

During this event, the Foundation honors distinguished Nebraskans for the impressive contributions to the State of Nebraska.

This year, Jack was selected to receive the WagonMaster Award, which recognizes citizens for their leadership in causes which benefit our state or nation, and who have set a tremendous example to others. This was an honor which was richly deserved, and I can think of no one better.

Jack's dedication to his craft, his profession, and his community truly sets the bar high for the rest of us. He will be missed, but he will continue to set an example for others to follow.

NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a minute to recognize an enduring legacy of John F. Kennedy—the Peace Corps—in recognition of its 48th anniversary this year and to commend 48 constituents from Northern Virginia currently serving in 35 countries around the world. It is an honor to represent these young people, as well as to serve with colleagues in both the House and Senate who have served our country in the enhancement of citizen diplomacy. I hope all Americans will join us in supporting and expanding this enduring commitment to convey our values as a nation.

A year ago, Fareed Zakaria wrote that after last November's election, "America will have to move on and restore its place in the world. To do this we must first tackle the consequences of our foreign policy of fear. Having spooked ourselves into believing that we have no option but to act fast, alone, unilaterally and preemptively, we have managed in six years to destroy decades of international good will, alienate allies, embolden enemies and yet solve few of the major international problems we face."

The London Financial Times last year reported that the U.S. has suffered a significant loss of power and prestige around the world in the years since the beginning of this century, limiting our ability to influence international crises, according to an annual survey from a well regarded British security think-tank. The 2007 Strategic Survey of the non-partisan International Institute for Strategic Studies picked the decline of U.S. authority as one of the most important security developments of the past year—but suggested the fading of American prestige began earlier, largely due to our failings in Iraq.

One of our most special and effective citizen agencies of public diplomacy is the Peace Corps. Think of this—more than 195,000 volunteers have served this venerable legacy of former President Kennedy, serving in 139 countries—where they bring our values to other peoples, and bring understanding and appreciation of other cultures back home.

The greatest gift of the Peace Corps and other civilian programs is not just that ordinary Americans share their values and our culture with other peoples, but also that when volunteers return, they bring greater understanding and appreciation of other cultures.

Foreign policy is not just what we do, but also who we are. America as a place has often been the great antidote to U.S. foreign policy—and it should be again. Again, as Mr. Zakaria wrote: "When American actions across the world have seemed harsh, misguided or unfair, America itself has always been open, welcoming and tolerant . . ."

At the end of the day, our openness is our greatest foreign policy. We have succeeded not because of the ingenuity of our government, but rather because of efforts like this unique program to keep ourselves open to the world—to sending our people out across the countries of the world to share our unique culture, our goods and services, our ideas and inventions, our people and cultures. This openness, this civilian diplomacy, has allowed us to make friends across boundaries. It will be central to our place as a nation in the future.

This week, as we celebrate National Peace Corps Week, we honor volunteers old and young who have served in developing countries since President Kennedy's call to service in 1961 in places as diverse as China, Mali, Azerbaijan, Macedonia, El Salvador, and Namibia. This can be lonely and demanding service, but service that can create enduring friendships and values that transcend boundaries and cultures.

Today, more than 8,000 Peace Corps volunteers around the world are currently providing training and education in 76 countries. These volunteers each donate their time and skills for over two years, in order to make a difference in the world and to promote understanding between cultures. By offering their valuable skills and showing a passion for helping others, they show the world that Americans value learning and cross-cultural exchange.

Volunteers work in areas of education, health and HIV/AIDS, business development, environment, agriculture and youth, and must often be creative and flexible when living and working in new cultures and learning new languages. The resulting experience is rewarding for all involved, and it highlights the importance of cooperation and involvement between cultures around the globe.

When volunteers return home and share their overseas experiences with their communities, the Peace Corps helps Americans as much as the people in developing countries. From recent college graduates to doctors with decades of experience, volunteers choose to use their valuable skills and education to help people all over the world, but their work affects their lives and our place in the hearts of friends around the globe long after returning home.

This week we remember the dedication and passion of Peace Corps volunteers, young and old, current and returned. We thank them for their service, and encourage more Americans to volunteer with the Peace Corps.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following infor-

mation for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009:

Requesting Member: Congressman TIM MURPHY

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

Account: Department of Justice, COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Greensburg Police Department

Address of Requesting Entity: 416 South Main Street, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, 15601
Description of Request: Appropriation in the amount of \$435,000 for the City of Greensburg Police Department Emergency Communications Interoperability System and Upgrades will allow for the purchase and installation of a dual 800 MHz Interoperable Radio System for the police department. This system will permit an upgrade of the Department's communications system and provide interoperability communications with other departments and first responders within Westmoreland County. The City of Greensburg Police Department provides dispatching service to the City of Greensburg, Southwest Greensburg, South Greensburg and Seton Hill University; therefore, this communications system is essential to allowing uninterrupted communications with all Westmoreland County Police and Fire Departments.

Requesting Member: Congressman TIM MURPHY

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

Account: Department of Justice, COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Heidelberg Police Department

Address of Requesting Entity: 1631 East Railroad Street, Carnegie, Pennsylvania, 15106

Description of Request: Appropriation in the amount of \$10,000 for Technology Upgrades and Navigational Systems. Heidelberg Borough Police Department Technology Upgrades are necessary for the purchase of shared technology, police mobile data terminals and navigational systems. These technology upgrades will allow for faster and safer response during police stops and investigation detentions. These upgrades will assist with officer safety and information sharing and bring the Department into the 21st century.

Requesting Member: Congressman TIM MURPHY

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

Account: Department of Justice, OJP, Byrne Discretionary Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Washington County District Attorney

Address of Requesting Entity: Washington County Courthouse, Washington, Pennsylvania, 15301

Description of Request: Appropriation in the amount of \$220,000 for the Washington County District Attorney's Drug Task Force Equipment and Technology Improvement Initiative. The Drug Task Force Equipment and Technology Improvement Initiative aims to benefit the Washington County District Attorney's Drug Task Force (WCDA-DTF) in their combined goal to fight the drug problems in the area. The WCDA-DTF is comprised of 45 officers, a majority of whom work for the 14 municipal police departments in the 18th Congressional District. Funding will provide the

Drug Task Force and officers with the tools to fight, neutralize, and defeat the scourge of drugs in Washington County. The equipment will help the Drug Task Force and the District Attorney's office communicate, build cases, conduct undercover surveillance, coordinate activity, observe criminal activity, and prosecute drug crime.

Requesting Member: Congressman TIM MURPHY

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

Account: Department of Justice, OJP, Juvenile Justice Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: West Jefferson Hills School District

Address of Requesting Entity: 835 Old Clairton Road, Jefferson Hills, Pennsylvania, 15025

Description of Request: Appropriation in the amount of \$500,000 for the Alternative Education Program. Funding will be used for the establishment of a District Alternative Education program that will provide quality services for students who have been identified as students "at risk" and have not been able to comply with the established rules and regulations of the traditional classroom/school. Students who attend this program will be afforded the opportunity to have access to a quality education designed to meet individual needs.

Requesting Member: Congressman TIM MURPHY

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

Account: Energy and Water, Corps of Engineers, Construction Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Locks and Dams 2, 3 and 4, Monongahela River, PA
Address of Requesting Entity: Pittsburgh District at the Wm. S. Moorehead Federal Bldg. 100 Liberty Avenue, Room 1828, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Description of Request: Appropriation in the amount of \$15,900,000 for the Lower Monongahela River Project is located in Southwestern Pennsylvania and was authorized for construction by the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1992. This project addresses the deteriorated condition of the navigation facilities along the Lower Monongahela River. The project is to build a new dam at 2 (Braddock), new locks at 4 (Charleroi) and then to remove the Locks and Dam at 3 (Elizabeth), creating a single 30 mile pool. The dam at 2 is now complete but the old dam 3 cannot be removed until the locks are completed at 4. Specific concerns were the very real risks of navigation system failure related to the poor structural condition of Locks & Dam 3, and the fact that industry must continue to rely on a single chamber at Locks 4 on the Monongahela River. Ground was broken in 1994 and the project was to be completed in 2004 or in 10 years. However, the slow pace of funding forced inefficient decisions, which now mean the best schedule for total project completion, now 2016, provided that the project continues to receive optimal funding. The funding delays created greater than normal maintenance problems. The condition and sustained operability of Locks and Dam 3, and Locks 4 is a significant and growing concern. The 100-year-old Locks and Dam 3 are among the oldest structures operating on the inland navigation system, and the most structurally deficient navigation facility on the Monongahela River. The larger locks will afford industry a 27% savings in economy

scale. The challenge is to put the Lower Monongahela River Project on an efficient funding schedule.

Requesting Member: Congressman TIM MURPHY

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

Account: Energy and Water, Corps of Engineers, Investigations Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Upper Ohio Navigation Study

Address of Requesting Entity: Pittsburgh District at the Wm. S. Moorehead Federal Bldg. 100 Liberty Avenue, Room 1828 Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Description of Request: Appropriation in the amount of \$4,015,000 for the Upper Ohio River, defined as Emsworth, Dashields, and Montgomery (EDM) Locks and Dams, is a multi-year feasibility investigation to determine the best navigation improvement project. EDM are the three oldest locks on the Ohio River navigation system. Two major problems associated with the locks are: 1) their structural condition; and 2) the lock chamber sizes are too small to efficiently accommodate modern tow configurations.

Requesting Member: Congressman TIM MURPHY

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

Account: Energy and Water, Corps of Engineers, Section 206 Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Canonsburg Lake Ecosystem Restoration

Address of Requesting Entity: Pittsburgh District at the Wm. S. Moorehead Federal Bldg. 100 Liberty Avenue, Room 1828 Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Description of Request: Appropriation in the amount of \$0 for the Canonsburg Lake Aquatic Restoration. This project will implement a Corps of Engineers Section 206 Aquatic Restoration Feasibility Study. Restoring the aquatic ecosystem of the lake that has been severely degraded by sediment deposition. Dredging the sediment from the lake is proposed to enhance the ecosystem for fish species and other aquatic life, restore adequate water levels and create additional wetlands on site.

Requesting Member: Congressman TIM MURPHY

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

Account: Interior, EPA, STAG Water & Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Borough of Dormont

Address of Requesting Entity: 1444 Hillsdale Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15216

Description of Request: Appropriation in the amount of \$138,000 for the Mattern Avenue Storm Sewer Project. The Mattern Avenue storm sewers in Dormont borough are flawed in their design and need to be replaced. Runoff from a nearby hill is not being carried into the sewer and the runoff water is lying in the basin. The original storm sewer design was flawed. During the winter months, a sheet of ice between six to twelve inches thick develops over the storm sewers and along Mattern Avenue, a high mileage road. This creates a major safety concern. In order to remedy this problem, the existing storm sewers will need to be replaced along Mattern Avenue and two additional storm sewers will need to be added at the basin. This will ensure that runoff is

being collected and carried into the storm sewers.

Requesting Member: Congressman TIM MURPHY

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

Account: Department of Transportation, Transportation, Community & System Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Allegheny County Department of Economic Development

Address of Requesting Entity: Regional Enterprise Tower, Suite 800, 425 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Description of Request: Appropriation in the amount of \$570,000 for the Grove Road Bridge Replacement. Castle Shannon Bridge over Saw Mill Run in Castle Shannon is functionally obsolete and borderline structurally deficient. The bridge is heavily travelled with a large volume of traffic daily which presents a number of safety concerns for motorists. The bridge is also a link in access to a large Port Authority Park and Ride serving the T-line.

Requesting Member: Congressman TIM MURPHY

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

Account: Department of Transportation, Transportation, Community & System Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Moon Transportation Authority

Address of Requesting Entity: 1000 Beaver Grade Road, Moon Township, PA 15108

Description of Request: Appropriation in the amount of \$95,000 for the Thorn Run Interchange Upgrade. This project will alleviate congestion, improve mobility, and protect motorists by reconfiguring and signaling the intersections at the Thorn Run Road Interchange. Currently, motorists navigate broad and un-signalized intersections with a higher than average frequency of accidents. The proposed improvements mainly consist of four traffic signals, sidewalks, roadway widening, new concrete shoulders, and a culvert extension.

Requesting Member: Congressman TIM MURPHY

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

Account: Department of Housing & Urban Development, Economic Development Initiative Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Borough of Bridgeville, PA

Address of Requesting Entity: 425 Bower Hill Road, Bridgeville, Pennsylvania, 15017

Description of Request: Appropriation in the amount of \$228,000 for the Borough of Bridgeville Streetscape Project along Washington Avenue. Funds will be used to remove and replace raised sidewalk slabs and aged trees along Washington Avenue in Bridgeville Borough. The current sidewalk slabs are raised and causing dangerous conditions for pedestrians. In addition, funds will be used to install tree gates and boxes for overall aesthetic and safety enhancements.

Requesting Member: Congressman TIM MURPHY

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

Account: Department of Housing & Urban Development, Economic Development Initiative Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Washington County Council on Economic Development

Address of Requesting Entity: 40 South Main Street, Lower Level, Washington, PA 15301

Description of Request: Appropriation in the amount of \$199,500 for the Starpointe Business Industrial Park, Washington County Council on Economic Development. Funding will be used for redevelopment of a 148-acre coal stripped site at the intersection of Routes 18 and 22. This project is the first phase of a 1,153 development in the Pittsburgh International Airport Market Area. Funding will be used to develop an additional 50 acres of the site and complete the remainder of the project. The total capital investment upon completion of this project will be \$69,000,000. In addition this project will add approximately 150 jobs to the development.

Requesting Member: Congressman TIM MURPHY

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

Account: Department of Education, Elementary & Secondary Education Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

Address of Requesting Entity: 600 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15222

Description of Request: Appropriation in the amount of \$238,000 for the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra for curriculum development. Funding will be used to partially finance the Education & Community Engagement program. Whether engaging infants and toddlers through the Early Childhood Program, performing for thousands of schoolchildren through Schooltime and Tiny Tots concerts at Heinz Hall, raising money for community projects through Community Engagement concerts or participating in other education or community projects, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO) musicians have immersed themselves in the greater Pittsburgh community. Nearly 100,000 schoolchildren, adults and seniors are reached through a broad array of programs. Education programs fill the gaps of music program budget cuts in the schools as musicians join educators and PSO staff to plan, implement and evaluate programs that target the very young through high school-aged students. Programs take place in the schools and at Heinz Hall. Community Engagement programs connect audiences throughout the Pittsburgh region with the PSO using a variety of innovative outlets. Most community Engagement concerts raise money for community causes as 100% of ticket proceeds of these performances stay in the community. In 2005–2006 over \$50,000 was raised for community projects in seven different communities.

Requesting Member: Congressman TIM MURPHY

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

Account: Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, Social Services Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: AAdvantage Foundation Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 201 South Johnson Road, Foxpointe Centre, Suite 200, North Strabane, Pennsylvania, 15342

Description of Request: Appropriation in the amount of \$95,000 for The Arc of Washington County, AAdvantage Foundation Inc. The Arc of Washington County would provide a much needed resource for individuals with disabili-

ties in Washington County, Pennsylvania. The creation of The Arc of Washington County will enable AAdvantage, as an agency, to work collaboratively with The Arc of the United States to improve systems of supports and services, to connect families, to inspire communities and to influence public policy. It is also the agency's intent that the programs established will assist in early identification of disabilities, thus decreasing the long-term dependence on national resources. The funding being requested will be used for costs associated with the development of The Arc of Washington County to assist in enhancing the health and well-being of individuals with disabilities.

Requesting Member: Congressman TIM MURPHY

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

Account: Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration, Health Facilities & Services Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Excelsa Health Westmoreland Hospital

Address of Requesting Entity: 532 West Pittsburgh Street, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, 15601

Description of Request: Appropriation in the amount of \$381,000 for facilities and equipment, Mercy Jeannette Hospital will become a campus of Excelsa Health Westmoreland Hospital, joining Excelsa Health's network of care to better serve the Western Pennsylvania community. To reflect the changes, the hospital is to be renamed Excelsa Health Westmoreland Hospital at Jeannette. To strengthen the quality of care offered in the Jeannette community and provide much needed capital for facility and equipment enhancements, Excelsa Health will invest approximately \$10 million in capital over the next five years. The federal funds asked for are just the first step in a larger project to make the facility serving Jeannette and surrounding communities viable for the future. This phase includes updating the radiology equipment, dietary, outpatient areas in addition to needed infrastructure repairs and upgrades. Excelsa Health will be doing an on-going evaluation of the kinds of services that best meet the needs of this community including the possible addition of a Federally Qualifies Health Center for this medically underserved area.

Requesting Member: Congressman TIM MURPHY

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

Account: Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration, Health Facilities & Services Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Western Pennsylvania Hospital, Forbes Regional Campus

Address of Requesting Entity: 2570 Haymaker Road, Monroeville, Pennsylvania, 15146

Description of Request: Appropriation in the amount of \$476,000 for the purchase of equipment. Funding will be used to purchase patient lifting devices to be used for patients who require assistance with mobilization. Hospital patients will benefit from this project as efforts to move a patient without adequate assistance can result in patient harm. Hospital staff will benefit from this project as improper lifting can

result in staff injuries. In the past three years the hospital has had total estimated losses of \$180,000 resulting from lifting and transfer related injuries

Requesting Member: Congressman TIM MURPHY

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

Account: Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration, Training & Employment Services Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Plumbers Local Union 27 & Steamfitters Local Union 449

Address of Requesting Entity: Plumbers Local Union 27 and the Steamfitters Local Union 449 at 1040 Montour West Industrial Park, Coraopolis, Pennsylvania, 15108 and 1517 Woodruff Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15220

Description of Request: Appropriation in the amount of \$190,000 for the Western Pennsylvania Pipe Trades Regional Training Project. The members of the Steamfitters Local Union no. 449 and the Plumbers Local Union No. 27 are professionals that work together to meet difficult schedules and solve unusual mechanical requirements and applications in today's competitive marketplace. Both unions address the need for more skilled workers by providing a comprehensive, extensive training program for those entering the pipe trades industry. The Plumbers Local Union No. 27 Apprenticeship Program focuses on teaching students about codes, drainage and water supply. This program offers training for commercial work on commercial and industrial buildings larger than three stories, including the installation of the water and gas systems in large multipurpose dwellings, such as apartment buildings or major nursing and assisted living homes. Their work in hospitals is particularly important, as they install the systems that distribute oxygen and other essential medical gases to operating, recovery and patient rooms. The Steamfitters Local Union No. 449 Apprenticeship Program focuses on areas such as refrigeration, steam heating and welding. The program offers instruction on the installation and maintenance of the pipes that carry hot water, steam, air or other liquids or gases needed for manufacturing or other industrial purposes. The Steamfitters Local 449 and The Plumbers Local 27 are feeling the pinch for more trained apprentices for the construction, high tech, and manufacturing industries in the Western Pennsylvania area. In addition, there is a shortage of proficient welders now and in the near future. Due to the decline in economy, unemployed pipe trade union workers need to be retrained in order for them to be proficient in the pipe welding and plumbing maintenance to help keep the above mentioned buildings running efficiently. In addition to retraining unemployed union workers, new apprentices need to go through the proper classes and gain the best education in order to master the required skill.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Mr. BILIRAKIS. 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 for Fiscal Year 2009.

Member requesting: Congressman Gus M. BILIRAKIS

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Name of requesting entity: Hillsborough Community College

Address of requesting entity: 39 Columbia Drive, Tampa, Florida 33606

Description: The \$200,000 will be used to help HCC obtain a state-of-the-art firearms training simulator for its Public Safety Training Center. This funding is justified because the COPS law enforcement technology program is designed to help incorporate new technology in crime-fighting efforts.

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Name of requesting entity: City of Plant City

Address of requesting entity: 502 West Reynolds Street, Plant City, Florida 33563

Description: The \$300,000 will be used to help the Plant City Police Department obtain a fully-functional mobile incident command post. This funding is justified because the COPS law enforcement technology program is designed to help incorporate new technology in crime-fighting efforts.

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: Operations and Maintenance

Name of requesting entity: Tampa Port Authority

Address of requesting entity: 1101 Channelside Drive, Tampa, Florida 33602

Description: The \$4,224,000 will be used for needed periodic dredging in the 70 miles of federal channel of Tampa Harbor. This funding is justified because of federal interests in maintaining the safety and navigability of federal waterways.

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: HRSA Health Facilities and Services

Name of requesting entity: BayCare Health System

Address of requesting entity: 16331 Bay Vista Drive, Clearwater, FL 33760

Description: The \$523,000 will be used to develop a medication point-of-entry for physicians in support of BayCare's electronic health record initiative. This funding is justified because HRSA health facility and service funds are designated for health care and construction programs to improve the delivery of health care services.

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: HRSA Health Facilities and Services

Name of requesting entity: University Community Hospital/Pepin Heart Hospital

Address of requesting entity: 3100 East Fletcher Avenue, Tampa, Florida 33613

Description: The \$238,000 will be used to obtain a magnetic navigation system to help

improve patient care, physician training, and clinical research within its cardiovascular center. This funding is justified because HRSA health facility and service funds are designated for health care and construction programs to improve the delivery of health care services.

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: HRSA Health Facilities and Services

Name of requesting entity: University of South Florida College of Education

Address of requesting entity: 4202 East Fowler Avenue, Tampa, Florida 33620

Description: The \$190,000 will be used to provide continuing education and a database for the public on available cancer clinical trials to improve patient outcomes. This funding is justified because HRSA health facility and service funds are designated for health care and construction programs to improve the delivery of health care services.

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: Economic Development Initiatives

Name of requesting entity: City of Clearwater, Florida

Address of requesting entity: 112 South Osceola Avenue, Clearwater, Florida 33756

Description: The \$237,500 will be used for infrastructure improvements to revitalize downtown Clearwater. This funding is justified because HUD economic development funds are specified to help local governments improve public infrastructure and increase economic development.

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: Transportation and Community and System Preservation

Name of requesting entity: City of Tarpon Springs, Florida

Address of requesting entity: 324 East Pine Street, Tarpon Springs, Florida 34689

Description: The \$380,000 will be used to provide street reconstruction and enhancements along Lemon Street and increase residential and commercial development. This funding is justified because Federal Highway Administration Transportation, Community, and System Preservation program is designed to provide funds to local governments to implement strategies to improve the efficiency of their transportation systems and encourage private sector development.

CARIBBEAN ECONOMIC CRISIS—IMPORTANCE OF THE UNITED STATES SUPPORT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today to acknowledge the importance of the United States' presence in the Caribbean during these difficult economic times and to enter into the record an editorial from the *Carib News* by Basil Wilson entitled "Jamaica and the World Economy."

As the world deals with the difficult economic challenges, there needs to be a renewed economic commitment to the Caribbean nations, who are also suffering from the spiraling effect of the weakened world economy.

For many years, the United States has cultivated a relationship with the Caribbean that

involved a strong history of generous remittances and a prospering reciprocal trade relationship. As a result, both the U.S. and the Caribbean have benefited.

The United States must continue to uphold strong trading ties with the Caribbean islands to make certain their Gross Domestic Product is not greatly compromised. This is also not the time to decrease our level of relief efforts in the Caribbean community. We must understand that an economic decline in the First World results in an economic catastrophe in these Caribbean areas.

As the world tries to gain control of the wavering economic calamity, let us not forget that our neighbors and friends in the Western Hemisphere are also dealing with the adverse effects of the global economy. It is especially during these times when there is a greater reliance on the Caribbean Diaspora's kindness and compassion to sustain the economic viability of their families. The U.S. government needs to be aware of the needs of the governments in the region for assistance in providing a necessary social safety net.

TRIBUTE TO HANS SMITH

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Hans Smith of Fresno, California who passed away at the age of 66 years old. Hans is survived by his wife Janet and his sons Chris and Esben along with their families.

Hans was born on February 16, 1942 in Sacramento, California to Frank and Josephine Smith. Hans grew up in Sacramento and attended local schools graduating from Sacramento High School in 1959. He next graduated from Fresno State University with a degree in Industrial Technology. Upon graduating he went to work for IBM in San Jose, California. While at Fresno State he met his future wife, Janet. Following Janet's graduation, they married and made their home in Los Gatos, California. While living in Los Gatos, Hans and Janet had their two sons, Chris and Esben. Wanting to raise their children in a less stressful environment, Hans and Janet moved to Raisin City, California in 1975. Hans became a farmer when he and Janet bought 40 acres of prunes.

Hans worked for his father-in-law, who was also a farmer, while getting his own farm started. Hans' farm was truly a family farm. Hans and his wife and sons could often be found working together in the orchard. Hans joined Sunsweet Growers in 1975. He remained a loyal Sunsweet grower for the next 33 years. Hans planted another 80 acres of prunes in 1980. When the new orchard came into production, Hans was able to stop working for his father-in-law. The farm was still a family affair with Hans and his sons taking care of most of the work.

Hans was elected to the Board of Directors of Sunsweet Growers in 1985. He served on the board for the next 23 years, until his death. Hans was a tireless promoter for the prune industry and Sunsweet in particular. He was always available to any grower who had questions about prunes. He gave help and advice to many growers when they entered into