

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### EARMARK DECLARATION

#### HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. BARTLETT. Madam Speaker, I submit the following. Funding of \$1,500,000 is necessary to allow an expedited development of the ASCC (Sea Truck) for military/disaster relief use and the fielding of the system. Sea Truck supports the Army's need for low-cost, logistics support equipment with critical distribution and sustainment capabilities. These unmanned, self-propelled support units can be deployed from offshore logistics and commercial ships to the beach for sustainment operations. Sea Truck is composed of 90 percent commercial off-the-shelf nondevelopmental hardware and technologies that are compatible with current commercial and military supply support systems. The Sea Truck Propulsion Module contains commercial navigation sets that allow the system to autonomously traverse to desired locations and has the capability to self-redirect to alternate landing sites to meet the dynamics of changing theater conditions.

### UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FINANCIAL RELIEF ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

#### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I am a co-sponsor of H.R. 22, the "United States Postal Service Financial Relief Act," and I urge my colleagues to support the bill. H.R. 22 which will allow the Postal Service to pay, for a temporary period of time, the health premiums for current postal retirees from the \$32 billion held in reserve in Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund, rather than from general operating revenue.

The Postal Service is in the midst of a revenue crisis of huge and historic proportions, despite its extensive efforts to reduce costs. This situation is due in part to the high fuel prices of last summer, but most due to the precipitous decline in mail volume brought about by the deepening recession. In comparison to mail volume and revenue totals in May 2008, the Postal Service reports that volume in May 2009 declined by 19.9 percent, while revenues for the same period were 14.5 percent below last year's figures. The Postal Service is currently on track to lose over \$6.5 billion for Fiscal Year 2009 and the future looks similarly bleak.

It is only an inflexible law that requires the Postal Service—alone amongst Federal agencies—to shell out billions of dollars to prefund retiree benefits, regardless of economic or financial conditions. The first step on the road

to stability and recovery is to change that inflexible law, at least temporarily, by passing of H.R. 22.

I doubt that H.R. 22 will solve all the Postal Service's problems—postal management and postal employees will still have to do their part to find additional savings. But I am certain that without this bill the continued viability of the Postal Service is in serious jeopardy.

I wish to emphasize that this bill does not eliminate the Postal Service's obligation to prefund retiree health benefits; the Postal Service will continue the annual prefunding payment of roughly \$5.4 to \$5.8 billion; H.R. 22 simply gives the Postal Service the temporary flexibility to make those payments from the surplus funds now held by the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund. In addition, since the Postal Service's contribution to the fund is projected to always be greater than the premiums flowing out, this action will in no way jeopardize the ability of the Trust Fund to grow to meet future needs.

I am aware that initial estimates from the Congressional Budget Office suggest that this bill will have a budgetary impact because CBO expects the Postal Service will reduce its aggressive costcutting efforts if it receives relief from its retiree health obligations. I disagree with this conclusion. The Postal Service has aggressively cut costs in recent years. In fact, because of the hard work of postal employees across the country the Postal Service is on pace to reduce costs by a record \$5.9 billion in Fiscal Year 2009. There is no evidence to suggest this trend will not continue. As for the immediate funding for this relief, it will come from an existing pool of money, not appropriated funds—making this an intergovernmental transfer—with zero cost to the Federal Government.

H.R. 22 has the support of over 315 Members of Congress. It is critical to the future survival of the United States Postal Service, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support the bill.

### IN RECOGNITION OF ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JONATHAN YANNEY

#### HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true American hero. On August 18, 2009, our nation lost a brave soldier when Army Private First Class Jonathan C. Yanney died in Arghandad, Afghanistan, in support of operation Enduring Freedom at 20 years of age. He died of wounds sustained when his military vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

PFC Yanney grew up in Norwood and Litchfield, Minnesota, but his father resides in Grapevine, Arkansas. Although I never had the honor to meet PFC Yanney, on behalf of

the state of Arkansas, I extend my utmost condolences to his family, friends and all who knew him for this devastating loss.

PFC Yanney was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 5th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, Washington. He carried out his duties with pride in his country and without reservation and each of us owes him our eternal gratitude for his selfless sacrifice.

A young, decorated soldier, Yanney's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Badge, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Bar, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Weapons Qualification Badge Bar—Weapon Rifle Expert, and the NATO Medal.

My deepest thoughts and prayers are with his mother, Jane; his father, Russ; his brother, Josh; and, the rest of his family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time.

Today, I ask all members of Congress to join me as we honor the life of Army Private First Class Jonathan Yanney and his legacy and all those men and women in our Armed Forces who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country.

### CONGRATULATING MOBILE POLICE CHIEF PHILLIP GARRETT ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

#### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to honor the long and distinguished career of Phillip Garrett on the occasion of his retirement as chief of the Mobile Police Department.

A 38-year veteran of the Mobile Police Department, Chief Garrett rose from the rank of cadet to the city's top cop. Mobile's Press-Register recently praised his service to the city saying, "With the retirement of Police Chief Phillip Garrett, Mobile is losing a career cop who displayed quiet competence and professionalism in managing the department."

Chief Garrett has received many commendations and recognitions throughout his career, including the Chief's Commendation from former Chief Sam Cochran, the Life Saving Award from the Mobile Police Department, and the Medal of Valor from the Mobile Police Department. He was also recognized for his outstanding performances on Competitive Promotional Exams, and in 2004, he was recognized as the top scorer on the Competitive Promotional Exam for Major.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated law enforcement officer and friend to many throughout

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

southwest Alabama. I am certain that his family—his wife, Tammy, and their three children, Phillip M. Garrett Jr., Matthew Ryan Garrett, and Kendall W. Smitherman—along with the Mobile Police Department and his many friends in Mobile join me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his considerable service to the city of Mobile.

On behalf of a grateful community, I wish Chief Phillip Garrett the very best of luck in all of his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING KENNETH J. TICE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON THEIR 2009 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam speaker, I rise today to honor the Kenneth J. Tice Elementary School in the Galena Park Independent School District and our district for their dedication to academic excellence that has earned them the honored distinction of being a Blue Ribbon School in 2009.

Since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Schools Program has honored many of America's most successful schools, and I am proud of Tice Elementary for establishing itself as an elite academic institution by achieving this high honor. The Blue Ribbon Award honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are academically superior or have made dramatic gains in student achievement and helped close achievement gaps among minority and disadvantaged students over the course of the previous school year. This year 314 schools earned this coveted award.

U.S. Secretary of Education Duncan once said that "Blue Ribbon Schools are producing outstanding results for their students. Some have shown dramatic improvements in places where students are overcoming the challenges of poverty, and others serve as examples of consistent excellence that can be a resource for other schools." Under the supervision of Principal Ms. Judy Holbrook, Tice Elementary is developing outstanding students who are challenged to meet high expectations with the active support of teachers, parents and the community. With a diverse student base, and a decade of being recognized as an Exemplary school by the Texas Education Agency, Kenneth J. Tice Elementary truly embodies the ideals of the Blue Ribbon Award and is an inspiration for all schools in the Houston area.

I congratulate the administration, teachers, parents, and students at Tice Elementary for their dedication to excellence and hard work.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

Mr. BARTLETT. Madam Speaker, I submit the following: Funding of \$7,500,000 is necessary to adapt Precision Guidance Kit (PGK) technology to provide the same effectiveness

improvements already demonstrated for 155mm artillery projectiles to all indirect fire systems. The Army and Marine Corps have recognized needs for increased precision for ground combat units. The lack of precision for either 105mm artillery or 120mm mortars creates significant operational difficulties. The 105mm artillery and 120mm mortar can be developed in parallel at a significantly accelerated schedule at a reduced cost due to technology that has already been tested and proven, and due to the ability to share common design features with the 155mm PGK. Government and industry tests to assist with design and sizing of the PGK to smaller calibers will continue through FY2009. Based on that work, FY10 funding would enable a low risk, accelerated approach to delivering a much needed operational capability to the field by 2011.

IN HONOR OF THE 100,000TH FALCON III AN/PRC-152(C) RADIO PRODUCED BY HARRIS RF COMMUNICATIONS IN ROCHESTER, NY

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join our armed services in congratulating Harris RF Communications on producing its one hundred-thousandth Falcon III AN/PRC-152(C) radio. This is an extraordinarily auspicious milestone and a testament to the dedication and hard work of the company's Rochester, New York workforce.

It is fitting to celebrate this achievement as this radio is used and sought after by every branch of the U.S. Department of Defense as well as several of our ally nations. It is a superior product and was recognized by the U.S. Army as one of 2007's greatest inventions. It has next-generation communications capabilities, but is still versatile enough to be compatible with existing communications systems. Plus it can be upgraded in the future to grow as new software and encryption technology advances.

I commend all of Harris' local employees for the critical work they perform every day in support of our soldiers. Their care and dedication is helping to keep our men and women in uniform safe while they serve our nation on faraway battlefields. Moreover, their communications systems enable our military to execute its mission efficiently and effectively so that threats are defeated while innocent lives are safeguarded.

It gives me great comfort to know that our soldiers are equipped with Harris radios because I know that Rochester's top-notch workforce makes products renowned for quality. Our service men and women depend on these radios working the first time and every time. Harris takes that responsibility seriously and I'm so proud to know that the company delivers.

This cutting edge technology that was developed and produced in New York's 28th Congressional District is yet one more example of how our region is a leader in innovation and development. Congratulations to Harris RF Communications and its employees for attaining this significant achievement.

RECOGNIZING THE KANSAS CITY ANIMAL HEALTH CORRIDOR

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to House Resolution 317, which would recognize the region from Manhattan, Kansas, to Columbia, Missouri, as the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor.

While I have no issues with the larger goals of the resolution—to recognize the work that is going on in Kansas and Missouri on animal health—I do take issue with the recognition of the Manhattan, Kansas site "as the future location for the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility (NBAF)."

I support moving the critical research activities of Plum Island onto the U.S. mainland. However, I, like many other Members, have grave concerns about the selection process that was utilized by the prior Administration to secure a site for the NBAF. I do not believe that the selection criteria were applied in a consistent manner. Accordingly, I have discomfort with the inclusion of the reference to the Manhattan, Kansas site in this resolution.

Moreover, while I have no doubt that there is salutary work on animal health being conducted in Kansas and Missouri, I have some discomfort with the statement that the Kansas-Missouri corridor has "unmatched" capacity to support the animal health industry. There are certainly other areas around the Nation that have a great deal of capacity.

For these reasons, I must vote "no" on the resolution.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SYLVIA LEVIN

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay respects to the passing of my friend Sylvia Levin who passed peacefully on Thursday, June 25, 2009 at the age of 91. Let this congressional insert serve as a tribute to her memory and celebration of her meaningful life.

Sylvia was born on September 14, 1917, in Brooklyn, NY, and grew up there and in New Jersey. She decided to move to California in the 1940s as a single mother of two. She quickly became accustomed to the southern California lifestyle while working at an aircraft plant, a garment factory, a stall at the original Farmers Market in Los Angeles, and as a beach parking lot attendant in Santa Monica.

Known for her warmth and friendliness, Sylvia's indefatigable enthusiasm and tenacity for politics would give new meaning to the grassroots movement. She was known for signing more than 47,000 people to California's voter rolls and she should be remembered for these invaluable contributions she's made to democracy. For her registration efforts, she received a State Senate resolution from the late Senator Herschel Rosenthal. Further, in 2001, she was befittingly nominated and inducted into California's Voter Participation Hall of Fame. In 2007, on her 90th birthday, the Los Angeles