

and the Alameda National Women's Political Caucus Pro-Choice Champion Award. She was also a nominee for the Silicon Valley Women of Achievement Award and was a candidate for the California State Assembly in March 2002.

In 1999 she was selected by the Secretary of Defense to participate in the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference, which took her to military installations across the country and aboard an aircraft carrier in the Pacific Ocean. She broadened her knowledge of military affairs, especially issues involving women serving in the Armed Forces. She served as a member of the U.S. Air Force Space Commanders Group.

Rosemary also worked for over a decade in the computer industry as a web developer and system administrator for prominent high tech firms in Silicon Valley. As always, she was dedicated to making a difference for the next generation and spent six years as an instructor at De Anza Community College teaching Introduction to Microcomputer Networks. She was also a certified substitute high school teacher for social sciences, English and special education classes, and taught in the Palo Alto Unified School District.

Rosemary's interest in international issues took her to Nepal, Ecuador, France, Britain, Holland, Germany, Italy, The United Arab Emirates, The Czech and Slovak Republics, Canada, Mexico, Thailand, Azerbaijan, South Africa, Venezuela, Tanzania and Vietnam. In 1998 she traveled to Cuba as a member of a special women's delegation.

Rosemary lived in Kabul, Afghanistan working on reconstruction and development projects. She first traveled to Afghanistan in May of 2002 as a member of a delegation of young Afghan-Americans working on reconstruction. She returned home after 2 weeks, but decided to return in June 2003 to work on a project to improve conditions for women in the Kabul prison, and in March 2004 she worked in maternity hospitals. In June 2004 she taught preservation, and in 2005 she spent most of the year living and working there as the logistics manager for the Kabul Beauty School. She returned again in February 2006 and had since resided in Kabul full time working on women's projects. Rosemary was also the Founder and Executive Director of A Little Help, a nonprofit that she began in 2002 which provides humanitarian aid in Afghanistan with a focus on women.

Ever the fighter, she remained in Kabul to continue her work even after she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. It was there that she met Morné du Preez, a South African who works as a private contractor protecting diplomats. They fell in love and were married two years ago. She was an extraordinary leader, teacher, advocate and mentor with a heart of gold who inspired passion in those around her to think and see beyond themselves and make a difference in the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Rosemary Stasek. Through her countless contributions to her family, friends, colleagues, local community and the international community, she has left a lasting legacy of compassion, empowerment and excellence. She represented the best of America, strengthened our country and made the world a better place.

HONORING RONALD BOEHM ON HIS INSTALLATION AS COMMANDER OF THE FOURTH DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS AMERICAN LEGION

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Commander Ronald Boehm on the occasion of his installation as Commander of the Fourth District of Illinois American Legion.

Ronald Boehm served as Commander of American Legion McKinley Post 231 eight times and his exemplary service is a model of leadership and devotion. In the summer of 2007, Commander Boehm conceptualized and aided in the construction of a beautiful and moving monument to all war veterans, especially those from Post 231 who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. This monument sits outside the McKinley Post and is visible to all who pass by on 35th Street.

In 2001, as Commander, Ronald Boehm led a fundraising effort for the widows and orphans of policemen and firefighters. The fundraiser was a great success and amassed over \$10,000 for the cause.

Even outside of his work with the American Legion, Ronald Boehm has dedicated his life to the service of others, and recently retired after 40 years as a Chicago firefighter. His outstanding civic service was recognized this year by the McKinley Park Civic Association, which named Ronald Boehm "Man of the Year."

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the years of exceptional service and dedication of Commander Ronald Boehm. We acknowledge his service to our nation and to his community, and we congratulate his well-deserved installation as Fourth District Commander.

RIPPLE EFFECT MAKES FUND FOR NASA A WISE DECISION

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following column which appeared in the Houston Chronicle on September 17, 2009 from the Bay Area Houston Partnership.

[From the Houston Chronicle, Sept. 17, 2009]

RIPPLE EFFECT MAKES FUND FOR NASA A WISE DECISION

(By Bob Mitchell)

The highly anticipated report from the Augustine Committee has been released. The panel is to be commended on writing such a thorough review of U.S. human space flight options in a short period of time. The report identified various alternatives for NASA's human space flight program. While each offers a varying degree of human space flight options, they all rely on humans as an integral part of space exploration. Why is this significant for the Johnson Space Center and its many contractors? We are home to human space flight.

Within the next few months, decisions will be made by the White House and Congress on

which alternative is best for the future of NASA. Regardless of the decisions made, if adequate funding is not provided, we will continue to see erosion in the U.S. space program, and it won't be long before we relinquish our position as the world's number one space-faring country to a more ambitious and forward-looking nation.

The alternatives present unparalleled opportunities for the United States to continue to expand its leadership role in the international space community. The International Space Station is an excellent example of how much can be accomplished when multinational resources are engaged toward a common goal. We, as a nation, can choose to continue our investment in scientific discovery and international relations or we can choose to lose our leadership position to Russia, China, India or Japan. Insufficient funding for the world's premier space program will undoubtedly erode our leadership role with significant consequences for our security and our competitive position in the world. With our loss of leadership in other high-tech industries, do we want to give up this one as well? Do we want to have to buy our rides to space from a foreign government? This should be unacceptable to us as a nation.

What will it take to keep America first in flight? The Augustine report states, "Meaningful human exploration is possible under a less constrained budget, ramping to approximately \$3 billion per year above the FY 2010 guidance in total resources." Compared to recent government expenditures, this is not that much to invest, especially considering the return to the American taxpayers on this investment. According to a recent congressional oversight report, we have spent \$74 billion to help the nation's auto industry, an industry that has relied on the technology developed in space to enhance its product. Investing the same amount in NASA would ensure America's pre-eminent position in human space flight for the next 25 years.

Why do this? Why fund NASA to the tune of an additional \$3 billion or more per year? Go beyond the obvious and consider the ripple effect. Arguably, perhaps, the space industry is the only industry in the world that consistently creates new technology. Our cars and trucks are lighter, stronger and safer due to NASA technology. Computers, cell phones, GPS and many life-saving medical advancements all have roots in the space industry.

The human factor is equally important. Generations of our young people have been inspired by NASA. The promise of working in America's space program has, for the past 50 years, influenced students to go into science, technology, engineering and math careers. For example, 35 percent of the Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle program is composed of young professionals.

Consider this. We will have a seven-year gap where no Americans are launched into space on American rockets. At no time in our history of space flight have we experienced a gap of this magnitude. Think for a moment of the loss of inspiration to millions of our young people that can never be recovered. Think of the lost opportunities to the U.S. in terms of high-technology innovations and breakthroughs that will not occur when students choose non-technical careers. Do we break our promises to our nation's children and young professionals by opting to take the easy route and not provide much-needed funding to NASA's human space flight program? This, too, should be unacceptable to us as a nation.

The U.S. is unquestionably the world's leader in space exploration, something that can no longer be said about many industries we led at one time. The question remains,

are we willing to give this up for the lack of a very reasonable investment?

Congress and the president are faced with tough choices. Fully supporting human space flight, on the other hand, should be an easy choice. By making the choice to provide the additional funding necessary for a robust U.S. space exploration program, government and private industry jobs will be retained and created, international relationships will be secured and strengthened with America leading the way, and our youth will continue to dream of exploring the universe, taking those steps necessary to do so. Not only is this the most reasonable course of action, it's the right thing to do—for America and for the world.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEST END SILVER POINT CHURCH

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the founding of the West End Church of Christ congregation in Silver Point, Tennessee.

In 1909, Pastor George Phillip "G.P." Bowser relocated the Laurel Hill congregation to Silver Point and established the Putnam County Normal and Industrial Orphanage to provide housing, education, vocation, and religious instruction to the African American children of the region. In 1913, the school became the Silver Point Christian Institute, educating grades one through eight. A small printing press was operated by the school, which led to the development of the Christian Echo—a publication that is still printed today.

By 1915, the church and school combined into the West End Church of Christ Silver Point. A new building was constructed, which still stands to this day. In December 2007, the building was included in the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. National Park Service.

The geographically isolated Highland Rim area of Middle Tennessee has always focused on small-scale agriculture and timber resources grouped into small towns. Farms were tended by individual families with little outside help. Until the early 20th century, these small communities in Silver Point had few religious organizations and even fewer schools. Classes were often taught in buildings that could not afford proper maintenance or enough supplies for students.

The school that Pastor Bowser established in 1915 provided the young children of the community with educational opportunities never before seen in the area. Though the school closed in 1959, the church remains active.

Many prominent and nationally-acclaimed leaders have been personally involved with the church, including Sam Womack, Alexander Campbell, Marshall Keeble, Henry Clay, J.S. Winston, R.N. Hogan, G.E. Stewart, and Levi Kennedy.

Through its 100-year history, the West End Church of Christ in Silver Point has provided

a place of identity and congregation for the African American community of western Putnam County. I congratulate the congregation on its centennial anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, on September 29, due to personal reasons, I was unable to cast the three votes that were called on that day. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on rollcall votes 740 (H.R. 905); 741 (H. Res. 16) and 742 (H.R. 2997).

102ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE CROATIAN SONS LODGE 170

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Croatian Sons Lodge Number 170 of the Croatian Fraternal Union on the festive occasion of its 102nd anniversary and Golden Member banquet on Sunday, October 11, 2009.

This year, the Croatian Fraternal Union will hold this gala event at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Traditionally, the anniversary celebration entails a formal recognition of the Union's Golden Members, those who have achieved fifty years of membership. This year's honorees, who have attained fifty years of membership, include: John B. Belork, Richard J. Bundeck, Victoria Ann Burson, Robert J. Erdelac, Michael Grasa, Richard F. Grcevich, Joanne James, Peter P. Jay, Mary Ellen Kaegebein, Mirjana M. Kirincic, Della Klobuchar, Lawrence Labash, Slavko Ladic, Miyo George Mrkonich, Joan Marie Pope, Frances Razumich, Rudolph J. Rubesha, Jr., Peter George Tarpo, and Valerie Trtan.

These loyal and dedicated individuals share this prestigious honor with approximately 489 additional Lodge members who have previously attained this important designation.

This memorable day will begin with a mass at Saint Joseph the Worker Croatian Catholic Church in Gary, Indiana, with the Reverend Father Stephen Loncar officiating. The banquet will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Lodge President John Miksich, and all members of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge Number 170, for their loyalty and radiant display of passion for their ethnicity. The Croatian community has played a key role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. It is my hope that this year will bring renewed hope and prosperity for all members of the Croatian community and their families.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding a project that is listed in the Conference Report of H.R. 3183, Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, FY2010:

Bill Number: Conference Report—H.R. 3183, Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, FY2010, Account: Department of Energy, EERE, Title: Advance Power Cube for Wind Power and Grid Regulation Services, Legal Name of Requesting Entity: East Penn Manufacturing, Address of Requesting Entity: Deka Road, Lyon Station, PA 19536, Description of Request: This funding will support design, testing, fabrication and implementation of new advanced battery energy storage technology that will be used to balance the fluctuating generation of electricity in wind systems and improve the efficiency of the current electricity grid. This technology will produce a more affordable, cleaner, recyclable and more efficient energy storage option than what is currently available for wind power farms and grid regulation services.

H.R. 3548, UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, on September 22, 2009 the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3548, the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2009 with my support. I voted for H.R. 3548, legislation that would extend unemployment benefits by 13 weeks for states with unemployment rates in excess of 8.5%. Our nation is currently facing significant economic challenges, including the highest unemployment rates in over twenty years. With nearly five million Americans and 290,000 Virginians out of work, I believe extending unemployment benefits was the right thing to do.

Several localities in Virginia's First Congressional District experienced unemployment above 8% this summer. However, I am disappointed that H.R. 3548 would not extend benefits in Virginia because the states unemployment rate is currently below 7%. This bill's 8% threshold needlessly overlooks struggling families in Virginia. I would like to see this measure amended to extend the same unemployment benefits to all Americans regardless of where they live.

I understand that unemployment is putting significant strains on local families. That's why I recently hosted a First District Job Fair featuring state, federal, and private employers. Hundreds of First District residents attended the successful job fair and are now on their way into the workforce.