

will be added to this memorial so that his legacy is properly remembered and cherished.

No words can adequately make up for the loss of a dedicated officer and devoted husband and father. But as an inscription at the Memorial reads, "It is not how these officers died that made them heroes; it is how they lived."

I thank my colleagues for this opportunity to honor to life and service of Officer Philip Davis.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF MR.
JOSE LAGOS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of humanitarian and compassionate activist, Mr. Jose Lagos. Mr. Lagos died of cancer on November 30, 2009 at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, Florida at the age of 45. My heartfelt condolences go out to his family and friends at this most difficult time.

Emigrating from his home country of Honduras, Mr. Lagos spent his life working to improve South Florida's immigration policies. He was born on April 11, 1964 in the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa, where he attended a Catholic high school. In 1985, Mr. Lagos and his family relocated to Miami where he enrolled at Miami-Dade Community College. He went on to earn an Associate's Degree in business administration. In 1990, Mr. Lagos began working on immigration issues as the executive director of an association that helped medical school graduates from other countries obtain their physician's licenses.

Mr. Lagos was a true leader and unifier. South Florida is a mosaic of different immigrant cultures and, unfortunately, many Federal immigration policies have proven to be more divisive than effective. Mr. Lagos worked to overcome these obstacles. As director of the non-profit Unidad Hondurena, Spanish for "Honduran Unity," Mr. Lagos bridged ideological gaps and created powerful synergies throughout the immigration community. He led vigorous grassroots efforts to advance the rights of fellow Hondurans and Hispanics, including protesting fee hikes for temporary work permits and citizenship applications, alerting immigrants to scams, and organizing charities. Mr. Lagos understood the power of unity and also strongly supported efforts to gain Temporary Protected Status, TPS, for Haitians.

One year ago, Mr. Lagos was diagnosed with cancer. Throughout his treatment, however, his spirit never wavered. He continued to speak on behalf of those who came to our country seeking the American dream. This past summer, Mr. Lagos exhibited his dedication and courage outside a church in Little Havana by rallying others to protest the suspension of international aid to Honduras. This is the mark of a true hero, a champion of the people.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Jose Lagos will be remembered in South Florida for his message of unity. He celebrated and embodied our great nation's rich immigrant heritage. The loss of Mr. Lagos is indeed a loss for us all, and for the battle for fair immigration reform.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2009

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, on December 10, 2009, our national debt was \$12,079,739,352,131.13.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,441,313,605,837.33 so far this year.

According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the forecast deficit for this year is \$1.6 trillion. That means that so far this year, we borrowed and spent an average \$4.4 billion a day more than we have collected, passing that debt and its interest payments to our children and all future Americans.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives market, and for other purposes:

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Chair, I rise to express my concerns over the legislation before us. H.R. 4173, The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, takes steps to address many of the problems that created our current financial crisis. However, I am alarmed at a number of provisions that weaken the bill.

The creation of a Consumer Financial Protection Agency is long overdue. Consumers need a strong advocate to protect them from the many questionable and confusing financial products offered. However, provisions put in by the banking industry to preempt meaningful state regulation threaten the strong consumer protections we are fighting for. Federal rules promulgated by this agency should set a floor of protection, not a ceiling.

Title III, pertaining to regulation of derivatives, could have been improved by amendments offered that banned certain abusive derivatives from being traded and offered better transparency to the swap market. Unfortunately, those commonsense amendments were defeated. Other amendments that created more loopholes in the derivatives markets were unfortunately included.

I was also disappointed that several amendments I cosponsored were denied an up or down vote. The Inslee/DeFazio/Hinchey "Too Big to Fail" amendment set a cap on the size of bank liabilities for financial institutions. Instead of relying on regulators to protect us from financial firms laden with risky investments, this amendment simply breaks up companies with excessive liabilities. The Hinchey/Inslee/Conyers/DeFazio/Tierney amendment

would restore key protections from the Glass Steagall Act including the separation of commercial and investment banking.

Furthermore, I opposed the Republican Motion to Recommit because it struck all financial reform from the bill, and would have ended the TARP program at the most inopportune time. I have long opposed the TARP program because it bailed out Wall Street for excessive risk taking at taxpayer expense. Now that Wall Street has been bailed out, the major problem facing Americans is rising unemployment. We should redirect the remaining TARP funds to real job creation on infrastructure because that will get people back to work quickly, rebuild critical infrastructure, and these jobs cannot be exported overseas. Wall Street got its bailout, now it's time to jumpstart American job creation.

I was a strong opponent of financial deregulation legislation in the 1990s. This undermined our financial regulators and gave Wall Street the opportunity to make the risky speculative bets that it lost big on. Reversing this trend is essential; therefore I plan to vote in favor of this legislation to move the process forward. I am eager to see what emerges from the Senate as they continue their debate on financial reform. I am hopeful that this legislation moves us back to responsible regulatory oversight. It is important that we rein in the cowboy capitalism that has too long prevailed in our financial markets.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2009

Mr. LoBIONDO. Madam Speaker, as per the requirements of the Republican Conference Rules on earmarks, I secured the following earmarks in H.R. 3288.

Requesting Member: Congressman FRANK LoBIONDO (NJ-02)

Bill Number: HR 3288

Account: Air Force, Military Construction, Air National Guard

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: 108th Air Refueling Wing

Address of Requesting Entity: McGuire AFB, NJ

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$9.7 million for construction of properly sized and adequately configured facilities to house the base engineer administrative, maintenance, and training functions, and readiness (disaster preparedness). Facilities support daily activities associated with maintaining/repairing base infrastructure and facilities for the ARW, and mobility requirements for the 108th Civil Engineering Squadron (CES) and readiness requirements.

IN HONOR OF JULIUS E. COLES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a man who, for more than 40 years, has dedicated himself to

the betterment of people from around the world.

Julius E. Coles was born in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1942. He received a B.A. from Morehouse College in 1964 and a Masters of Public Affairs from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs in 1966. Mr. Coles then began a long and impressive career with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

During his tenure with USAID, Mr. Coles served as a Mission Director in Swaziland and Senegal, as well as serving in other capacities at foreign service posts in Vietnam, Morocco, Liberia, Nepal and Washington, D.C. In recognition of his extraordinary contributions in foreign service, he received the Distinguished Career Service Award in 1995 and the Presidential Meritorious Service Award in 1983, 1984, 1985 and 1986. Mr. Coles retired from USAID in 1994, having achieved the rank of Career Minister.

These achievements alone would have constituted career full of accomplishments deserving of great pride and satisfaction. Yet for Mr. Coles, this was just the beginning of a new and exciting chapter.

From 1994 to 1997, Mr. Coles served as Director of Howard University's Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center, and, from 1997 to 2002, he was the Director of Morehouse College's Andrew Young Center for International Affairs.

In 2002, yet another opportunity arose—one that would fully utilize his expertise in foreign service and international affairs and combine that expertise with the ability to reach thousands of people suffering from hunger, HIV/AIDS and poverty. Mr. Coles became the third President of Africare.

Africare was founded in 1970 by two Americans, Dr. William O. Kirker and his wife, Barbara Kirker. Dr. and Mrs. Kirker had been working in Niger at the Maine-Soroa Hospital since 1966, and in 1970, in the midst of a devastating drought, they established Africare to provide medical services and health care to the people of Niger.

In 1971, Africare reconstituted itself, adding experts in various fields and broadening the mission to support not only health related issues, but development and relief programs in any African country and to serve as a bridge between Africans and Americans, especially Americans of African descent.

Mr. C. Payne Lucas served as the executive director and second president of Africare from 1971–2002, and, under his leadership, Africare became a well-known and highly respected organization. During the years of Mr. Lucas' presidency, Africare provided almost \$450 Million through development work including the key project areas of food, water, environment, emergency assistance and rural health initiatives. Mr. Lucas initiated a program to address HIV/AIDS in 1987. In 1998, efforts to better help Africa were categorized into four crucial programmatic focal points: (1) HIV/AIDS; (2) food security, population and the environment; (3) conflict resolution and "good governance"; and (4) computer and Internet technology transfer. Those focus areas have been maintained to the present day.

In 2002, Mr. Coles became President of Africare, promising to build on the legacy of C. Payne Lucas. In just 7 short years, Mr. Coles has taken Africare to a new level. Under his

leadership, Africare has received more than \$400 Million in new commitments, nearly doubling the total amount of development dollars generated by Africare over its 39 year history combined. Mr. Coles has added the areas of water and sanitation to the key program areas of food security and agriculture, health and HIV/AIDS and emergency and humanitarian response. Mr. Coles has opened new programs across the African continent. There are now more than 25 field offices in Africa along with offices in Paris and Ottawa as well as the Washington, D.C., headquarters.

Mr. Coles has successfully updated management practices and systems resulting in an increase in the productivity and effectiveness of Africare's programs while simultaneously reducing expenses. Today Africare spends 93 percent of every dollar on programs; only 7 percent is spent on administrative and fundraising costs. Africare has earned top ratings from Charity Navigator, The American Institute of Philanthropy and the Better Business Bureau.

Although Africa still faces many challenges and the work is not yet done, much progress has been made. While still pandemic, the HIV/AIDS infection rates have slowed and, in some areas, stabilized. Fifteen percent more Africans have access to safe drinking water over 1990 levels and the infant mortality rate has decreased 40 percent between 1960 and 2000. Programs sponsored by Africare in Microenterprise, Civil-Society Development and Governance, and Women's and Children's issues are leading the way towards a better tomorrow for all Africans.

This progress and the promise for a brighter future would not have been possible without the dedication and determination of Julius Coles and those who went before him at Africare. Mr. Coles could have retired in 1994 and enjoyed the peace and serenity of a man who had led a full professional life and who had contributed so much to humanity. But he chose to answer another calling; he chose to work towards ending the suffering of so many in a continent that is half way around the world. Because he did, thousands of lives have been saved and countless thousands more have been improved. Because he did, Africa and all Africans face a much brighter future.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing our deepest respect and appreciation to Mr. Coles for his decades of service. Julius F. Coles is a true hero who has lived up to the highest standards, fought for the survival of others and has truly made the world a better place. I also ask that my colleagues join me in wishing Mr. Coles continued happiness, success and health in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE COMPASSION AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF MS. DIANA STANLEY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Diana Stanley and to recognize her contributions in fighting homelessness in South Florida. Ms. Stanley is the

Executive Director of The Lord's Place, one of the leading homeless providers in West Palm Beach, Florida. The Lord's Place provides homeless families and individuals with a new beginning.

Beginning as a modest soup kitchen in 1979, The Lord's Place has become a place of transformation for many homeless men, women, and children in Palm Beach County over the last 30 years. In 1983, The Lord's Place expanded its services by opening its first shelter and has since opened two more shelters along with two retail stores and a retail job-training program. In 1997, The Lord's Place began a partnership with Cafe Joshua, another homeless restoration agency, to provide additional and improved services in the community. In April 2000, this collaboration led to the merger of the two organizations. The Lord's Place is dedicated to breaking the cycle of homelessness by providing innovative, compassionate, and effective services to those in need in the community.

Ms. Diana Stanley joined The Lord's Place as Executive Director in April 2007. Under her leadership, The Lord's Place created two campuses: a family campus in West Palm Beach, bringing together the Family Emergency Housing Program with the Family Permanent Program; and a men's campus in Boynton Beach, joining the day program, Operation JumpStart, with the permanent men's housing program, Joshua House.

Furthermore, Ms. Stanley enhanced the agency's internal continuum of care with two new programs. The Engagement Center provides the area homeless and near-homeless with a much needed point-of-entry to services in the community. In the first year of operation, more than 14,000 men, women, and children entered through the Engagement Center doors for a hot meal, peer mentoring, access to the resource center, and case management services in a home-like atmosphere. Additionally, the Recovery Center is an innovative new emergency housing program for single men located on the Boynton Beach property opposite Joshua House. Its innovative programming provides housing and personalized support services designed to address the issues that led to the resident's homelessness.

In 2008, Ms. Stanley was the driving force in creating The Lord's Place's Micro-Enterprise Program, comprised of Cafe Joshua Catering, Maintenance and Beyond, and The Lord's Place's new thrift shop and coffee bar, "One More Time." In 2009, the Cafe Joshua Job Training and Placement Program was born, enhancing Cafe Joshua programming. The program employs an education model that teaches the hard and soft skills necessary for successful employment. It meets the participant where they are in their process of finding a job and teaches them employable skills in a supportive environment.

Madam Speaker, I truly appreciate all the hard work that Ms. Diana Stanley does each and every single day on behalf of the less fortunate in the West Palm Beach community. Ms. Stanley has been an integral part in writing Palm Beach County's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. With her assistance, the plan was recently approved by the Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners. I greatly admire her commitment and dedication to helping the homeless get back on their feet as our nation strives to end homelessness.