

THROUGH UNITY, STRENGTH—
TRAGEDY AT TEXAS A&M

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the Texas A&M Aggies are known to boast many mottos, but a saying less famous than "Gig 'em" or "Hullabaloo" is one they lean on during times of hardship: "Through Unity, Strength." Last month, the student body was struck with another tragedy and two of Texas' warriors were taken from their families, friends and fellow students. The student body has banded together to get through this tragedy and in that unity they, once again, are finding their strength. I would like to take this opportunity to honor the two men who dedicated their lives to serving this country and whose time was cut short by a tragic accident.

On January 12th, during routine helicopter training on Texas A&M's campus, two soldiers were killed in the accidental crash. Lieutenant Zachary Cook was a recent A&M graduate and had just been commissioned as a United States Army officer. His temporary assignment was with Texas A&M's ROTC program which was holding the training demonstration for some ROTC cadets. Zachary, 22, was a former member of the Corps of Cadets Company D-1 and had just received his degree in December. There has already been an outpouring of support for this young man from A&M's student body and there will assuredly be hundreds of voices answering "Here" during roll call at the university's memorial service known as "Muster" in April.

Sergeant Charles Mitts, 42, of Spring, TX also died in the helicopter crash. Sergeant Mitts had served his country dutifully his entire adult life. After graduating from high school in Killeen, TX Charles served in both the Gulf War and Operation Iraqi Freedom. During his deployment to Iraq he served in General Petraeus' personal helicopter unit and he was currently enlisted in the Texas Army National Guard. Sergeant Mitts devoted his life to serving this country and is one of the many warriors that Texas is proud to call its own.

Madam Speaker, we honor these soldiers and their oath to serve us and protect all that we hold dear. Across the entire state Texans are honoring Sergeant Mitts, Lt. Cook and their families. As P.H. Duval Jr. put it so eloquently in his famous poem "The Last Corps Trip"—

It was Judgment Day in Aggie land
And tenseness filled the air;
All knew there was a trip at hand,
But not a soul knew where . . .
. . . And the band poured forth the anthem,
In notes both bright and clear
And ten thousand Aggie voices
Sang the song they hold so dear.
And when the band had finished,
St. Peter wiped his eyes
And said, "It's not so hard to see
They're meant for Paradise."
And the colonel of the Cadet Corps said
As he stiffly took his stand,
"It's just another Corps Trip, boys,
We'll march in behind the band.

And that's just the way it is.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of the FY 2009 Omnibus.

Requesting Member: Congressman LAMAR SMITH.

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus.

Account: Small Business Administration, Salaries and Expenses Account.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Alamo Community Colleges.

Address of Requesting Entity: 201 W. Sheridan, San Antonio, TX 78204-1429.

Description of Request: I have secured \$100,000 for the Alamo Region Energy Futures Park Center of Excellence with Alamo Community Colleges. The funding will help establish the Futures Park which will house advanced energy credit and non-credit instructions for students, education, and business and industry. The center will combine education and training with practical hands-on applied research. It is my understanding that approximately 30% of instructional costs will be reimbursed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and that scholarships will be made available through the ACCD Foundation and Alamo Workforce Board. The ACCD Foundation will also be raising funds to share in the costs of this program. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus.

Account: Airport Improvement Projects.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of San Antonio.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 839966, San Antonio, Texas 78283.

Description of Request: I have secured \$1,187,500 for the City of San Antonio's Department of Aviation. Funding would be used for Airport Improvements including: Install shoulder areas to adjoining movement area pavements; Airfield Pavement Improvements and Airfield Electrical System Upgrade. The San Antonio International Airport receives Airport Improvement Program funds allocated to major capital improvement projects such as the current runway and taxiway extension work under design. \$650,000 in airport self-generated funds will be allocated for matching. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus.

Account: DOJ; COPS Law Enforcement Technology Account.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Austin.

Address of Requesting Entity: 301 West 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

Description of Request: I have secured \$350,000 for the Austin Police Department. The funding would be used to purchase surveillance cameras and deploy them in high crimes areas in Austin. The project will provide the Austin Police Department with the capability to monitor violent crime hotspots from a central location. The City of Austin will provide the required match. I certify that neither I nor

my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus.

Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Austin, TX.

Address of Requesting Entity: 301 W. 2nd Street, 2nd Floor, Austin, Texas 78701.

Description of Request: I have secured \$300,000 for the Sanitary Sewer Overflow Prevention in Austin, TX. The funding would be used to construct a non-structural sanitary sewer overflow prevention project. It will prevent sanitary sewer overflows that threaten public health, property, surface waters and the ecologically fragile Edwards Aquifer. The project will help the City of Austin meet federal clean water mandates and it will help protect a regional aquifer that is vital to public and environmental health. It is my understanding that the City of Austin will be matching 45% of the cost of the project through the city sewer rates. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus.

Account: U.S. Department of Energy; Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy account.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Bexar County, Texas.

Address of Requesting Entity: 100 Dolorosa, San Antonio, Texas 78205.

Description of Request: I have secured \$475,750 for Bexar County. Funding would be used for materials and labor for the installation of photovoltaic panels at the new Bexar County Parking Garage for the purpose of re-charging plug-in hybrid vehicles. The project will promote the use of renewable energy while minimizing the impact of vehicle emissions. It is my understanding that Bexar County will be contributing \$326,000 towards this project. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus.

Account: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Operations & Maintenance Civil Works Projects.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, TX 76102.

Description of Request: I have secured \$3,422,000 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Canyon Lake, Texas. Funding for this project would be used for operations and maintenance in Canyon Lake, Texas and to repair conduit liner, service and emergency flood gates. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus.

Account: National Park Service—Historic Preservation Fund—Save America's Treasures.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of New Braunfels.

Address of Requesting Entity: 150 North Seguin, New Braunfels, Texas 78130.

Description of Request: I have secured \$150,000 for the Comal County Courthouse Restoration. Funding for this project will preserve and rehabilitate the historic Comal County Courthouse. The restorative work includes improving fire safety and accessibility to persons with disabilities by replacing outdated and hazardous building systems and restoring and reconstructing architectural elements that have been removed or concealed

in past remodeling efforts. This project has wide community support and it is my understanding that the County has already provided \$750,000 in funding for preliminary planning and specifications. The County and the City will continue their collaborative efforts to identify and secure funding sources to ensure the preservation and restoration of this structure. The work will lead to improved accessibility and enhancement of the facility. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus.

Account: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Investigations Civil Works Studies.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, Texas 76102.

Description of Request: I have secured \$382,000 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for funding regarding the Guadalupe and San Antonio River Basins. Funding would be used to complete the draft interim feasibility report for the Cibolo Creek IFS, complete the plan formulation phase of the Leon Creek IFS, and initiate the plan formulation phase of the Alamo Heights IFS. The partners in the projects have committed to match the federal funding at the required levels. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus.

Account: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Investigations Civil Works Studies.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, Texas 76102.

Description of Request: I have secured \$406,000 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for funding regarding the Lower Colorado River Basin. Funding would be used to complete the Williamson Creek study and continue the other Interim Feasibility Studies within the basin. It is my understanding that this project is a 50/50 match with the Lower Colorado River Authority. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus.

Account: Housing and Urban Development Department Economic Development Initiative Program.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of New Braunfels.

Address of Requesting Entity: 424 South Castell Avenue, New Braunfels, TX 78130.

Description of Request: I have secured \$142,500 for the City of New Braunfels Downtown Infrastructure Improvements. The City of New Braunfels is a Texas Main Street city and has a comprehensive Downtown Master Plan for its Central Business District. A key component is the relocation of overhead utilities to underground locations, which will facilitate other portions of the redevelopment project, including streetscaping and drainage. The City has already contributed \$111,000 to the project and has received a \$14,000 Certified Local Government Grant from the Texas Historical Commission for the preliminary planning. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus.

Account: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Investigations.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, Texas 76102.

Description of Request: I have secured \$1,264,000 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for funding regarding the Lower Colorado River Basin. Funding for this project would be used to initiate buyouts of the Timber Creek area and Onion Creek Forest/Yarrabee Bend areas, and complete the DDR and P&S for Wharton, TX. It is my understanding that as a result of a local bond referendum in 2006, the City of Austin has a 35% match for the project in hand. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus.

Account: Buses and Bus Facilities.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2910 East 5th Street, Austin, TX 78702.

Description of Request: I have secured \$2,612,500 for the Capitol Metro's Paratransit Services Vehicles. Pursuant to, and in accordance with, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Capital Metro provides door-to-door van and sedan paratransit service throughout Central Texas for persons with disabilities and senior citizens. Capital Metro will be replacing many of the vans and sedans that serve this program, as they are retired during the coming fiscal year. Central Texas' disabled population relies heavily on Capital Metro's paratransit services to provide transportation to jobs, classes and medical appointments. As many disabled veterans are returning to Central Texas following their tours of duty, our paratransit services will be required to accommodate their needs and requirements. The replacement of retired vehicles, and the expansion of the paratransit fleet, will allow Capital Metro to continue this important program. Local sales tax will provide matching funds. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus.

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)—Health Facilities and Services.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Community Health Development, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 201 South Evans, Uvalde, TX 78801.

Description of Request: I have secured \$143,000 for the Community Health Center Infrastructure Capacity Project for Real County. The funding would be used for new equipment/furnishings to strengthen capacity to continue serving Real County residents with quality health care. Successful completion of the project will enable CHDI to maintain a high level of quality care, improved staff efficiencies and, increase the number of patients served. There are no other funding sources for this project. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus.

Account: DOJ; OJP Juvenile Justice Account.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: San Antonio Fighting Back.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2803 E. Commerce St, San Antonio, TX 78203.

Description of Request: I have secured \$450,000 for San Antonio Fighting Back. The funding would be used for equipment and services to combat juvenile delinquency and victimization of children and improve the juvenile justice mission in San Antonio. Activities to be funded will be capacity building training and strategies and technical assistance that will assist faith-based and community-based organizations in organizational development, fund development, program development, financial management, communications and public relations, grant writing skills, personnel and human resources training, program evaluation, and community networking. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Account: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Construction Civil Works Projects.

Bill Number: FY 2009.

Account: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Construction Civil Works Projects.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, Texas 76102.

Description of Request: I have secured \$10,000,000 for the San Antonio Channel Improvement Project. Funding would be used to award and initiate a fully funded construction contract for Phase IIa; complete the design of Phase III; initiate 95% design of Phase IV of Mission Reach; and continue the Woodlawn Study. It is my understanding that several entities in the community are prepared to provide \$49.7 million of local funding. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus.

Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: San Antonio Water System.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2800 U.S. Hwy 281 North, San Antonio, TX 78212.

Description of Request: I have secured \$500,000 for the San Antonio Water System and Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements. The funding would be used to construct the renewal of the wastewater collection system in various areas of San Antonio, TX. The water and wastewater infrastructure of San Antonio is in continuous need of improvement. The significance of this project is to maintain safe, sanitary water and sewer systems that will not only promote and protect public health but also contribute to SAWS' robust recycled water system, which in turn leads to reductions in freshwater pumping. SAWS will provide local matching funds in the amount of 45%. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus.

Account: DOJ; OJP Juvenile Justice Account.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of New Braunfels.

Address of Requesting Entity: 424 South Castell, New Braunfels, TX 78130.

Description of Request: I have secured \$50,000 for the City of New Braunfels. The funding would be used for equipment and services to establish a Teen Court in New Braunfels. The program provides first-time juvenile misdemeanor offenders an alternative to the criminal justice system while ensuring they assume responsibility for their action. It provides a cost effective and successful means of handling minor juvenile offenders. The City of New Braunfels is prepared to provide a 20% share in the cost of the program. It is my understanding that by the second year of the program the Teen Court will be maintained fully by City funds and program fees. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus.
Account: Higher Education (includes
FIPSE).

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Trinity University.

Address of Requesting Entity: One Trinity Place, #48, San Antonio, TX 78212.

Description of Request: I have secured \$285,000 for Trinity University. The funding would be used for creating an Educators' Technology Teaching Laboratory. This facility will incorporate advanced networking, utilizing laptop PCs and easily reconfigurable furnishings enabling rapid reconfiguration targeting teachers in kindergarten through 12th grade public schools in the South Texas Region. The project is intended to demonstrate the effectiveness of this approach and to be a model of how to prepare teachers to work with technology in the classroom. The remaining funds for the project will be supplemented by Trinity University Resources. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus.

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)—Health Facilities and Services.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of the Incarnate Word.

Address of Requesting Entity: 4301 Broadway, San Antonio, TX 78209.

Description of Request: I have secured \$285,000 for the East Side Community Clinic. The funding would be used to build and establish a new health care facility that will provide vital medical services, such as pharmaceutical, nursing, and nutrition counseling, currently unavailable or inaccessible to many in the area. The East Side Community Clinic will be supported by the University of the Incarnate Word and the CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Hospital. It is my understanding that besides the requested appropriations amount, the San Antonio community, local and state foundations, and corporations will be cultivated for gifts and grants to fund this clinic. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus.

Account: ARS Building and Facilities.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Kerr Economic Development Foundation.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1700 Sidney Baker, Suite 100, Kerrville, Texas 78028.

Description of Request: I have secured \$1,957,000 for the Knipling-Bushland Laboratory in Kerr County, TX. The funding will be used to complete design and engineering for a modern laboratory for critical research to create technology and information to support the needs of APHIS/VS Fever Tick Eradication Program, the U.S. cattle industry, public health to discover new methods to control ticks biting flies of veterinary importance and ticks of medical importance. The City of Kerrville's Economic Improvement Corporation has agreed to fund carrying costs up to \$525,000 for the land purchased by the Kerr Economic Development Foundation for \$1.2 million which will be used as a location for the facility. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus.

Account: U.S. Department of Transportation/FHWA/Federal-Aid Highways, Federal Lands.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Military Transformation Task Force (MTTF) of San Antonio.

Address of Requesting Entity: 100 South Flores Street, San Antonio, TX 78283.

Description of Request: I have secured \$950,000 for the City of San Antonio's Fort Sam Houston Access: Rittiman/Harry Wurzbach Corridor Improvements. To prepare for BRAC expansion, the San Antonio-Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) coordinated a study to identify improvement alternatives to transportation systems immediately surrounding Fort Sam Houston. Funding will be used to extend, widen, and restripe Harry Wurzbach Road and Rittiman Road. State/local funds will be used as necessary to complete the system of improvements identified in the MPO Traffic Study. Recently, the City of San Antonio passed a \$550 million bond program, and there are funds dedicated to many of the transportation projects around Ft. Sam Houston. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

STATEMENT IN MEMORIAL OF OFFICER JOHN PAWLOWSKI

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, on February 13, 2009, Officer John Pawlowski, a five-year veteran of the Philadelphia Police Department, was shot and killed while responding to a report of a disturbance.

Officer Pawlowski, who was only 25, left behind a wife, Kim, with whom he was eagerly anticipating the birth of their first child in just a few months. He worked in the 35th Police District, and was known by his friends and colleagues as "a good cop."

Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter said Pawlowski was a "hero" and that his loss was "felt by all Philadelphians."

The Philadelphia Inquirer said Pawlowski "served this city with merit."

Philadelphia Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey said Pawlowski's death was "absolutely devastating to all of us."

Officer Pawlowski came from a police family. His brother, Robert, is a Corporal who works in the police radio room and his father is a retired lieutenant with the Special Victims Unit. He was a family man who considered the Police Department part of his family.

Now Officer Pawlowski joins Officer Gary Skreski, Officer Chuck Cassidy, Sergeant Stephen Liczbinski, Officer Isabel Nazario, Sergeant Patrick McDonald, and Sergeant Tim Simpson as Philadelphia Police that have been killed in the line of duty since 2006.

The sacrifices that all of these brave individuals have made to keep Philadelphia safe from criminals cannot be repaid. These guardians must be remembered and honored. They are examples for all Philadelphians and all Americans about the virtues of honor, integrity, and service.

I ask that the House of Representatives extend its condolences to Kim Pawlowski, her family, and the Philadelphia Police Department for another devastating loss.

We will never forget you, Officer John Pawlowski. Rest in peace.

HONORING THE CHELSEA LUMBER COMPANY FOR THE 2008 LARGE BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. MARK H. SCHAUER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Mr. SCHAUER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor today the Chelsea Lumber Company as they receive the 2008 Large Business Leadership Award by the Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce. Chelsea Lumber Company is one of Chelsea's oldest businesses having celebrated their 100th anniversary in May of 2008. A recent acquisition assisted with positioning Chelsea Lumber Company as southeast Michigan's largest home center with the largest inventory of any lumberyard in the region. On a local level, Chelsea Lumber Company contributes immensely to the economic impact of the City of Chelsea. Chelsea Lumber Company has been a long-time member of the Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce and their community involvement includes providing employment for many area youth and donating their materials to many local groups for projects and events. Many of their staff contributes their time serving on numerous community committees and donating their time at many Chelsea area sporting events. The owners have all remained or come back to Chelsea after college to raise their families, proving their belief in this community's values. It is with deep appreciation for their many contributions that I congratulate and commend the Chelsea Lumber Company for their faithful commitment to service and quality and wish them the best in all their future endeavors.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Bill: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Project Name: The Renaissance Pointe YMCA.

Entity: YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne.

Address: 347 W. Berry, Suite 500, Fort Wayne, IN 46802.

Amount: \$142,000.

Justification for use of Federal taxpayer dollars: This project would provide a landmark facility in a depressed area to help children and families through education, arts, and recreation programs. Similar revitalization efforts have been successful in the state of Indiana, and this project can be used as a model for revitalization in depressed areas across the United States. Federal appropriations are needed for the following reasons: (1) the high cost of preparing a Brownfield site for construction, which would not be applicable under normal circumstances; (2) those in the community directly served by this YMCA are prevented from making large contributions to this project due to socioeconomic circumstances.