

COMMEMORATING VETERANS DAY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 6, 2009

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Veterans Day and applaud the commitment and work of this Congress and President Obama to meet the needs of America's 23.4 million military veterans. Nearly 400,000 veterans call the great state of Minnesota home and we are proud of them, our friends and neighbors. As a Member of Congress and the daughter of a World War II veteran, I believe I have a duty to honor the men and women who have so courageously served our country by investing in expanding educational opportunities, health care services, and access to good jobs for our nation's veterans.

Increasingly, I have become particularly concerned about the mental health issues, such as post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI), that afflict our warriors who are now home from Iraq and Afghanistan. PTSD and TBI have claimed too many lives and caused too much hardship among the families of veterans. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, service members responding to mental health questions when they return from Iraq and Afghanistan show that about 19 percent of service members from Iraq have a mental health problem, while about 11 percent from Afghanistan have a mental health problem. Too often the unseen wounds suffered by veterans, as a result of PTSD and TBI, remain untreated until a crisis or tragedy occurs for the veteran or their loved ones. Illnesses related to substance abuse, suicide prevention, and homelessness prevention for our veterans are often directly related to psychological trauma. I believe it is critical to support the expanded efforts by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure our soldiers understand clearly that mental health services and help are available if, and when, they need them.

On this Veterans Day, I am very proud to live in a country that so values its veterans. My commitment and my prayers are with the millions of veterans and their families who we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude.

HONORING SONOMA TREASURE
ARTIST OF THE YEAR LIN LIPETZ**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 6, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor Lin Lipetz, the Sonoma Treasure Artist of the Year. Selected by the city's Cultural and Fine Arts Commission, Ms. Lipetz was chosen for her talents as a teacher and an artist as well as for her contributions to the community.

With an MFA from the University of Washington in ceramics, painting and textiles, a bachelor's degree in art from the University of Washington, and a bachelor's degree from San Jose State University in interior architec-

ture, Lipetz has the academic credentials to back up her long experience as an artist. With drawings and beautifully colorful and joyous paintings ranging from abstract to landscape, she has exhibited frequently, both as a solo artist and with groups.

Her work is in numerous collections, and she has also won honors and grants including Friends of the Crafts in Seattle, Washington; National Endowments for the Arts High School Art Instruction in Missoula, Montana; and the Art Across the Valley Tour through the Sonoma Valley Museum of Art.

Her contributions to the City of Sonoma enrich the lives of its residents and add to the vibrancy of its arts community. She teaches painting and intuitive drawing at the Sonoma Community Center, is active with the Sonoma Valley Museum of Art and served as a commissioner on the Cultural Fine and Arts Commission.

Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to celebrate Lin Lipetz's selection as Sonoma Treasure Artist of the year. We join the Sonoma community in our appreciation of her talents and her contributions.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 6, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the House passed version of the Conference Report 111-316, to accompany H.R. 2996.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. GRESHAM BARRETT

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Provision: Division A, EPA, STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Laurens Commission of Public Works

Address of Requesting Entity: 212 Church Street, Laurens, SC 29630

Description of Request: The purpose of this appropriation is to provide \$300,000 to be used for the design and construction of a half million gallon water storage tank, and associated water distribution system upgrades. The construction will also include approximately 10 miles of 12 inch water main and a booster pump station. This water distribution system upgrade will provide additional potable, industrial and fire water supply to the surrounding areas. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

TRIBUTE TO AN ALASKAN PIONEER
AND FATHER OF MODERN-DAY ANCHORAGE**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 6, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an Alaskan Pioneer and father of modern-day Anchorage. Former long-term Anchorage Mayor George Murray Sul-

livan, 87, died September 23, 2009, surrounded by his family. A lifelong Alaskan, Sullivan was born on March 31, 1922, raised in Valdez, Alaska, where his father Harvey was the U.S. District Marshal and mother Viola was the first woman mayor in Alaska.

Sullivan's life and leadership spanned the territorial days of Alaska through statehood. In the 1920s, the Sullivans lived in Valdez, a busy town in the first two decades of the 20th century that supported a bowling alley, several breweries, a dam and hydroelectric plant, the seat of the Territory of Alaska's Third Judicial District, a public library, hospital, and public school system. George had a wonderful life as a kid in Valdez, playing many sports, engaging in school activities, and helping at the family store.

During World War II, Anchorage's population exploded from around 8,000 to more than 43,000. In July, 1944, George was drafted into the U.S. Army for two years and was stationed at Adak in the Aleutian Islands. He married the love of his life, Margaret Eagan Sullivan, on December 30, 1947, and moved to Nenana. George was the U.S. deputy marshal and Margaret was the U.S. commissioner. Aptly, George would catch the criminals and Margaret would try them. In 1955, he was elected to the Fairbanks City Council. George took a job in management with Consolidated Freightways and in 1959 moved the family to Anchorage, where he lived for the next 50 years. From 1964 to 1965, George served in the Alaska Legislature, after being appointed by Governor Bill Egan to fill a vacancy, and soon after was elected to the Anchorage City Council. In 1967, he ran a successful race to become Anchorage mayor, a position he would hold for 15 years. In 1975, voters approved the unification of Anchorage's city and borough governments and elected George its mayor. The creation of the Municipality of Anchorage was an incredible undertaking. As mayor, George successfully merged the duplicative departments, boards, and utilities into one government.

Statehood in 1958 brought change but it was the oil boom that provided the resources for Anchorage to blossom into a modern day city. George and his administration had a vision of what Anchorage could become and were entrusted to direct the streaming State oil revenues toward improving and enhancing the city's quality of life for its residents. George helped secure State funding for the construction of the Egan Civic and Convention Center, Loussac Library, the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, and the Sullivan Sports Arena. This moved Anchorage into being a modern and vibrant community.

George finished as Mayor of Anchorage in 1982. For the past many years since, George has remained active in the community and state boards up until his illness in 2008. Through the years he was active on the Enstar board, AWWU, state PERS board, Anchorage Senior Center Endowment, TOTE Advisory Board, Military Advisory Board, Anchorage Wellness Court Alumni Group, Alaska Heart Association, Boys and Girls Clubs, and many more. He was always willing to lend a helping hand to make Anchorage a little better for those less fortunate or in need. He had a strong faith in the Roman Catholic Church and often assisted at Mass and in the church's organizations. He was a member of the Elks Club, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Pioneers of Alaska.

George had an incredible love for the community and worked on many projects to enhance the quality of life for all who called Anchorage home. He was a true public servant and visionary who strived to make Anchorage a better community for future generations while he was mayor and during his retirement.

George was a great Alaskan. George was my friend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL W. HODES

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 6, 2009

Mr. HODES. Madam Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I missed one vote in a series of votes on Thursday, November 5, 2009. I would have voted "yea" on the following vote: H.R. 878, a resolution expressing support for the goals and ideals of National Family Literacy Day.

HONORING JOE LARSON FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVING WASHINGTON COUNTY VETERANS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 6, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joe Larson of Washington County, for the more than 30 years he has served in the Washington County Veterans Service Office. As a veterans service officer over 3 decades, Joe has surely touched the lives of thousands of returning service men and women. It's a calling that requires perseverance, diligence and passion.

As a veteran and Purple Heart recipient himself, Joe was uniquely qualified for this position. The instant bond among veterans was nurtured by Joe's experience and dedication to both his job and his fellow vets. For over 30 years, it has been his duty to file paperwork, make follow up calls and contact agencies on behalf of Minnesota's veterans. But for 30 years, Joe's calling was much higher. He was an advocate, a listener and a friend to so many veterans readjusting to life at home. His concern was genuine and his passion was unparalleled.

And so I rise today, Madam Speaker, to give thanks to and honor Joe for the difference he has made to veterans scattered throughout Minnesota. And as he looks forward to his retirement, he can move forward knowing his was a job well done. He will be very truly missed by coworkers and veterans alike.

NANCY PILVER BREAST CANCER HEROINE AWARD

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 6, 2009

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Margarita

"Maggie" Gardner of Hartford, Connecticut, to whom I was honored to present the Nancy Pilver Breast Cancer Heroine Award.

Each year, I present the Nancy Pilver Breast Cancer Heroine Award to a resident of Connecticut's First Congressional District who has displayed extraordinary dedication to the issue of breast cancer through education, prevention, treatment, and awareness. The award is named in honor of Nancy Pilver, formerly of Manchester, Connecticut, and the first recipient of the award.

In 2006, Maggie contacted my office to request assistance with her Social Security Disability Claim. Her dire needs required that her claim be expedited. Thankfully, Social Security was receptive to our request and as a result, Maggie was able to win her fight against breast cancer and carry on her life without difficult financial ramifications.

Maggie's successful fight against breast cancer has inspired her to help others battling various types of cancer. Maggie started the Gardner House, a non-profit organization with the goal of providing a one-stop center for cancer patients to receive guidance and assistance in their fight against the disease. Its mission statement is "to assist the cancer patient and their family to return to a normal, healthy and productive life in their community." Included among the Gardner House's many objectives are referrals to state and local agencies, medication expenses and general financial assistance, housing assistance, transportation to medical appointments, and counseling and emotional support groups.

Perhaps one of the Gardner House's most successful stories involved Elizabeth Hurd, Maggie's first referral. Elizabeth underwent a severe struggle with uterine cancer, and eventually overcame the disease.

During her fight she was unable to schedule a disability hearing, resulting in the loss of her apartment and rental assistance, and most of her belongings. After being placed in contact with Maggie, and through the assistance of the Gardner House and my office, she was able to schedule a disability hearing. Elizabeth, grateful for the help she received, aptly calls Maggie "her angel."

We in Connecticut's First Congressional District are extremely grateful for Maggie's extensive efforts, and she is very deserving of this year's Nancy Pilver Breast Cancer Heroine Award.

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER LYONS REMEMBERED FOR SERVICE TO COUNTRY

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 6, 2009

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize U.S. Army CWO Niall D. Lyons for his bravery and heroism while serving to protect our country's freedoms.

Chief Warrant Officer Lyons deployed from the B Company, 3rd Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment at Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia to Afghanistan. On October 26th, 2009, Chief Warrant Officer Lyons gave the ultimate sacrifice for his country along with six special operations soldiers and three

agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration when their MH-47 helicopter crashed in Badghis province in western Afghanistan. The crash happened when the soldiers and federal agents lifted off in the helicopter after an operation to disrupt arms smuggling and drug trafficking in the Darreh-ye Bum Village in Qadis District.

Being a native of Spokane, Washington, Chief Warrant Officer Lyons was an avid Seattle Seahawks football fan. He also loved the great outdoors. He enjoyed water skiing and fishing. But most of all, he loved spending time with his son, John.

Today, his family, friends, and country must say their final goodbye to Chief Warrant Officer Lyons. Although the journey will be tough for his family and friends, we know that Chief Warrant Officer Lyons will always be looking from above watching over those he loved most.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Chief Warrant Officer Lyons for fearlessly sacrificing his own life in order to protect our freedoms from the evils of terrorism. I invite my colleagues to join me in a moment of silence for Chief Warrant Officer Lyons as well as all of the men and women who lost their lives in the recent helicopter crash while serving in Afghanistan.

TRIBUTE TO FORT MYERS MAYOR JIM HUMPHREY

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 6, 2009

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of southwest Florida's hardest-working public servants, Fort Myers Mayor Jim Humphrey, who is retiring after an exceptional career.

I've known Jim for a number of years now. He's been a great friend of the Mack Family, and he was one of my earliest supporters when I first decided to run for Congress. Jim's civility and demeanor have earned him the nickname "Gentleman Jim," and I can't think of a more fitting description for a great public servant, family man, and friend.

Jim has been a strong force for the people of southwest Florida. His enthusiasm and passion for serving the community is inspiring. Jim's the type of elected official that all of us strive to be: accessible, dedicated and effective.

But perhaps the most important job Jim has ever held is that of a father and grandfather. He is so proud of his daughters and beams when he speaks about his grandchildren. Jim's family bring him his greatest joy, and this joy shines through in everything he does.

Jim has worked tirelessly to make southwest Florida a great place to live, work and visit. Under his leadership, the city of Fort Myers was designated as the Healthiest City in the Southeast in 2003 and a Preserve America Community in 2004, among other accolades. In addition, Jim has worked to obtain vital funding to preserve our community's unique treasures, such as the Edison & Ford Winter Estates and the Langford-Kingston Home.

Of course, Jim's public service does not end with his stint in the Mayor's Office. Jim has