

life, home, auto, and business services and today is the largest writer of farm insurance and the second largest writer of personal lines of insurance in the state. In Indiana, Farm Bureau Insurance is truly a “part of your life”—with offices in all of our 92 counties, and 1700 employees across the Hoosier state.

While the company has experienced significant growth and development, Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance has remained deeply committed to the community it serves. They have always believed that the strongest investment you can make for the future is to invest in young people, and their actions bear this out.

For 20 years, Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance organized the eXcel Awards, a prestigious high school art competition that granted over \$700,000 in scholarships and encouraged the talent and creativity of high school artists and performers. They sponsor the Indiana High School Athletic Association's Mental Attitude Awards, honoring students who excel in athletic ability, leadership, mental attitude, and scholarship in all 39 IHSAA tournament sports. They have also made academics and safety a priority amongst our youth through initiatives like Top Scholar and the Teenage Driver Safety and Education Program. These programs reward young drivers with a \$1000 savings bond for completing safety training and provide insurance discounts for students for maintaining a B average respectively. In my district, Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance helps supply healthy activities for our children by sponsoring little league and 4-H, and they are active participants in Holiday initiatives, adopting needy families and donating clothes, toys and foods.

Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance has assisted numerous families and individuals plan for the unexpected and has been a steadfast partner in our community. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance on their 75th Anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, on the afternoon of Thursday, October 15, 2009, I was unfortunately unable to be present for the last two series of recorded votes while I was attending to a matter related to my personal health.

I request that the record show that had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on rollcall vote No. 786 (on ordering the previous question on the rule for H.R. 2442, H.Res. 830), “yes” on rollcall vote No. 787 (on agreeing to the resolution H.Res. 830, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2442), “yes” on rollcall vote No. 788 (the motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the chair), and “yes” on rollcall vote No. 789 (on passage of the bill H.R. 2442, the Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program Expansion Act of 2009).

HONORING THE SURVIVING WORLD
WAR II VETERANS OF
OCOQUAN, VA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor to the World War II veterans who currently reside in Occoquan, Virginia. Their service and sacrifice represent the height of American character; something to be honored and never forgotten.

In December of 1941, the United States entered a war that had already engulfed much of the rest of the world. Throughout the course of World War II, 16,000,000 Americans answered the call of duty and served in the armed forces. The support of the nation's war effort ended in the ultimate sacrifice for more than 300,000 of these brave Americans. They were sons, daughters, fathers and mothers putting the defense of their nation above all else.

The town of Occoquan is recognizing their service by honoring the surviving World War II veterans currently residing in Occoquan. So often our veterans return home and take up leadership roles in their communities. This group, which includes former Occoquan mayors, town council members and planning commissioners, is no exception. These individuals are a living testament to the strength and enduring nature of America's citizenry. Occoquan's surviving World War II veterans:

Mr. Richard H. Bell, United States Army
Mr. Edwin S. Clarke, United States Navy
Mr. Robert Lehto, United States Navy
Mr. Frank McKenzie, United States Navy
Mr. James F. Phelps, United States Marine Corps

Ms. June Randolph, United States Navy
Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the World War II veterans of Occoquan, Virginia. We recognize their contribution to honor the importance of their experience to the American story. To forget their sacrifice and the immeasurable cost of war is to do peace a disservice and bind ourselves to indefinite conflict.

COMMEMORATING THE NATIONAL DAY ON WRITING

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, writing is a daily practice for millions of Americans, but few people notice how integral writing has become to life in the 21st century. People now write more than ever before for personal, professional, and civic purposes; and writing is increasingly essential for all types of occupations. Newly developing digital technologies expand the possibilities for composing in multiple media and young people are now leading the way in new forms of composition.

Writing has enormous power. It allows people in every walk of life, in every kind of work, and at every age to generate and share ideas with others. Effective communication contributes to building a global economy and a global community. We must find ways to help our

students tell their stories—to communicate with their neighbors around the globe, in a world that is getting smaller and smaller. We must help our students put their thoughts into words, and hopefully, into action.

As an educator for more than 30 years, I know the value of a quality education and its importance to our children's future. In order for our Nation's children to get the education they deserve and require to become the leaders of tomorrow, they need the very best teachers and educators. Not only as leaders in education, but also as leaders in the community, English teachers are preparing our next generation.

To draw attention to the remarkable variety of writing we engage in and to help connect writers from all walks of life, the National Council of Teachers of English, NCTE, in conjunction with its many national and local partners, honors the importance of writing by celebrating a National Day on Writing on October 20, 2009. NCTE has developed the National Gallery of Writing, a digital archive of samples, that exhibits how and why Americans are writing every day. The gallery is accessible to all through a free, searchable website that will be launched on the National Day on Writing.

I introduced a resolution to recognize the National Day on Writing to acknowledge the enormous power of writing—how it allows people in every walk of life, in every kind of work, and at every age to generate and share ideas with others. The resolution calls on the House of Representatives to recognize the National Day on Writing and encourages submissions to the National Gallery of Writing. Today my thanks go out to the NCTE and their many national and local partners for facilitating the National Day on Writing. As we celebrate the National Day on Writing, I hope my colleagues will participate and submit entries to the gallery.

HONORING JASMINE LYNN OF SPELMAN COLLEGE, CLASS OF 2012

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jasmine Lynn, a rising star, a wonderful daughter, and a successful student who was the victim of a senseless tragedy.

A native of Kansas City, Missouri, Jasmine attended the Lincoln College Preparatory Academy, where she was an active student, athlete, musician, and leader. Even though she was a member of the ROTC, the varsity basketball team, and the high school marching band, Jasmine found time to shine as a student. Her intelligence and academic success won her an opportunity to attend Spelman College in Atlanta, making her the first in her family to receive a college education. At Spelman, Jasmine continued to excel with a 3.8 GPA and intended to focus her academic program around psychology and pre-law studies. Jasmine had just completed a summer internship at Cerner Corp over the summer and had bought her first car. This accomplished young lady had a bright and promising future.

On September 3, the life of Jasmine Lynn was cut down by a stray bullet as she was

walking down an Atlanta street with some of her friends. Violence cuts through the heart of too many communities across America, but when a gifted young woman—simply an innocent bystander—is the victim of a senseless murder, the toll hostility and aggression take on our society becomes painfully clear.

Today, I would like to offer my deepest condolences to the Lynn family for their heart-breaking loss. The thoughts and prayers of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Georgia are with them during this difficult and trying time. My heart goes out to Jasmine Lynn's parents, brother, family, friends, and the Spelman and Clark/Atlanta University community who also mourn her passing.

THOMAS SLEMMER

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding leader in the field of affordable housing and long-term services and supports for people as they age. Thomas Slemmer is the outgoing chair of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA), and I congratulate him on what he has accomplished for his field during his two-year term.

AAHSA members (www.aahsa.org) help millions of individuals and their families every day through mission-driven, not-for-profit organizations dedicated to providing the services people need, when they need them, in the place they call home. The 5,700 member organizations, many of which have served their communities for generations, offer the continuum of aging services: adult day services, home health, community services, senior housing, assisted living residences, continuing care retirement communities, and nursing homes.

With Tom Stemmer at its head, AAHSA championed the combination of supportive services with affordable housing to enable seniors to remain in their communities and has taken a leadership role in developing realistic, workable solutions for Congress and states facing the impending long-term service and support needs of the aging baby boom generation.

Mr. Slemmer co-chaired AAHSA's Affordable Housing Finance Cabinet, which is developing recommendations for building and preserving housing to meet the physical and financial needs of a growing elder population. He also saw the introduction of the landmark Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Act, which would promote the construction of new senior housing facilities, streamline the preservation of existing housing, and support the conversion of existing housing into assisted-living facilities with supportive health and social services.

Prior to becoming AAHSA's chair, Mr. Slemmer participated in the organization's Long-Term Services and Supports Financing Cabinet to find a more rational, sustainable and responsible system for funding aging services where he helped shape recommendations for a national insurance plan founded on three core principles: consumer choice, fiscal responsibility, and good stewardship of provider and public resources, and equity of benefits.

These recommendations closely aligned with the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS) Act introduced and championed by the late Senator Edward Kennedy. AAHSA has united a wide range of stakeholders to work for the inclusion of CLASS provisions in health care reform, and these provisions are reflected in two of the health care reform measures drafted by congressional committees. AAHSA members from all over the country have advocated tirelessly for a mechanism to enable Americans to plan responsibly for their own long-term services and supports needs while also addressing the issues of access and cost.

To address other issues facing the nation's aging population, families, service providers and policymakers, Slemmer has overseen AAHSA member task forces on workforce, nursing home quality, home- and community-based services, and issues specific to rural and inner-city areas. Under his leadership, AAHSA has undertaken pilot technology projects, "living laboratories" linking member operations with research to demonstrate the effectiveness of applied technology to improve quality, make operations more efficient, and enable people to live independently wherever they call home.

In addition to his service as AAHSA's chair, Tom Slemmer is the president and chief executive officer of Columbus, Ohio's National Church Residences, where he has had a thirty year career. From a single affordable housing facility established in 1961, National Church Residences has grown to provide affordable housing, supportive services, assisted living, and skilled nursing care to low and moderate-income elders, families, persons with disabilities, and homeless families and individuals in facilities throughout the United States. In Central and Southern Ohio, NCR provides home and community based supportive services to allow elders to age in place in dignity in the comfort of their own homes. Its ministry serves over 22,000 individuals in 300 properties nationwide.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, National Church Residences and AAHSA launched a hotline to help displaced seniors find affordable housing. Low-income seniors and family members were able to call around the clock to be connected to housing resource professionals trained to evaluate and locate available affordable senior housing communities nationwide. Hundreds of evacuated elders were able to find temporary or permanent housing through National Church Residences and other AAHSA members. Based on this experience, AAHSA and National Church Residences submitted recommendations to Congress on improving coordination among aging services providers and federal, state, and local agencies in the event of natural disasters.

Because of the importance of supportive services to seniors' ability to remain longer in their communities, Mr. Stemmer was instrumental in establishing the American Association of Service Coordinators (AASC). AASC's over 2,000 members serve seniors, people with disabilities, and low income families living in affordable rental housing and the surrounding community. Service coordinators assist senior and disabled residents in identifying, locating, and acquiring the services necessary for them to remain independent and help families achieve self sufficiency and economic independence.

Mr. Slemmer also has served on the boards of the Association of Ohio Philanthropic Homes, Housing and Services for the Aging; the National Affordable Housing Trust, the Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future, and the Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing.

I hope my colleagues will join me in commending Tom Stemmer for his longstanding service to our nation's elders and his work to develop realistic solutions to the challenges a growing elder population will pose in the years to come.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as a part of H.R. 3183—Energy and Water Appropriations Act of 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN BOOZMAN

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

Description of Request: The May Branch flood control project will reduce the occurrence of flood damage for hundreds of property owners in the vicinity of the May Branch drainage way in portions of Fort Smith. During the periods of heavier rainfall, stormwater flows exceed the capacity of the May Branch channel, causing surface and structure flooding. The project meets the Corps of Engineers' cost/benefit ration requirements. The Federal funds of \$179,000 will be used for design engineering, right-of way acquisition, and construction. The City of Fort Smith will be matching the \$15 million federal share with \$16 million in local funds from a 1-cent sales tax dedicated to street and drainage repairs.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN BOOZMAN

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: Department of Energy—EERE

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Arkansas—Division of Agriculture

Address of Requesting Entity: 2404 N. University Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas 72207

Description of Request: The national goal of the US is to replace more than 75% of our oil imports from the Middle East by 2025. With America on the verge of breakthroughs in advanced energy technologies, the best way to break the addiction to foreign oil is through new technology. Of course, new conversion technology requires the availability of adequate amounts of quality feedstocks. To help meet this critical national goal, the Mid South/Southeast BioEnergy Consortium \$1,000,000 project is focused: to (1) position the MidSouth and Southeast bioenergy industry to expand from biodiesel and grain to ethanol to commercial production of cellulosic ethanol; (2) develop economic and environmental viable systems to produce, harvest and process relevant feedstocks for biodiesel and ethanol operations, matching feedstock availability to specific conversion technologies; (3) conduct educational programs to deliver information on