlands. Native populations will be characterized and a genetic improvement program conducted to develop superior varieties/populations with enhanced value in the restoration and protection of wetlands. Plant cloning and molecular biology will facilitate genetic characterization and genetic improvement and provide superior plant materials to Louisiana's developing commercial wetland plant and seed industry. On-site marsh research will address issues concerning beneficial use of dredge material, sediment nourishment of deteriorating wetlands, and factors influencing vegetative response.

Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER

H.R. 2997

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Louisiana State University located at 156 Thomas Boyd Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Blackbird Management \$94,000. Blackbird depredation of rice is a serious economic problem facing rice producers in Louisiana. Depredation of rice occurs at planting and just prior to harvest; however, the most serious problem is depredation of rice seed and seedlings at planting. Yield losses due to blackbird depredation have been estimated to vary from 77 million pounds in 1995 to slightly over 93 million pounds in 2002. Economic losses associated with blackbird damage have been estimated to average \$9.3 million annually from 1995 to 2002. Damage does not occur uniformly across the state; consequently, severe economic losses may be experienced by some producers due to the concentration of blackbirds in a given area. The use of DRC-1339 has resulted in reducing the extent of damage and the magnitude of economic loss. DRC-1339 is a selective avicide specific to blackbirds, grackles, and starlings. As a result, reduction in blackbird damage to rice is achieved with little or no effect upon other bird species.

Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER

H.R. 2997

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Louisiana State University located at 156 Thomas Boyd Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Best Management Practices \$267,000. Of more than 2,600 agricultural producers trained through Louisiana's Master Farmer program, 92 have completed the third tier of the program which ends with certification from the

Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. This represents a high benchmark in performance, which requires completion of eight hours of classroom instruction, participation in a Model Farm field tour, and development and implementation of an NRCS Resource Management System plan to address potential or occurring pollution. With the assistance of USDA programs and other technical assistance, these producers have installed research-based BMPs to address environmental issues. These certified producers manage more than 16,000 acres of Louisiana farmland, all within a 50-mile radius of 303d listed impaired state waters. In addition, multi-state collaboration has resulted in the development of a template by the Louisiana Master Farmer Program that can be used by other states to develop similar programs, focusing on curriculum development, implementation and lessons learned. Land area impacted by targeted programs is 1,020,507 acres.

Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER
H.R. 3082

Army

Fort Polk, La 71459

Multipurpose Machine Gun Range \$6,400,000. Construct a standard design MPMG Range, required to train and test soldiers on the skills necessary to zero Squad Automatic Weapon, Machine Guns, 40mm Automatic Launcher, and Sniper Weapons to detect, identify, engage and defeat targets in a tactical array.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3329, THE
LOOK-BACK ELIMINATION ACT
OF 2009

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce the Look-Back Elimination Act of 2009.

I am proud to serve on the Ways and Means Committee Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support led by Chairman McDERMOTT. I would like to thank Chairman McDERMOTT, my good friend, the Gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY), and all of my colleagues on the Subcommittee for their hard work in the areas of child welfare and foster care.

Today, American families are struggling in ways not seen since the Great Depression. Rising unemployment, health care costs, and a struggling economy are all taking their toll, and children in the foster care system must not be forgotten during these very difficult times.

When Congress passed welfare reform legislation in 1996, they eliminated the existing Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program, which was a cornerstone of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, and replaced it with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, or TANF. At the same time, Congress locked the income eligibility requirement for federal foster care and adoption assistance benefits at the various existing 1996 income thresholds established by States under the now nonexistent AFDC program. This is known as the look-back standard.

Since that time, the federal law has not been changed, and despite changing economic realities like inflation and wage growth, states cannot update their income eligibility requirements. As a result thousands of children in foster care and adoption assistance programs are ineligible to receive federal benefits.

Last year Congress passed and the President signed legislation to phase out the look-back standard for children in the adoption assistance program. The bill I am introducing today would assist the other children affected by the look-back standard—those in the foster care system. We need to help these children, and we need to help them now.

The look-back standard sets the income limit for eligibility at thirty-one percent of the federal poverty level—a level so low that even a parent's part-time job at minimum wage could render a family ineligible. As a result, states are prohibited from using federal funds to assist those most in need. In my home state of Georgia almost sixty percent of children in the child welfare system cannot receive federal IV-E assistance. Thousands more foster care children across the country are ineligible to receive benefits. This is wrong; it is just plain wrong.

Foster care children need this support, and states are struggling to juggle services to try and prevent children from falling through the cracks. You just cannot put a price on helping a child. We must have this oversight corrected. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this commonsense legislation.

HEREFORD WWII POW CHAPEL

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the rededication of a Texas Historical Landmark, Camp Hereford Italian Prisoner of War Camp memorial chapel. This World War II monument has survived more than 64 years as a symbol of the shared history that binds Texas, the United States, and Italy together.

During World War II, the Hereford POW camp stretched across 800 acres in Castro and Deaf Smith counties in West Texas. It was the second largest United States POW camp built during World War II. An estimated 5,000 Italian POWs were held at the site between February 1943 and June 1946, when the last of the POWs were repatriated.

In 1945, the Italian POWs received permission from the U.S. military to pay for and build a chapel within the camp to serve as a marker for the burial site of their fallen soldiers. In honor of their five comrades who died while interned, skilled artisan Italian prisoners constructed the thirteen-foot-square chapel. After the war, the deceased were exhumed and returned to Italy, leaving the chapel abandoned and vulnerable to deterioration.

In 1988, former POWs donated money, original sketches, and photographs for the first major restoration of the chapel. The project was completed in time for a reunion held in Hereford in June, 1989. In 1992, the Texas Historical Commission declared the chapel a Recorded Texas Historical Landmark.

In spite of its historical significance, the chapel was severely vandalized in 2008.

Thanks to financial support from the Committee for Italians Living Abroad and the volunteer effort of Castro and Deaf Smith county residents, the chapel has once again been restored to its original beauty. The Castro County Historical Commission and Committee for Italians Living Abroad will co-host a rededication ceremony Saturday, August 8, 2009.

The restoration of this monument stands to preserve the history of the mutual regard that developed between the prisoners and their captors in rural Texas, and I congratulate the community for preserving this piece of history.

HONORING MRS. ERNESTINE
NEITZEL

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a woman who has made a very generous contribution to Oregon's coastal health and to the recovery of Pacific salmon and steelhead.

Mrs. Ernestine Neitzel has spent almost all her life living in the Necanicum River valley within the first congressional district of Oregon. She moved to Oregon from Colorado in 1925 at the age of four. Her father had purchased some farmland on the edge of the Necanicum River where they grew vegetables to be sold at local stores in Seaside, Oregon.

In 1945, Ernestine married Mr. Herbert Neitzel, who had recently returned from serving in World War II. Together, they purchased an additional 25 acres of farmland adjacent to the existing farm and expanded it to include dairy cows. During this time, Ernestine also delivered bread to the soldiers stationed at Fort Lewis, Oregon and worked in several stores in Seaside.

In the fall of 2008, Ernestine made the decision to give her family farmland back to the Necanicum River. Before being cultivated, this land was prime estuarine and rearing habitat for Pacific salmon and steelhead. Now, she is working with individuals and organizations within the state of Oregon to restore the land to its pre-developed state. Upon completion, this new wetland and estuarine habitat will help strengthen runs of migratory Pacific salmon and steelhead as well as resident rainbow trout.

Ernestine and the Neitzel family have a long history in the Necanicum River Valley and have dedicated their lives to enriching the surrounding communities. With this contribution, she leaves a legacy of environmental conservation and dedication to the restoration of a natural resource that is an essential component to our way of life in the Pacific Northwest.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I submit the following.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN DUNCAN