

The National Academy of Sciences found that about 18.7 percent of Americans 65 and older, or nearly 7.1 million, are suffering in poverty compared to 9.7 percent, or 3.7 million, under the traditional Census measure. This is largely due to out-of-pocket expenses from rising Medicare premiums, deductibles and a coverage gap in the prescription drug benefit.

The National Academy of Sciences also found that 14.3 percent of people 18 to 64, or 27 million, are suffering in poverty, compared to 11.7 percent under the traditional Census measure. Many of the additional poor are low-income, working people facing growing transportation and childcare costs.

It should also be noted that food stamp assistance, which is at an all-time high of about 36 million, likely softened these figures.

These figures are especially troubling and could get worse. In 2008, U.S. median income fell to \$50,303 from \$52,163 in 2007. That 3.6% decline is the largest one-year drop since records began. And, the Economic Policy Institute projects that in the next two years, incomes could decline by another \$3,000 and poverty could increase by 1.9 percentage points.

These figures have special meaning for me because I represent one of the poorest Congressional districts in the country. In fact, a recent report in *Forbes Magazine* declared Rocky Mount, North Carolina as one of America's 10 most impoverished cities.

*Forbes* used the new data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2008 American Community Survey, and also looked at per capita incomes for a region, the percentage of food stamp recipients, the percentage of people under age 65 receiving public health care and the unemployment rate.

According to *Forbes*, nearly 8 percent of Rocky Mount area residents were among the nation's extreme poor in 2008, living at below 50 percent of the poverty line. And, about 17 percent of area residents received food stamps last year, and nearly 23 percent of residents under age of 65 received Medicaid. Also, Rocky Mount's unemployment rate at the time of the report was 8.7 percent and since has risen to 13.8 percent.

While *Forbes* also ranked Rocky Mount as the 119th best small places for business and careers, largely because of the city's available workforce, this is a region that suffers with a great number of needs. This is a community with great pride and potential that continues to work hard to provide opportunities and improve the quality of life for its residents.

As we look at ways to make sure our resources are going where they are needed most, we should look at the way poverty is measured. Unfortunately, the official U.S. poverty measure has changed very little since it was originally adopted in 1969, with the exception of annual adjustments for overall price changes in the economy, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers.

Currently, the poverty threshold reflects a measure of the economic realities of the mid-1950's. The poverty line has not been adjusted to reflect changes in needs associated with improved standards of living that have occurred over the decades since the measure was first developed.

A congressionally commissioned study conducted by the National Academy of Sciences

has recommended that the poverty level be reset to take into account economic changes that have occurred over the past four decades. The National Academy of Sciences recommended that non-cash benefits, taxes and tax credits be counted as income while expenses such as work-related child care, housing and out-of-pocket medical expenses be deducted from income in determining families' poverty status. As a result, comparatively more working families and elderly people would be counted as poor.

The National Academy of Sciences also recommended that the poverty income levels be adjusted for regional cost of living differences. The current poverty income thresholds are uniform across the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The Measuring American Poverty Act of 2009 introduced by Representative MCDERMOTT and a companion bill introduced by Senator DODD would instruct the U.S. Census Bureau to adopt many of the modern poverty measurement recommendations made by the National Academy of Sciences. If adopted, the legislation would result in a new poverty measure that would coexist with the official poverty measure, and re-designate the current "official" measure as the "traditional" poverty measure. The new poverty measure would not affect programs that use poverty as criteria for either determining eligibility or allocating funds, but would stand as an additional statistical indicator to measure the effects of programs on poverty.

This would be a helpful step toward ensuring that we have a system that is fair to people who need help as well as to the taxpayers providing that help. This economic crisis serves as a reminder to all Americans just how vulnerable we all are, and that reducing our existing poverty will require a great deal of effort and attention.

IN MEMORIAM OF SPC KEVIN O.  
HILL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memoriam of Specialist Kevin O. Hill, a distinguished and honorable constituent of Brooklyn. He died on October 4, 2009 in Dehanna, Afghanistan and was a member of the 576th Engineer Company, 4th Engineer Battalion based in Fort Carson, Colorado. A third generation Military man, preceded by his father, Oslen, Jr. and his grandfather Oslen, Sr., Specialist Hill had dreams of being a Secret Service agent and felt that the military training and experience could only serve him well in pursuit of that goal.

He was a quiet leader, choosing to lead by example more often than words. After completing his education at Monroe College, Specialist Hill joined the Army. While in Afghanistan he worked with the Engineer Battalion to disable IEDs and roadside bombs before they could do harm to his fellow soldiers and the civilians that he was there to help.

His mother praised him as a hero, and I stand here to do the same. Specialist Hill paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country and my condolences go out to his mother, Mahalia

Hill, his father, Oslen Hill, his grandfather Oslen Hill, Sr., his sisters Chinyere and Shantel and his entire family in this time of grave loss. Our country is indebted to his family and we are all mourning their loss.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in remembering the dedication and selflessness of Specialist Kevin O. Hill.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2009*

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3183—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, for FY2010

Requesting Member: Congressman TOM COLE

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Provision: Title III

Account: DOE—Science

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: "The University of Oklahoma"

Address of Requesting Entity: 660 Parrington Oval, Norman OK 73019

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of 1,000,000.00 to The University of Oklahoma (OU) for its technological advantage in the production of carbon nanotubes, via the use of a proprietary catalyst and a truly scalable production process, commercialized by an OU startup company (South-West Nanotechnologies, SWeNT). The Center for Applications of Single-Walled Carbon Nanotubes (CANTEC) investigates the applications of the SWNT produced in the CoMoCAT process in several important areas: biomedical applications (biosensors, cancer cell targets, and cancer therapeutics), polymer composites of unique electrical and mechanical properties, metal-nanotube composites, thermally conducting composites, transparent electrodes, solar cells, field emission devices, and thin film transistors.

BRIAN TAYLOR RECOGNITION

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2009*

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the inspirational and uplifting story of Brian Taylor from the November 2009 issue of *SLAM* magazine. Brian Taylor is a true modern hero and example to the youth of America. Brian was a superstar basketball player at Princeton University and in the ABA and NBA. He had a great 10 year professional career, after which he became a teacher. He is now Head of Schools for View Park Schools, a charter school network in the inner city of Los Angeles, CA. View Park graduates 100% of its high school seniors, all of whom go on to college! Brian's personal story and the success of his charter school is a real life example of what can be accomplished with hard work,

perseverance and commitment to excellence. I salute Brian Taylor and I urge my colleagues to read and be inspired by this tremendous story.

HIGHER LEARNING: FORMER ABA STAR BRIAN TAYLOR IS NOW COMMITTED TO EDUCATING THE YOUTH OF L.A.

(By Chris Warren)

Brian Taylor creates a stir when he walks the halls of View Park Prep Middle School in south Los Angeles. One young teacher's face lights up when he spots Taylor and, making his way through the throngs of African-American students changing classes, he crows about a Laker's narrow Playoff win. As he continues down the hall, Taylor—who at 6-3—towers over the young kids who attend this charter school located in an area known for its deep-seated problems with gangs, violence, and failing schools—is approached by a succession of students. Some just say hi, some want to talk about their classes and others angle for a pat on the shoulder or a hug.

One subject that isn't broached, at least on this day, is Taylor's highly successful career in the ABA and NBA. Not that there isn't a lot to talk about. After a standout tenure at Princeton, where he led the Pete Carril-coached Tigers to the NIT Tournament and wins over Bobby Knight's Indiana and Dean Smith's UNC tar Heels ("Bob McAdoo is still in denial," he says), Taylor was lured to the pros after his junior year in 1972, one of the first athletes to make the jump early—so unusual at the time that Howard Cosell did a story about it for ABC Sports. In a decade-long career in the pros, Taylor rolled up a Rookie of the Year award and two ABA championships with the New York Nets, where he played great D and dished the ball to Dr. J, Larry Kenon and John Williamson, before going on to stints with the Kansas City Kings, Denver Nuggets, and the San Diego Clippers in the NBA.

Taylor isn't interested in rehashing past glory, though sometimes he can't avoid it because zealous fans still track him down and send him items to autograph. These days, Taylor, who is head of View Park Prep Schools and senior vice president at the Inner City Education Foundation (ICEF), which runs 13 charter schools in south L.A., including View Park Prep Middle School, would much rather talk about the challenges and triumphs of providing a top-notch education to minority students who typically have few, if any, good options when it comes to schools.

Taylor certainly has a great story to tell. Since their founding in '94, ICEF schools have emerged as an educational powerhouse in an area of Los Angeles where only 9 percent of freshmen who enter public schools eventually graduate from college. By stark contrast, ICEF schools have not only routinely registered top scores on California standardized tests, often besting much wealthier areas, but have a goal, so far attained, of sending 100 percent of their graduates to college. Taylor needs to tell this story as a way to drum up support amongst parents, politicians, donors and neighbors, because their support is vital for ICEF to flourish and expand; their goal is to eventually operate 35 schools in south L.A., ultimately serving 10,000 students and producing 2,000 college graduates per year.

"My job is to help the outside world understand what we're doing and why and how we are achieving at a high level and get their support and their understanding," Taylor says, "Us being here has affected people's lives—there are more kids and more traffic and it has affected people's lives in the community—and my job is to have them understand that it's worth it for the kids."

By experience and connections, it's hard to imagine a better spokesperson. Not only is Taylor a Princeton grad, which speaks volumes about the value he places on education, but he was one of the founding board members and treasurer when ICEF was nothing more than an idea and later left a position at one of L.A.'s most prestigious private schools to become principal of View Park Middle School before starting his current job. Taylor's network is wide and he uses it well; he has coaxed former professional ballplayers to come work at the school and got Laker's great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to speak to the kids about black history; while I'm with him, he misses a call from President Obama's Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan.

Given all that, it's still Taylor's temperament that is arguably his most effective tool in garnering support for ICEF's mission to provide an elite private school quality education to traditionally underserved, forgotten African-American children. "Brian is the most modest person I've ever met," says ICEF founder Mike Piscal.

As Taylor, whose playing days were ended by an Achilles heel injury in '82, leads a tour around the school, he is continually deflecting attention away from himself. Introducing Dwight Sanders, View Park's current principal, Taylor calls him one of ICEF's "rising stars," and says that students already like Sanders better than him. Every teacher we meet is doing something extraordinary, he says, and I really should be talking to them, not him.

Taylor would be the first to say that he's in a position today to make a huge difference in thousands of young lives largely because of basketball. Growing up in the housing projects of Perth Amboy, NJ, Taylor had two distinct advantages over his peers who were never able to rise above their tough environment: family and sports. His father, "Big" Steve, a former semi-pro football player and the family disciplinarian, worked as a laborer at the Raritan Copper Works, and his mother, Maude, was a homemaker. "Even though we had a small place, it was the place to go to get home cooking and a lot of loving from my mom," he recalls. Along with a secure and loving home life, the Taylors were also awash in athletic talent. Big Steven was a skilled athlete and Brian's older brother, Bruce, was a standout football player who went on to become a Pro Bowl cornerback for the San Francisco 49ers. For his part, Brian excelled at everything he tried—he says baseball was his first love—becoming a three sport letterman all four years of high school, leading his basketball team to one state championship and a second-place trophy.

Fortunately for Taylor, he also had a football coach, Bob Estok, who stressed education. "After my freshman year in high school, he says, You're a good enough student, you have a profile here that if we get you moving in the right track, you'll have tremendous opportunities to go anywhere in the country for college," Taylor says. For Estok, that track meant making sure Taylor spent two summers taking academic enrichment courses at an elite private school and maintaining an A-minus average in his regular courses. It also meant making sure that Taylor knew the dangers faced by talented athletes, so Estok gave him the book, *The Black Athlete: The Shameful Story*. "It's a cautionary book, talking about how athletes are exploited for their physical abilities and don't take advantage of the opportunities they have as students," Taylor says.

That was never a possibility for Taylor. Even though he was heavily recruited out of high school—UCLA, Cal-Berkeley and Rutgers were among his suitors—it was Prince-

ton, located just 30 miles from home, which eventually won out. "We didn't recruit him that hard, I guess his mom, the last thing she said was that I was the only honest guy he talked to," laughs Pete Carril, who coached the Tigers from 1967-96. "He had his sights set on a good education and that really helped us."

Taylor flourished at Princeton, using his blazing speed and strength to break down defenses and shut down the opposing team's best players. "Brian was a terrific shooter and he had great quickness and he could defend," says Gary Walters, Princeton's current athletic director, who played point guard on the school's 1965 Final Four team. "He was one of Pete's all-time most talented and gifted players." During the summer, Taylor would train with another of Princeton's all-time greats, Bill Bradley. Taylor remembers how Bradley would come to the gym each day clutching a notebook in which he'd jotted down all the drills he wanted to do. After each was completed, Bradley would methodically go back to the notebook and check it off—a powerful lesson about the importance of preparation and hard work in pursuing one's goals.

Taylor's focus on academics waned when, after a wildly successful junior year, the ABA came calling. "I was like, wow, I've got an opportunity to play with the great New York Nets in the beautiful Nassau coliseum and they're going to pay me to do it? Or I'm going to have to write a 100-page thesis?" When Taylor's father was interviewed by Cosell, the sportscaster asked him what his son should do: take the money and run, Big Steve said. Brian did just that, although he eventually went back to Princeton and earned two degrees.

Taylor quickly established himself in the pros, not only winning ROY honors in the ABA, but helping lead the Nets to championships in his second and fourth years in the league, when the team came back from a 22-point deficit to best the Denver Nuggets. The way Taylor saw it, his job was to do two things: shut down the opposing team's best player and get the ball to a certain future hall of famer. "My responsibility was making sure I got the ball to Dr. J in the right position," he says.

Night after long night he had to try and slow the prolific scoring of the likes of David Thompson, George Gervin, Norm Nixon, and Pete Maravich. It was no easy task. "They hated me because the only way I could slow them down was to do anything possible: grab them, hold them, trip them, bite them," he says with a laugh. Ron Boone, who played for numerous ABA and NBA teams and is now color commentator with the Utah Jazz, used to hate it when Taylor guarded him. "He was just one of those guys you wanted to get off of you because he was there all of the time," Boone recalls. In the '76 Playoffs, Boone grew so frustrated with Taylor's defense that he punched him in the mouth, but the next year, Taylor and Boone were roommates on the Kansas City Kings and became good friends.

Although undersized, Taylor had plenty of other tools. One was speed: he was known as the BT Express. "He was the fastest guy I had seen in the league up to that point, and I'm not sure if people of the ilk of [Allen] Iverson are faster," says Kim Hughes, an assistant coach with the L.A. Clippers, who played with Taylor on the Nets. Hughes says Taylor and Dr. J were the smartest teammates he ever had, and that Taylor duped people into making ill-conceived passes. "I heard how Bill Russell used to taunt people into blocking shots. Brian was lurking, waiting for the cross-court pass and he would get it almost every time."

Although Nate "Tiny" Archibald is better known than Taylor, Hughes says it was a

"terrible deals" when the Nets traded Taylor for Tiny. "I thought Brian was a much better player than Tiny, even though Tiny was a much better offensive player," he says. "Brian was such a good rebounder, defender and overall player."

Taylor's leadership also set him apart, teammates Eric Money, a former Pistons point guard. As Money recalls, Taylor didn't lead by shouting or hogging the ball, but by quietly making everyone else better. "He was always the floor general," says Money, who Taylor lured to ICEF schools to become a PE teacher and to help him coach the high school basketball team. "he was a great complementary player to let guys like Dr. J have the spotlight. The leader sometimes has to defer that was one of his stronger qualities."

Taylor will need to draw on every bit of those leadership skills in his current role. Education, especially in California, has been hit hard by the economy, with massive state budget cuts decimating teaching staffs, increasing class sizes and dimming prospects of academic progress. The challenge is particularly acute for charter schools, which already don't receive as much funding as regular public schools, even though their test scores and achievements are often far superior, most markedly in predominantly minority areas. Taylor has to work extra hard to try and drum up financial resources from foundations, individuals and the federal government, whatever it takes to keep the ICEF schools performing at a high level.

Taylor's motivation is intensely personal. His two youngest children attend ICEF schools (an older child, Bryce, was a stand-out player at the University of Oregon and, after playing a year in Italy, is looking to sign with an NBA team), the symbolism of which is not lost on anyone. "It does send an important message, because it tells you he has faith in us and the system," says Sanders. "That says a lot about what he's building and what his belief is in our system." In fact, Taylor says he got into education after 10 years as a successful businessman in larger part to emphasize to his kids how important it is.

Even if his weren't here, it seems clear that Taylor would be. He says he sees himself in the children who attend ICEF schools, growing up in the inner city where bad influences are all too common. What he wants them to understand is that academics lead to a better life and that it's within their grasp. But the job gives him plenty in return, including an opportunity to coach his son, Brendan, who is developing into an excellent player himself. It might not match the immediate thrill of a roaring crowd, but it can be far more gratifying, he says.

"What can you do that is going to give you the thrills that you had as a ballplayer? Probably nothing, but what is my purpose thereafter?" he says. "I feel coming here I found my purpose in life. And my purpose in life is to give back."

#### HONORING CONNOR KILLEN

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Eagle Scout Connor Killen, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 216, and by achieving the incredible feat of earning all 122 possible merit badges.

Connor has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Connor has shown an extraordinary commitment to scouting over the past six years as evidenced by the many weekends of hard work and the travel to five different states and two foreign countries as he worked towards earning his merit badges.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Connor Killen for his exceptional accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving this highest distinction.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

### HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the Conference Report for H.R. 3183, FY2010 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Requesting Member: Congresswoman McMORRIS RODGERS

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Washington State University for the Department of Energy

Address of Requesting Entity: 1036 Wilson Road; Pullman, WA 99164

Description of Request: Provide an addition of \$1,000,000 for making the power grid more reliable, capable, and secure. The existing power grid is highly unstable and vulnerable to natural and man-made interruptions as well as being inadequate for increased power and transmission speed throughout. The development of software will make a "smart grid" possible.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on Tuesday, October 20, 2009, I missed three recorded votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on rollcall 790, "YEA" on rollcall 791, and "YEA" on rollcall 792.

RECOGNITION FOR MEMBERS OF THE TEXAS STATE HOUSE AND SENATE FOR THEIR WORK ON BEHALF OF GALVESTON TEXAS

### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, on October 23, the Galveston Chamber of Commerce will recognize the following members of the Texas State House and Senate for their tireless work in the Texas state legislature on behalf of the people of Galveston: Senator Joan Huffman, Senator Mike Jackson, Senator Steve Ogden, Representative Dan Branch, Representative Craig Eiland, Representative Jim Pitts, and Representative Larry Taylor. I am pleased to join the Galveston Chamber of Commerce in saluting these seven legislators.

In the past year, each of these legislators have diligently worked to help the people of Galveston recover from Hurricane Ike. Among the issues they worked on were windstorm insurance, state support for rebuilding Galveston Island, and ensuring continued support for the University of Texas Medical Branch.

I am honored to have a working relationship with these legislators. My district staff regularly communicates with the offices of these state legislators, in working together to meet the needs of our shared constituents.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I again join my friends at the Galveston Chamber of Commerce in thanking Senator Joan Huffman, Senator Mike Jackson, Senator Steve Ogden, Representative Dan Branch, Representative Craig Eiland, Representative Jim Pitts, and Representative Larry Taylor for all they do for the people of Galveston. I look forward to continuing to work with these legislators.

#### RAISING AWARENESS AND ENHANCING THE STATE OF CYBER SECURITY IN THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 797, recognizing the goals and ideals of National Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

The release of the Presidential Cyberspace Policy Review in May was an important step forward.

However, more work remains to be done to ensure that cybersecurity is fully integrated into our nation's homeland security efforts.

Our country can't afford 20th century thinking for a 21st century problem.

I congratulate Ms. CLARKE, the Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, and Science and Technology, for her work on cybersecurity, and thank her for authoring this resolution.

The Committee has held ten hearings and undertaken numerous investigations into cybersecurity issues affecting the Federal government, the private sector, and critical infrastructure owners and operators in just the last three years.

Though the Homeland Security Committee is primarily concerned with cybersecurity on Federal networks and critical infrastructure, we recognize the important education mission carried out by the National Cyber Security Alliance and their efforts to reach home users, small businesses, and students and educators of all ages.

The National Cyber Security Alliance's mission is to increase awareness of cyber security practices and technologies to these folks