

services to our working families. It appropriates a total of \$496 billion for the Department of Health and Human Services, including critical support for Medicare and Medicaid. It includes \$108 billion for the Department of Agriculture, including a 15 percent increase in funding for rural development. It appropriates \$57.9 billion for Commerce, Justice, and the science agencies, including a 16 percent increase for state and local law enforcement activities. By improving support for research and development at our nation's universities, federal laboratories, and small business incubators, funding in H.R. 1105 creates jobs and contributes to U.S. competitiveness. Finally, this bill invests in energy security with a 12 percent increase in funding for renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives, which will help us reduce our dependence on foreign fuel sources.

This bill is not just about spending. H.R. 1105 also cuts and eliminates government programs that are not working, and provides accountability and oversight through improvements in regulatory agencies. In these difficult economic times, it is more important than ever that we wisely invest the tax dollars that have been entrusted to us, and this bill is a sound investment in our future.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has a solemn duty to pass a funding bill that honors the values of the American people. By addressing America's domestic needs, providing for our foreign obligations, and investing in the future, H.R. 1105 reflects these values. I support H.R. 1105, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this bill.

CONGRATULATING MR. JOHN BROGAN, RECIPIENT OF THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR 2009 FROM THE GREATER PITTSBURGH FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. John Brogan, of Exeter, Pennsylvania, who was selected by the Greater Pittsburgh Friendly Sons of St. Patrick to receive their 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Brogan graduated from Exeter High School in 1946 and joined the United States Navy where he served on a minesweeper from 1946 to 1948.

Mr. Brogan returned home following his military service to work in his father's men's clothing store, Sime Brogan's. He took over the operation of the family business in 1951 upon the death of his father. He continued to operate the business until his retirement in 1988.

Mr. Brogan is active in many organizations to which he belongs. These organizations include the Greater Pittsburgh Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, the Exeter Lions Club, the American Legion, Post 833; Italian American Association; John F. Kennedy Council No. 372, Knights of Columbus and its Fourth Degree and the Naval Mine Warfare Association.

He is a member of American Federation of Musicians, Local 140, and he is the manager and musician for the Cino Paci Band.

He is a member of St. Cecelia's Church in Exeter where he is a member of the men's club. He also sings in the church choir.

Despite his retirement, Mr. Brogan still holds two part-time jobs with the Gubbiotti Funeral Home and Cefalo and Associates Law Firm.

Mr. Brogan and his wife, Louise, have three children: Marguerita Mutarelli, John Simon and Michael; three grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Brogan on the occasion of this auspicious honor. Mr. Brogan's deep commitment to his family and his community has improved the quality of life for so many and has served as an example for others to emulate.

MILES DAVIS

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

MR. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the greatest jazz visionaries of our time, Miles Davis. Today is the 50th anniversary of his definitive album, *Kind of Blue*, and it is an occasion to recognize and celebrate his legendary mark on music. Born in 1926, Miles Davis took up the trumpet at age 13. Two years later, Davis joined the Musicians' Union and by age 19, had landed a contract with Capitol Records, playing in a combo led by alto saxophonist Charlie Parker.

Many would say that examining Miles Davis's recording career is to examine the history of jazz from the mid-'40s to early '90s. From his initial recordings, which displayed a subtle, yet challenging style of "cool jazz", Davis went on to change the course of jazz history in recording a new stylistic approach, known as modal jazz, on his 1959 album, *Kind of Blue*. This album is perhaps the most celebrated jazz album in history. It hit quadruple platinum in sales, was ranked number 12 on Rolling Stone magazine's list of the 500 greatest albums of all time, and the musicians who participated are considered among the greatest jazz artists of the last century.

Hardly content, Davis continued to experiment and innovate in producing such timeless and influential albums as *Sketches of Spain*, *E.S.P.*, *Miles Smiles* and *Nefertiti*. As music progressed throughout the decades, so did Miles Davis. In the latter half of the century, Davis expanded his repertoire to include free jazz and elements of rock music, and extended his appeal far beyond the classic jazz audience.

Miles Davis once said, "The way you change and help music is by tryin' to invent new ways to play." Indeed, Davis brought innovation to jazz for nearly fifty years and stayed at the cusp of music's evolution. Recognizing his contributions to music, Miles Davis is now a part of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the St. Louis Walk of Fame and Down Beat's Jazz Hall of Fame. Madam Speaker, for his many achievements and his lasting example to musicians worldwide, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of *Kind of Blue*, to honor and to thank Miles Davis for the legacy he has left to art.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks received as part of H.R. 1105, Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Name of the Requesting Member: LEE TERRY

The bill number: H.R. 1105, Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Project Name: Combined Sewer Separation Amount: \$650,000

The legal name and address of requesting entity: City of Omaha, Nebraska—Public Works Department 1819 Farnam Street, Omaha, NE 68183

Description of earmark: To be used for the design and construction of improvements to portions of the City's combined sewer system. These projects will allow the City of Omaha to reduce the amount of sewage overflowing to receiving streams. The Combined Sewer Overflow Controls project is consistent with the latest requirements from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) to achieve the goal of improved water quality in the United States. The NDEQ has issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) CSO Permit to the City of Omaha for its regional wastewater treatment system. A Consent Order with NDEQ requires Omaha to implement a Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) to reduce the impact of wastewater discharges on the water quality of the Missouri River and the Papillion Creek. Specific activities for 2009 include: the Webster Street storm sewer extension, a new South Omaha force main sewer, and other projects to be determined. The combined sewer system is restricted to the eastern portion of the City of Omaha and serves approximately 130,000 people. Wet weather conditions result in discharge of raw sewage into the environment and residents' basements. Upon completion, the planned projects will reduce the CSO volume to the Missouri River; improve the water quality and the community's public health. Based on critical necessity for the design and construction of the sewer overflow improvements, the City is requesting this federal funding.

Name of the Requesting Member: LEE TERRY

The bill number: H.R. 1105, Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Project Name: 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games Amount: \$238,000

The legal name and address of requesting entity: 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games 8801 F Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68127.

Description of earmark: Money to be used to assist in funding the Special Olympics' Second USA National Games in 2010. The money will be spent on logistics, security, transportation, housing and meals for athletes. The Special Olympics has previously been funded by the U.S. Congress and the nation has an

interest in developing all of our human capital, an opportunity which the Special Olympics USA National Games provides.

Name of the Requesting Member: LEE TERRY

The bill number: H.R. 1105, Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Project Name: UNMC Environmental Health Informatics Data Base

Amount: \$238,000

The legal name and address of requesting entity: UNMC 987680 Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE 68198

Description of earmark: Money will be used to create a Midwest Health Informatics database to assess environmental influences on the development of diseases by collecting health information from 50,000 Midwesterners. This database would be the first research cohort in the Midwest to study the relationship between rural populations, the environment, and disease development. This project could reveal environmental factors responsible for birth defects or lymphoma, a cancer with high incidence in Nebraska. The data will provide valuable information on the factors influencing development of deadly diseases like cancer.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO ENCOURAGE AND EXPAND THE USE OF DEPENDENT CARE FLEXIBLE SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (FSA)

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to encourage and expand the use of Dependent Care Flexible Savings Accounts (FSA).

Millions of people rely on child care to be able to work, and increasingly, to look for work, while others are responsible for older parents or disabled family members. Child and dependent care is a critical issue and a large expense for many American families.

Across the country, annual prices for full-time child and dependent care have increased dramatically. The average price for full-time care for a toddler is approximately \$7,000 according to the National Association of Child Care Resources and Referral Agencies—infants cost even more. My state of Wisconsin is among the highest, with an average cost of \$12,000. Meanwhile, the out-of-pocket cost of caring for an aging parent or spouse can easily exceed \$6,000 a year.

To lighten the financial burden for working individuals, Congress created the Dependent Care FSA. A Dependent Care FSA enables individuals to put aside a set amount of money each year to help pay for eligible dependent care expenses for children under the age of 13, or others who can be claimed as a dependent, including a parent or spouse. The money set-aside is pretax, thus reducing a person's taxable income.

My legislation will improve the Dependent Care FSA by increasing the exclusion amount to \$7,500 for families and indexing it to inflation on an annual basis. Increasing this amount to reflect the changing times will provide more financial relief to parents raising children and/or caring for adults. The legisla-

tion would also allow individuals to roll over any unused funds to the following year. Under current law, each household is permitted to set aside up to \$5,000 annually pre-taxed. The \$5,000 limit has been in effect since 1986, even though the cost of care has risen significantly since then.

I am pleased that employers are increasingly recognizing the need to address dependent care issues in the workplace by offering Dependent Care FSAs. It is my hope that Congress will raise the current Dependent Care FSA limit to better reflect the changing workforce and help individuals plan and pay for the care they need at home as they earn a living.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill.

TRIBUTE TO THE NAPLES TOASTMASTERS CLUB

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Naples Toastmasters Club upon the celebration of their 50th anniversary.

Anyone who has ever had to give a speech in front of an audience knows what a tense and sometimes nerve-racking experience it can be. Fortunately, Toastmasters International and its chapters across the globe have been helping people become more competent and comfortable in front of an audience for over 80 years.

The Naples Toastmasters Club in Naples, Florida provides a mutually supportive and positive learning environment for members to develop their communication and leadership skills. Increasingly, these skills have become vital to success in the classroom, in the workplace, and in life. Perhaps even more importantly, Toastmasters helps people increase their self-confidence and allows them to reach their professional and personal goals.

The members of the Naples Toastmasters Club are some of the most giving and productive members of our community. They continue to empower a new generation of Southwest Floridians to develop the leadership and communication skills needed to make significant contributions to our community.

Madam Speaker, the Naples Toastmasters Club's enthusiasm and passion for serving our community is inspiring, and their efforts have helped to make Southwest Florida a great place to live, work and visit. It is truly an honor and a privilege to represent the members of the Naples Toastmasters Club in the U.S. House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO THE PEACE CORPS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, congratulations to the Peace Corps and Peace Corps Volunteers as we celebrate the Peace Corps's 48th anniversary on March 1, 2009. From its beginnings under President John F. Kennedy

until now, the Peace Corps has become an enduring symbol of our nation's commitment to encourage progress, create opportunity, and expand development at the grassroots level in the developing world.

As in all things, the strength of the Peace Corps is in its people—its volunteers. Volunteers have made significant and lasting contributions around the world in agriculture, business development, education and health care.

In fact, Danny and Shirley Sherrod from my district just retired from their careers and have volunteered to spend the next two years serving as Peace Corps Volunteers in Panama. Danny and Shirley said that their conversations with other volunteers made a huge impact on their lives, so they are using this new time out of retirement to volunteer. This is but one example of the selfless dedication that people like Danny and Shirley Sherrod of Fort Worth, TX, commit to bringing to the Peace Corps and to our world.

Through Peace Corps service, volunteers worldwide learn more than 250 languages and dialects, and they receive invaluable training that enables them to succeed in different cultural settings. Returning volunteers often use these skills and experiences to pursue careers in the Federal Government and in the Foreign Service.

As Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the State-Foreign Operations, I am proud that this Subcommittee provides the funding and the resources needed to continue the good work that the Peace Corps is doing around the world.

This week, during the National Peace Corps Week, I rise to recognize the achievements of the Peace Corps and honor its Volunteers, past and present, and reaffirm our country's commitment to helping people help themselves throughout the world.

CELEBRATING THE DELAWARE AND RARITAN CANAL 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to the Delaware and Raritan Canal upon its 175th Anniversary Celebration. This year New Jersey towns and community groups along the canal will celebrate the rich contributions of the Delaware and Raritan Canal, and I wholeheartedly join them.

The Delaware and Raritan Canal, which spans more than 66 miles across the State of New Jersey, has an important place in New Jersey history, and provides scenic and recreational facilities that New Jersey families enjoy today.

In our state's early history, the Delaware and Raritan Canal provided a significant route for the movement of commerce and people. As part of the Intracoastal Waterway, the canal also played an important role of connecting towns and people from Florida to New England.

All along the route, canal boats delivered Pennsylvania anthracite coal to factories, homes, and coal yards in New Jersey, New York harbor, and points north and south. They brought farm products to market; carried store-