

Jewish culture relies a great deal upon the passing of information from one generation to another. The Center offers youth activities such as lectures, workshops, religious school and Hebrew High for students after their bar or bat mitzvah, all aimed at teaching children about the Jewish faith. Events for adult and senior members continue to carry the traditions of the culture and faith as well as provide opportunities for socializing.

The most important service that The Clifton Jewish Center provides is that of being a sounding board and a voice for the thriving Jewish community in the greater Clifton area. Its sponsorship and participation with interfaith programs, human relations and civic improvement reach across the lines of faith to help promote the interests and values of their membership. Under the leadership of Rabbi Ari Korenblit, it is successfully contacting and connecting with all the other organizations in the area.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to learning about and recognizing the efforts of wonderful, thriving community institutions such as The Clifton Jewish Center.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join the members and clergy of The Clifton Jewish Center, all whose faith has been enriched throughout the years and me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of The Clifton Jewish Center to the Jewish community and beyond.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I wish to make the following disclosure in accordance with the Republican Earmark Transparency Standards requiring Members to place a statement in the Congressional Record prior to floor vote on a bill that includes earmarks they have requested.

Specifically, H.R. 2265, the Magna Water District Water Reuse and Groundwater Recharge Act of 2009, which I introduced on May 6, 2009, contains an earmark as defined under House Rule XXI, clause 9. The earmark in H.R. 2265 authorizes appropriations for projects under Title XVI of Public Law 102-575, the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act.

The project authorized in H.R. 2265 is an advanced water treatment facility and reuse water system in the township of Magna, Utah, located in the northwest quadrant of Salt Lake County. Magna relies on drinking water from two well fields, one of which has been impacted by the contaminant perchlorate, a by-product of decades of manufacturing of rocket motors and explosives by the defense and aerospace industries. Additionally, the EPA changed the standard for arsenic in drinking water, an unfunded mandate for which water suppliers across the Nation must comply. Because of this contamination and the unfunded federal mandate, the Magna Water District is attempting to restore the Barton Well Field, a valuable water resource. Therefore, reclamation of this drinking water source necessitates federal assistance.

This legislation would authorize \$12 million to allow for the planning, design, and construction of the Magna Water District (District) water reuse and groundwater recharge project. The District constructed an electro dialysis reversal (EDR) drinking water treatment plant to remove harmful arsenic and perchlorate from the Barton Well Field. To address the water shortage issues facing the citizens of northwest Salt Lake County, the District developed a state-of-the-art, first of its type in the world water reuse and recharge facility, known as BIOBROx, that treats the waste stream from the EDR plant to produce high quality effluent that can be used for outdoor irrigation. In doing so, the District will be saving over 580 million gallons/year of drinkable water that was formerly being used for irrigation purposes.

The project also includes additional pumping facilities, distribution system upgrades, and storage facilities required to deliver reuse water to the District's customers.

The Magna Water District has invested \$36 million in the project and is seeking the \$12 million federal appropriation to complete construction of the project.

I certify that this project does not have any foreseeable effect on any of my financial interests, nor the interests of any member of my family. Consistent with the Republican Conference's policy on earmarks, I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge, this request (1) is not directed to an entity or program that will be named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2) is 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; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

CAPTAIN DREW BESSINGER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary public safety officer who has spent his entire career serving the public. I am speaking of Captain Drew Bessinger, of the Clovis Police Department (CPD) in Clovis, California. Captain Bessinger will conclude his years of service in law enforcement and retire from the Clovis Police Department this year.

Captain Bessinger was born in the Garden State of New Jersey, where he graduated from high school in 1975. Upon his graduation, he enlisted in the United States Army. During his tenure in the Army, Captain Bessinger was a Military Police Officer; serving in Germany and achieving the rank of Sergeant.

Upon returning from his service overseas, Captain Bessinger worked for the Department of Defense Police in Virginia. Santa Barbara Police Department hired Captain Bessinger which brought him to California in 1980 and he served there until 1984. In 1984, he accepted a position with the University Police Department of Fresno State, my alma mater. He was then hired by the Clovis Police Department in 1987, where he remained for twenty two years in a variety of roles helping the community of Clovis.

At Clovis Police Department, Captain Bessinger served in patrol, investigations, neighborhood policing, youth services, administration, planning and neighborhood services assignments. He continued his years of service with undoubtedly flawless service to the community and people of Clovis, he climbed the ranks from Corporal in October, 1992, and only five years later in 1997 became Sergeant. At the height of his career, he became Captain in April 2007.

During his tenure at Clovis Police Department, Captain Bessinger helped design: the shoulder patch policemen wear on their uniforms for CPD; the department's Honor Guard Badge; and Challenge coin. He also led the Honor Guard Unit, participated in the Peace Officers Memorial at Pelco Company, participated in the Annual Peace Officers Memorial in Fresno's Courthouse Park, the State Officers Memorial in Sacramento, and was an officer at the funeral for fallen Marine Jared Hubbard and Army Soldier Nathan Hubbard. The Hubbard's were sons of a retired department sergeant. Captain Bessinger volunteered for the Special Olympics and also managed to oversee several operations in the CPD including Youth Services, Animal Services, Communications, and administrative duties ranging from writing/updating Municipal Codes, Homeland Security and Grants, Internal Affairs and Audits, Workers Comp, and Public Information.

Aside from serving the public as a Policeman throughout his life, one of Captain Bessinger's proudest accomplishments has been raising his two sons; Derek who is twenty nine and Chris who is twenty five. Singlehandedly, he raised his two boys from the ages of four and sixteen months, a responsibility any father would fathom. During this time, he managed the duties of a father, police officer, and as a student earning his college degree. Captain Bessinger celebrates with his wife Yvonne, their ninth anniversary this year. I ask that my colleagues please salute Captain Bessinger for his years of service in the law enforcement field and to wish him well as he retires from the Clovis Police Department.

RECOGNIZING 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of recognizing the 15th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 1994. I commend our distinguished colleague from New York, Representative SLAUGHTER, for introducing this resolution which recognizes a significant achievement in the women's rights movement.

This landmark legislation, originally authored by our former colleague, Senator JOSEPH BIDEN, set a new standard for preventing violence against women and provides resources necessary for coping with attacks that have occurred. Since the enactment of VAWA fifteen years ago, this country has made significant progress in our response to domestic and dating violence, sexual assaults and stalking.

Provisions of VAWA have allowed for additional training for law enforcement officers dedicated to these issues. Additionally, VAWA authorized funding for an office within the Department of Justice, which is dedicated to ending violence against women. Notably this legislation created a national domestic violence hotline, which has provided information and help to millions of women in crisis.

VAWA has brought communities together in order to address domestic violence and rally support for survivors. It is important for Congress and all Americans to recognize the achievements of this legislation. Since VAWA's inception, this country's awareness of domestic violence has increased and resources to help victims have become more readily available and accessible.

Though we have made great progress, the instances of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence are still too high. Far too many women in our great nation are victims of violence. We must take further action to keep women safe and provide justice for those who have been victims. Too many communities remain underserved and lack the resources to provide services to victims of sexual violence. We need to continue to increase awareness about sexual violence, provide funding to programs that prevent and punish that violence and educate women about the help that is available to victims.

I am proud of the achievements made in the past fifteen years, and I look forward to supporting the renewal of the Violence Against Women Act in 2010. Again, I thank my friend from New York for introducing H. Res. 738 which commemorates this landmark legislation.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT CHILES

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the actions of Robert Chiles as well as honor all American citizens who embody the spirit of our early patriots.

Beginning on April 15, 2009, Mr. Chiles began circulating a Tea Party Declaration in Springfield, Illinois, requesting the end of "massive government driven bailouts," "so-called economic stimulus plans," "trillion dollar spending schemes," and "out of control government spending."

This petition is nearly 60 feet long and contains about 1,000 signatures. The organizer, Mr. Robert Chiles of Rochester, Illinois, says that the petition is signed by "electricians, plumbers, construction workers, doctors, lawyers, nurses, ministers, teachers, democrats, republicans, law enforcement officers, retired military, stay at home moms, small business owners, you name it."

The document begins, "When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for like-minded patriotic Americans to rally as one against the powers that threaten to alter, diminish and destroy this country we love. Proper respect for the opinions of our fellow citizens requires that we should clearly state the grievances that impel us to gather at this Springfield, Illinois, tea party to protest peacefully, but passionately in the tradition of our

forefathers whose Boston Tea Party resonated around the world."

I salute these modern day patriots and want to publicly thank them for this petition.

CONGRATULATING WILLIAM HOWARD BRONSON, JR. ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM MOBILE'S PRESS-REGISTER

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to honor the long and distinguished career of William Howard Bronson, Jr. on the occasion of his retirement as president and publisher of Mobile's Press-Register.

A 17-year veteran of the Press-Register, Howard brought profound changes to the paper. Under his leadership, the paper received several prestigious awards and greatly increased its readership. In the days following his retirement, the paper published a tribute stating "Howard Bronson leaves an extensive legacy of accomplishments and contributions to the southwest Alabama community and, indeed, the entire state."

Howard and his wife, Dorsey, moved to Mobile from Shreveport, Louisiana, where he was president and publisher of The Times, owned by Gannett Company, Inc. He served as president and general manager of the Newspaper Production Co., while in Shreveport from 1977 to 1991. He was regional vice president responsible for the launch and first year of operation of three USA Today print and distribution sites in Dallas, New Orleans and Houston in 1983-84.

Howard also has held regional responsibility with Gannett for publications in Monroe, Louisiana; Gainesville, Georgia; Muskogee, Oklahoma; Springfield, Missouri; Jackson, Mississippi; Hattiesburg, Mississippi; and Jackson, Tennessee.

As president and publisher of the Press-Register, he was involved in a number of professional organizations, including the Alabama Press Association, the Newspaper Association of America and the American Newspaper Publisher's Association. Howard serves as a board member of several civic organizations, including the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, the Business Council of Alabama, Spring Hill College and the United Way of Southeast Alabama, Inc. He is also a member of Forward Mobile and Mobile United.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated journalist, a respected executive and friend to many throughout southwest Alabama. I am certain that his family—his wife, Dorsey, and their four children—along with all those at the Press-Register and his many friends in Mobile join me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his considerable service to the city of Mobile and all of southwest Alabama.

On behalf of a grateful community, allow me to wish Howard Bronson the very best of luck in all of his future endeavors.

CELEBRATING GEAR UP DAY

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the ambitious and important work being performed every day by students, program staff, parents and teachers to ensure that college dreams become reality for students attending high poverty schools. In particular, I would like to join with GEAR UP programs across the country who celebrated GEAR UP Day on September 18, 2009.

In order to meet the challenge posed by President Obama that "by 2020, America will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world," we will need to draw students from communities where high school graduation, let alone college attendance, is the exception rather than the rule. This ambitious goal, and the global competitiveness that comes with it, will require a dramatic increase in college attendance for students who are the first in their families to pursue higher education.

I want to thank the GEAR UP programs who organized these events and the elected officials who participated:

In Fairmont, West Virginia, they hosted a reception to thank the faculty and staff and to highlight the successes of GEAR UP while the Governor declared a West Virginia GEAR UP Day.

In Cleveland, the program received a proclamation from the Governor of Ohio.

In Eau Claire, Wisconsin, the Governor proclaimed September 18, 2009 as GEAR UP Day and the program celebrated with a community outreach event.

In Iowa City, a GEAR UP principal gave remarks and received proclamations from the Governor and Mayor.

In Wilburton and McAlester, Oklahoma, they received a proclamation from the Governor.

In Pago Pago, American Samoa, the program received a gubernatorial proclamation and Valasi Lam Yuen was recognized as their Teacher of the Year.

In Portland, Maine, the GEAR UP site also received a gubernatorial proclamation.

In La Grande, Oregon, the mayor officially proclaimed September 18, 2009 GEAR UP Day.

In Waco, Texas, parents, students, faculty and staff were on hand to receive a proclamation from the Mayor.

In New York City they held a National GEAR UP Day breakfast at the partner middle school for parents, students, teachers, and administrators. The middle school scholars sent an oversized thank you card to the Honorable Senator CHARLES SCHUMER. The Mayor of New York City, Michael R. Bloomberg has proclaimed September 18, 2009 as National GEAR UP Day.

In Tucson, the Mayor proclaimed GEAR UP Day and students are creating a GEAR UP Wall of Dreams.

In San Marcos, California, GEAR UP received a proclamation from the city.

In Kalamazoo, Michigan, they had an all-school assembly which included the Superintendent and Michigan State Representative Robert Jones.

In Cincinnati, students signed promise cards and invited the Mayor and grant partners to participate.