

years, and are the proud parents of two wonderful children, their daughter Sam and son Ryan.

After five years as President, Rick recently announced that he is stepping down and becoming President Emeritus of the Ripon Society. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all that he has done for Ripon. What started out 47 years ago as a seed on the Harvard campus has become a strong and sturdy tree in Washington, DC, today.

It is a tree rooted in ideas, and one whose growth over the past 30 years would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of Rick Kessler.

I thank him for his service.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. 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. 2996, the Interior-Environment Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 2996

Account: Forest Service Land Acquisition

Legal name and address of requesting entity: The Trust for Public Land, 660 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Suite 401, Washington, DC 20003

Description of project: The Bonneville Shoreline Trail was initiated in 1990 to complete a trail corridor along the prehistoric shoreline of Lake Bonneville and along the foothills of the Wasatch mountains from Ogden to Provo. This partnership has been so successful that the communities in Cache and Box Elder counties have worked to extend the trail north. The 150-acre North Ogden property is a priority for protection by the U.S. Forest Service. The property serves as important habitat for deer and elk and as an important buffer for fire protection for the rapidly developing area along the Wasatch Front. The property also provides watershed protection for neighboring areas in addition to key recreational resources.

The North Ogden program is a partnership effort to fill in the boundaries of the national forest along the BST in North Ogden and Pleasant View. In 2005, a five-mile stretch of the BST along North Ogden and Pleasant View was secured through a trail easement along an existing utility corridor granted to the nonprofit Weber Pathways. The property available for protection this year is critical to the North Ogden program because it will bring Forest Service ownership to this stretch of the BST and add critical trail access to the citizens in this area of the state. Protection of this property will also protect beautiful views of the foothills of the Wasatch Front and Ben Lomond Peak, one of Weber County's most important landmarks, while conserving important wildlife habitat and winter range along this rapid growth area.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF CHARLES HILDEBRAND FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Charles Hildebrand, a community leader and public servant who is retiring from over thirty-five years of service with the Social Security Administration. Charles spent his career serving others, and I am proud to honor this dedication and service.

After graduating from South Carolina State College, Charles started his federal career in 1970 as a program specialist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He moved to the Social Security Administration in 1973 as a claim representative in Newark, New Jersey. From 1974 to 1977, Charles also served as the vice president of American Federation of Government Employees Local 2389.

Over the course of his career with the Social Security Administration, Charles worked as an operations supervisor, a level 2 manager, an analyst for the Georgia and North Florida area office staffs, and a level 1 manager. He graduated from the Atlanta Leadership Development Program in 1991. The SSA twice awarded him the agency's highest honor, the Commissioner's Citation.

Charles is also a community service leader. He serves as the 2009–2010 Chairman for the EscaRosa Combined Federal Campaign local agency application review committee and the non-military agencies committee. He is also chair of the North Florida E-service and Integrity/Anti Fraud cadres. As chairman of the board of the Beach Institute Historic Association, Charles oversaw the development of a low-income rehabilitation project to serve the underprivileged in our area.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize Charles Hildebrand for his service to the people of Northwest Florida. He has been a dedicated public servant for forty years. My wife Vicki and I wish all the best for Charles, his wife, Iris, and his children, Nikki and Amii, as they embark on this next endeavor in their lives.

CONGRATULATING PROFESSOR PANNING

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, I wish to congratulate SUNY Brockport Professor Anne Panning on being named the 2009 New York Professor of the Year. This is a tremendous accomplishment and the western New York community is proud to have Professor Panning as a member of our community.

After receiving her undergraduate degree from Augsburg College, Anne went on to receive her master of fine arts degree from Bowling Green State University and then her doctorate from the University of Hawaii.

She has received much praise from her students and fellow literary scholars alike. In a review for her 2007 work *Super America*, the New York Times wrote that it "radiates infectious optimism."

In addition to teaching several classes at SUNY Brockport, Anne also co-directs the Brockport Writers Forum, one of the foremost reading series in the country. The Forum has had a significant impact on the direction of Brockport's English department on both the undergraduate and graduate level, and Anne has played an integral part in the Forum's continued success along with her co-director, poet Ralph Black.

Anne has won several awards for her fiction and nonfiction writing and also for her teaching, including the Flannery O'Connor Award for short fiction, the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Lillian Fairchild Award, and now, the New York Professor of the Year.

Madam Speaker, I again wish to congratulate Professor Panning on being named the New York State Professor of the Year, and wish her much continued success.

FIRE GRANTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3791) to amend sections 33 and 34 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support for H.R. 3791, the Fire Grants Reauthorization Act of 2009, introduced by my good friend Representative HARRY MITCHELL.

H.R. 3791 will reauthorize the FIRE Grants programs—comprised of the Assistance to Firefighter Grant, AFG, program and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response, SAFER, grant program—to ensure that our local firefighters have the tools and resources they need to keep us safe and secure.

Since 2001, the Fire Grants Programs have provided more than \$5 billion in support to local fire departments across the Nation, \$190 million of which has gone to support Texas fire departments. H.R. 3791 provides a 5-year reauthorization of \$1 billion per year for the AFG and \$1.194 billion for the SAFER programs.

The AFG program was created to address concerns that local budgets were unable to handle the mounting responsibilities allocated to the fire service by providing funds to local fire departments to purchase equipment, vehicles, and training. The SAFER program assists fire departments in hiring quality personnel and ensuring that volunteers meet the required safety standards. Funding through these programs has been a valuable tool in helping local fire departments provide emergency response services to their communities.

The changes made to the AFG and SAFER programs in H.R. 3791 will improve these programs by allowing funding to be used for certain volunteer emergency medical services organizations and for building inspector certifications.

I want to thank Representative MITCHELL for his hard work in crafting this legislation which reflects bipartisan cooperation and is supported by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the National Fire Protection Association, and the Congressional Fire Services Institute.

All fire departments, including those in our congressional district in Texas, strive to provide a superior level of emergency service that continually improves the quality of life, health and safety of our residents, and I am proud to support legislation that will ensure that they can achieve those goals.

HONORING DETROIT CATHOLIC
CENTRAL COACH TONY MAGNI
AND CATHOLIC CENTRAL SHAM-
ROCKS' CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Detroit Catholic Central Coach Tony Magni and the entire Catholic Central Shamrocks' Cross Country Team on their Division 1 State Championship.

I am a proud graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School. As a student, I learned how important it was to work hard, seek out knowledge, and fight for the less fortunate. I played sports at Catholic Central, so I know how important sports are in teaching our children the importance of teamwork and motivation.

On November 7, 2009, at the Michigan International Speedway, Shamrock Ricky Galindo came in third at the race and led the Shamrocks all season. The Shamrocks suffered from several injuries early in the season, but Coach Magni never lost confidence in the team's ability to persevere in the end. Not surprisingly, Magni has won five cross country championships since 1983 and is known as an extraordinarily talented coach.

Madam Speaker, Coach Magni and the entire Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks cross country team worked tirelessly and productively to earn their state championship. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Coach Magni and the Shamrocks for reaching this milestone and recognizing the coach and team's contribution to the community and our country.

TOMPKINS LODGE OF THE FREE
AND ACCEPTED MASONS

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Tompkins Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons that is now cele-

brating its 150th anniversary. This fraternal order has had a rich and long history filled with dedication to and compassion for the people of our community.

The Tompkins Lodge's history dates as far back as the American Revolution when British officers and colonist met in the Guyon-Clark homestead in the New Dorp section of Staten Island. The War of 1812 brought a halt to Masonic activity on Staten Island but the lodge was reconvened in 1819 in the home of Vice President Daniel D. Tompkins, who also served as Grand Master of Mason of New York State. They met in various homes until 1825 when the Richmond Lodge had its first meeting on the top floor of the Nautilus Lodge.

In 1839, the anti-Masonic movement had grown in New York and many lodges around the State surrendered their charters, but the Richmond Lodge stood firm and weathered out the storm. In May 1856, the lodge moved to the room occupied by the former Richmond Lodge, where it remained until a massive fire ripped through the Tompkinsville section of Staten Island.

After many years in their location, the Tompkins Lodge moved in 1908 to their current location above the Stapleton Office of the U.S. Postal Service.

From national programs such as their hospitals and senior living homes, to their works around Staten Island, the Tompkins Lodge is at the forefront of community service on Staten Island. Throughout their long and prestigious history, the Tompkins Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons has volunteered their time and skills to the improvement of our community.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Tompkins Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons for the vigorous devotion to the people of New York's 13th Congressional District for the past 150 years.

AMB. LYNDON OLSON SPEECH—IM-
PORTANCE OF CIVILITY IN
AMERICAN LIFE AND POLITICS

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD wise words from Ambassador Lyndon Olson that we would all do well to follow.

In a time of such little civility in our public discourse, Ambassador Lyndon Olson reminds us what is best about America. It is the strength of our values, our character, and common respect for our fellow man and woman that make our nation great.

We must strive to protect and nurture those values of common respect for one another if we are to grow as a nation.

REMARKS OF AMBASSADOR LYNDON OLSON UPON ACCEPTING THE TEXAS LEGACY AWARD FROM THE CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES AT THE EIGHTH ANNUAL TEXAS LEGACY LUNCHEON NOVEMBER 12, 2009, AUSTIN, TEXAS

Thank you very much for this honor. I appreciate the kind remarks of my friend Congressman Edwards. I also appreciate the opportunity today to talk to this distinguished group about a concern of mine.

I want to talk with you about civility, both in society in general and in our politics in particular.

I encourage you to think back . . . for some of us way back . . . to those report cards we got in first grade. Most everyone had different type cards and categories, but they were pretty much variations on the same basic theme. I'm not talking about your arithmetic or reading or penmanship grades. I'm talking about the comportment column, with things such as Exercises self-control . . . respects the rights of others . . . shows kindness and consideration for others . . . indicates willingness to cooperate . . . uses handkerchief (important even before the H1N1 virus) . . . and, my favorite was usually right up at the top of that 6-week report card and it's of particular significance to our discussion . . . "Plays well with others."

We were being taught about and graded on one of the most fundamental skills of our civilization: how to get along with others. There is a reason that plays well with others was one of the first things we were taught and evaluated on. And folks, I don't think we're getting a very good grade on plays well with others these days. Many of us don't even want to play with someone we don't like or agree with.

Where did all of this come from? In the majority of my life this hasn't been the case. Those of us in this room over 40 or 50 didn't grow up in anything like this environment. We didn't live like this. Not in our communities . . . not in our politics. We lived in a political world with strong feelings and positions, yes. And we took swings at each other politically. But it didn't come down, to the moral equivalent of street brawls and knife fights. Politics has always been a contact sport, but the conflict didn't permeate every aspect of our society and rise to today's level of social and verbal hostility. It is very unhealthy. And I'm not sure what to do about it. But I know it when I see it and hear it. And I know it is time we focus as much attention on our civil behavior as we do on achieving our personal and partisan agendas. How we do that, I don't know. But I want to raise the issue, ask the questions, and encourage you all to give it your consideration as well.

We live in an era of rudeness, in society in general, in the popular culture, and in our political life. Our culture today, in fact, rewards incivility, crudeness, and cynicism. You can get on TV, get your own talk show or reality series if you out-shout and offend the other guy. Everyone screams, no one listens. We produce a lot of heat but little light. The proclivity is to demonize our opponent. People don't just disagree . . . the challenge to the other is a battle to the death. Character assassination, verbal abuse, obnoxious behavior, and an overbearing attention on scandal and titillation—all that isn't just reserved to day-time TV anymore—it's the currency of prime-time, of late night, of cable news, of the Internet, and of society in general.

What happened to us? Should this be a sign of alarm? Is the problem selfishness—we won't be denied, we must be immediately gratified? We want everything we've ever seen in the movies? How do we live and get along like our parents and their generation? They had to sacrifice. They didn't get what they wanted when they wanted it. Is today's need for instant gratification a problem?

We are more inclusive today . . . and that is a good thing—but has that good made for increased tensions?

Is it the 24-hour news cycle? The 24-hour news cycle demands instantaneous news, which feeds off of controversy, scandal, and easy answers to difficult questions. There is