

position UNMC Eppley Cancer Institute to be designated a National Cancer Institute (NCI) Comprehensive Cancer Center. This high distinction will allow for the most advanced patient care and research to be available in Nebraska. UNMC is the ideal institution to spearhead this database with its numerous resources, well-established statewide hospital network to collect data, a state-of-the-art cancer research team and facilities, and comprehensive database capabilities to collect and assess acquired data from this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF FORTENBERRY

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY09 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

Account: Transportation, Community, and System Preservation

Project Name: Antelope Valley Transportation Improvements

Amount: \$570,000

Name and Address of Requesting Entity: City of Lincoln located at 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Description: The City of Lincoln is committing significant resources for road and pedestrian improvements associated with Antelope Valley. Some of the important projects that remain in the \$125 million transportation component of Antelope Valley Project include: construction of 5 miles of roadway (including the Antelope Valley Parkway from 17th & Y Streets to Capital Parkway) to improve traffic in the City's central core and Northeast Lincoln; reducing through traffic congestion on the University campus and on downtown streets; eliminating two dangerous mainline at-grade rail crossings, and providing a new overpass (16th Street Overpass) to the State Fair Park, Devaney Sports Center, state military areas, and surrounding neighborhoods. The federal assistance would be used in FY 2009 on Construction of P and Q Street bridges and roadways that are over the flood control channel that is to be constructed concurrently by the Corps of Engineers.

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF FORTENBERRY

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY09 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

Account: Transportation, Community, and System Preservation

Project Name: Nebraska Highway 35

Amount: \$380,000

Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Nebraska Department of Roads located at 1500 Highway 2, Lincoln, Nebraska 68502

Description: The intent of this project in northeast Nebraska is to develop the most efficient route from Norfolk to South Sioux City. Currently, the route is comprised of several short segments of highway winding its way to the northeast. This project has significant regional and national importance. It would provide substantial safety and economic development benefits. The Nebraska Department of Roads has classified the Highway 35 project as a planned expressway.

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF FORTENBERRY

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY09 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

Account: Transportation, Community, and System Preservation

Project Name: Rulo Bridge Replacement Project

Amount: \$95,000

Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Nebraska Department of Roads located at 1500 Highway 2, Lincoln, Nebraska 68502

Description: This funding is for the Rulo Bridge project between Nebraska and Missouri. The funding would be used for the initial planning and design of a replacement bridge. The current Rulo Bridge was built in 1939 and is too narrow to handle modern-day traffic. It also has dangerous curves in both of its approaches, limiting visibility and making it difficult for safe passage of vehicles meeting each other.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I wish to pay tribute today to the University of San Diego, which celebrates its 60th anniversary this year.

The University of San Diego (USD) can trace its roots back to 1496 and the Spanish town of Alcalá de Henares, home and resting place of Saint Didacus (or San Diego). However, it was in 1949 that the Most Reverend Charles Francis Buddy, first Bishop of the Diocese of San Diego, and Reverend Mother Rosalie Clifton Hill, Vicar Superior of the U.S. Western Vicariate of the Society of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, obtained charters from the State of California to establish San Diego University and the San Diego College for Women, respectively.

The San Diego College for Women opened its doors in February 1952 with 33 students, seven faculty members and 16 courses on a campus still under construction. Shortly after, the College for Men welcomed 39 students and the School of Law enrolled a co-ed class of 30. In 1972, the two colleges and the School of Law merged to form a single, Catholic coeducational University of San Diego.

Today, the 180-acre campus enrolls nearly 7,500 undergraduate, graduate and law students and is known for its commitment to teaching, the liberal arts, the formation of values and community service. The addition of the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies now brings the university's total number of schools and colleges to six. Other academic divisions include the College of Arts and Sciences and the schools of Business Administration, Leadership and Education, Law, and Nursing and Health Science.

On May 2, 2009, USD will recognize several of its alumni by bestowing the Mother Rosalie Clifton Hill Service Award on L. Douglas Robert, the Bishop Charles Francis Buddy Humanitarian Award to Sandy M. Cassell Farrell, Zuzana Lesenarova, four-time NCAA All-American and 1999 Division I NCAA National Singles Champion of Women's Tennis, will also enter the Pagni Athletic Hall of Fame. In addition, seven outstanding alumni will receive the Author E. Hughes Career Achievement Awards in recognition of their outstanding humanitarian and professional achievements. These honorees are Heather Raffo (College of Arts & Sciences), Denise M. Boren (Hahn School of Nursing & Health Science), Judy Ann Kamanyi (Kroc School of Peace Studies), John M. Cappetta (School of Business Admin-

istration), Richard M. Bartell (School of Law), and Leona Makokis and Patricia A. Makokis (School of Leadership & Education Sciences).

Please join me, Madam Speaker, in wishing these alumni, as well as the students and administration, continued success and academic promise during USD's diamond anniversary and in the decades to come.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD A. LOWE FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE TOWN OF CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and dedicated public servant who has made an extraordinary contribution to the quality of life in his beloved hometown of Clinton, Massachusetts. Tomorrow marks the last day Donald A. Lowe will serve as Director of Community and Economic Development for the Town of Clinton. I look forward to attending a celebration in Don's honor tomorrow night at the Old Timer Restaurant so that I can personally thank and congratulate him for his remarkable service. However, I did not want to miss the opportunity to also publicly recognize this rare and special individual on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. I readily acknowledge that the tribute paid to him by this esteemed body pales in comparison to the honor he will receive just two short weeks from now as a recipient of the prestigious shillelagh award from Clinton's Leprechaun Society. Nonetheless, I am pleased to offer these remarks just the same.

Affectionately known by many of his friends, colleagues and fellow Clintonians simply as 'Donnie', this man has earned the respect and admiration of an entire community. Don's tireless devotion to improving the educational system, social services and economic vitality of this unique and wonderful town is a powerful testament to the difference one man can make. As a former member and chairman of the Clinton School Committee, Don was a forceful advocate for children insisting on nothing less than the finest facilities, best educational programs and highest academic standards. His tenure on the school committee is widely remembered for the thoughtful manner with which he approached the many challenges facing the school system at that time and the professionalism with which he discharged his duties.

Years later as Director of Community and Economic Development, Don was largely responsible for advancing Clinton's downtown revitalization through his relentless pursuit of competitive grant funding. The growth and expansion of NYPRO, Clinton's largest employer, benefited enormously from his skillful leadership. In fact, all business enterprises—large and small—found an eager and enthusiastic champion in Don Lowe these past seven years. His previous experience in the hi-tech sector brought an invaluable dimension to the role of local government in spurring economic development and job creation. Similarly, low and moderate income homeowners seeking help from the town received compassionate and capable assistance from Don. His volunteer service as a member of the board of directors for the Wachusett Health Education

Action Team (WHEAT) and his long involvement with the Clinton Exchange Club and Polish American Veterans are just a few examples of the breadth of his extraordinary civic engagement.

Madam Speaker, all of us in public life routinely rely on the advice of loyal friends and trusted advisors. I will forever be grateful to Don Lowe for his unfailing friendship and good counsel as a colleague in government throughout my career in congress. However, I am just as grateful that while he is leaving his position with the Town of Clinton, Don will remain in public service as the newly appointed Administrator for the Town of Bolton. Now more than ever, we as a nation and as a commonwealth need professionals like him in municipal government to help steer us through these uncertain economic times. Bolton will soon be in the steady hands of one of the most talented and devoted public servants I have ever known. On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I want to extend to Don and his wife, Liz, our very best wishes for continued good health, happiness and success with heartfelt appreciation for all you have accomplished for the good people of Clinton, Massachusetts. You are a credit to your family and your community and make us all very proud.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS VETERANS BRAINTRUST

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise during this Black History Month to congratulate Hons. SANFORD BISHOP, JR. (D-GA) and CHARLES RANGEL (D-NY) for joining me in convening the highly successful 20th Anniversary of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 38th Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) held in Washington, DC. The 20th anniversary celebration covered three days of activities over September 24–26, 2008, with the collaboration of the African American Civil War Museum, the Vets Group and the National Association for Black Veterans. This was an important social, psychological and political achievement for the sustained work and growth of the Veterans Braintrust over more than twenty years. During that period the Veterans Braintrust has become the institutional memory for the Congressional Black Caucus on American veterans of African descent, much like the U.S. Naval Historical Center is for the Navy, and U.S. Army Center of Military History is for the Army. Thus, can justifiably be called the pre-eminent forum for debate, or discussion for public policy issues between veterans of African descent and government officials in the country. Second, the Braintrust deserves our special admiration for being the champion of diversity and inclusion for a much broader array of WWII, Korean, Vietnam, Persian Gulf and War on Terrorism constituencies; including our African veteran allies from abroad heretofore unrecognized and unrepresented. For example, the Ethiopian delegation that at-

tended reminded us that Ethiopia fought by our side during the Korean Conflict; was the only African country never colonized, and led the way for the liberation of the rest of Africa. Equally important, the Veterans Braintrust long ago adopted the expanded definition of veteranhood to include: families and friends, in order to recognize the central importance of family and friends, particularly when any veteran goes into the hospital, and second, as an authentic voice for black veterans, their families, and communities nationwide.

Yet, no less important, the 20th Anniversary took place during two of the most challenging moments in American history—America's worse economic crisis since the Great Depression of the 20s and 30s, and the sixth year of the war on terrorism, now the second longest war in American history, in which 4,000 soldiers have been killed, 30,000 wounded, and 14,000 seriously disabled.

Hon. CHARLES RANGEL (D-NY) opened the morning tribute session of the forum, which was dedicated to recognizing the contributions of our nation's African American veterans, by briefly explaining the economic crisis and its impact on us all. He also honored our invited guest speakers Hons. NANCY PELOSI (D-CA), BOB FILNER (D-CA), and JOHN CONYERS, Jr. (D-MI).

Next he shared a small piece of his own story of returning from the Korean War (1952) as an Army Sergeant with a Bronze Star, four Battle Stars and a Purple Heart. But somehow forgot he was a high school drop-out and ended up pushing a clothing cart in New York City's garment district, before finally going to the VA to request assistance.

More importantly, he pledged his undying support for the GI Bill, because, as he put it, "the only difference between being a drop-out on Lenox Avenue and a chairman in Congress was the GI Bill!" before turning over the reins to Ron Armstead, Executive Director of the Veterans Braintrust, who has been with us since the beginning in 1988. Ron promptly began by saying "forums that begin with an invocation and end with a benediction are a blessed occasion," and invited Leon Bryant, Sr., Pastor of Capitol City SDA Church to give the invocation.

Throughout the morning session more than 250 people were on hand as we paid special tribute to the courageous African American men and increasingly women of the military who dedicate their lives to preserving our precious freedom and continuing way of life. Our special guest, Emmy award nominee Actor John Amos, called the honor roll of black military units from the segregated World War II and Korean War eras to the integrated Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq wars. Remembering their selfless service and sacrifice to national defense throughout the entire 20th century, and returning home to join the fight for equal rights.

Most importantly, we focused on the long legacy of service of those who undertake the armed defense of the sacred principles of the Constitution, Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights that all men (and now women) are created equal, have thus earned the right of every African American full citizenship through honorable military service, and as Dr. W.E.B. DuBois said in 1906, for "all true Americans." Thus Congress, the Executive Branch, states, commonwealths, territories, counties, municipalities and communities

across the land ought to be deeply indebted to these all too often forgotten warriors who fought the most bitter of ironies in America's history: for democratic ideals abroad while the practice of racial discrimination persisted at home. But as the historic inauguration of President Barack Obama proves, their hope, faith and loyalty have been vindicated.

Seated on the dais were Anthony Brown, Lt. Governor from the state of Maryland, highest ranking black elected state official to serve in Iraq; Hon. SANFORD BISHOP, JR. (D-GA), Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and I, Senior Member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Co-Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation 38th Annual Legislative Conference and Veterans Braintrust Co-Convenor; keynote speaker Secretary James Peake, MD, Department of Veterans Affairs; Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Jr., President & Founder of the Healing of the Nations Foundation of New York; special guest of honor Actor John Amos, Honorary Master Chief of the USCG and Navy, and New Jersey National Guardsman (best known for his role as Kunta Kinte on the hit CBS miniseries *Roots*, and NBC's Emmy award winning hit series, *The West Wing*, as Admiral Percy Fitzwallace, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff); Hon. Louis Stokes (D-OH) Retired Congressman and Past Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies, Past Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust and WWII veteran, and Dr. Roscoe Brown, an original Tuskegee Airman and Congressional Gold Medal Recipient.

The afternoon session consisted of a unique Stakeholders Roundtable Discussion on Veterans' Issues supported by the Hon. BOB FILNER (D-CA), Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee and his senior committee staff. The roundtable was moderated by Dr. William King, and featured the following subject matter experts and discussants: Dr. William Lawson, MD, Ph.D., Dr. Shirley Marks, MD, MPH, Dr. Lorraine Blackman, Ph.D., LCSW, Dr. Cedric Bright, MD, Dr. Reginald Wilson, Ph.D., Dr. Beverly Coleman Miller, MD, Dr. Donna Holland Barnes, Ph.D., Dr. Cheryl Royster Branker, Ed.D., Judge Robert Russell, Jr., Haywood Fennel, Sr., Sidney Lee, Maceo May, Amy Fairweather, Col. Ann Wright, USA, Ret., Sgt. Natasha McKinnon & Jason Lindsay, disabled Iraqi veterans & students at North Carolina State University; SFC Vontella Fludd, USA, Ret., Two Tour Iraqi veteran and mother of two accompanied by First Sgt. Ronnie Robinson, USA, Ret. and Local Union Vice President, American Federation of Government Employees, along with committee staff members to address a lengthy list of black veterans issues and concerns.

Additionally, special invitations were extended to the major veterans' service organizations to enhance ways of building closer relationships between them and minority veterans. Further, the VA provided us with case workers who were present to respond to questions from individuals in the audience.

The roundtable discussion opened with brief presentations on PTSD and other health related issues such as VA health disparities, disability benefits difficulties, employment concerns and/or discrimination, post secondary education challenges and other issues of particular interest to black veterans. The outcome