

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-

bought goods to residents in the interior; delivered raw materials to the factories; and distributed finished products to outlets throughout the region. Businesses along the canal included food packing companies, rubber reclaiming plants, distilleries, coal yards, quarries, lumberyards, pharmaceuticals, terra cotta, wallpaper manufacturers, farms and many more.

According to canal historians, 1866 was the canal's peak year, when almost three million tons of cargo were shipped through the waterway—more tonnage than was carried in any single year on the much longer and more famous Erie Canal.

During three wars, the Civil War, World War I and World War II, the Delaware and Raritan Canal carried men and materials between the ports of New York and Philadelphia.

In 1973, several coalitions in New Jersey sought and secured a place on the National Register of Historic Places for the Delaware and Raritan Canal. One year later, the canal became the centerpiece of the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park. Since then, the Canal Society of New Jersey and the D&R Canal Watch have worked tirelessly to preserve and protect the canal's rich history for generations to come.

Today the Delaware and Raritan Canal serves New Jerseyans as a tranquil ribbon of green, connecting our historic past with recreational opportunities that are enjoyed by so many.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND  
ACHIEVEMENTS OF ELIJAH PAT  
LARKINS

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 2009*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of my dear friend and a widely-respected leader, the Honorable Elijah Pat Larkins, who died February 14, 2009 after losing a 16-month battle with brain cancer. My thoughts and prayers are with his family at this most difficult time. I hope that Pat's family takes comfort in knowing that, in his over 66 years on this earth, he had a profound impact on those around him, making significant contributions to the lives of so many Floridians.

Pat had an affinity with South Florida that was developed over a lifetime. He was born in Pompano Beach in 1942, and graduated from Blanche Ely High School in 1960. In 1962 he left Tennessee State University without graduating to pursue a career as a housing director for the local community action agency. In 1969, he was one of only two Florida recipients of a Ford Foundation fellowship to attend the National Housing Institute in Washington, DC. He worked in Illinois for a brief period immediately following his certification by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as a housing development specialist. Returning to Florida, Pat created the Broward County Minority Builders Coalition and was a director of his own not-for-profit business, Malar Construction Inc. in Ft. Lauderdale.

Madam Speaker, Pat had a long career in public service, and it is through this aspect of his life that he has had the greatest impact on

the lives of so many in South Florida. He was the first chairperson of the City of Pompano Beach Community Development Committee. In 1982, he was the second African-American elected to the Pompano Beach City Commission. He was just the eighth African-American local elected official in Broward County and served 19 consecutive years as city commissioner. In that time, he served a record seven terms as mayor, the first African American to hold this post, and three terms as vice-mayor. He also served an unprecedented 14 consecutive years on the Broward County Planning Council and was the first African-American chair of that body. After an unsuccessful run for Broward County Commission in 2001, Pat Larkins was reelected to the Pompano Beach City Commission in 2003 where he served as vice-mayor.

I am sure that my colleagues would agree that this is a remarkable list of achievements. Importantly, however, Pat was known not only for the offices that he held but the means by which he discharged his duties in those offices. Pat was a man of uncompromising integrity. He possessed an incredible generosity of spirit, and was a mentor to those around him. Pat has been referred to as the dean of Broward black elected officials because of his remarkable leadership and role as one of the founders of that group. He knew his constituents astoundingly well, and would often complain in jest that he was going broke buying flowers for funerals.

Pat was also recognized throughout the State as a leader and spokesperson for minority involvement in government and business. During his time as mayor of Pompano Beach, the city hired the first black fire chief and first black city clerk in Broward County. Pat initiated the city ordinance to promote minority small business concerns, and along with two others, helped to create the first minority business enterprise program for Broward County government. His concern for equality had developed from an early age; as a student at Blanche Ely, where he was voted to lead his class from 5th through 12th grades, he led a student boycott of classes when an annual gathering of the county's three black high schools was canceled.

In addition to his many professional achievements, Pat Larkins took an active role in countless public service, social, and religious organizations. He was a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), served on the Broward County Boys and Girls Club corporate board, the Juvenile Justice Intensive Halfway House, and the Florida black caucus local elected officials, and was a longtime member of Hopewell Baptist Church. He was a founding member of the Urban League board, as well as a leader in the Superintendents' Commission on Public Education, National Black Mayors' Conference, and U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Madam Speaker, through all of these roles, Pat had an indelible impact on the well-being of his community. He made profound contributions in the area of housing, working tirelessly to ensure safe and adequate housing was available to all. Under his leadership, Pompano Beach recently demolished a 140-home development that had been rundown and falling apart and relocated the owners to a modern development of affordable homes on an even swap arrangement at a considerable

cost savings to the city. Over the past 5 years, he led the city in providing financial and other assistance that has resulted in the erection of more than 800 affordable multifamily units.

Madam Speaker, although Pat's life has come to an end, his legacy will live on for generations to come. He will be remembered for his patience and generosity, characteristics which enabled him to improve the lives of all those who knew him. Pat was my friend of 46 years, he was a Renaissance man and I am proud and fortunate to have known him.

CONGRATULATING JAMES J.  
KEELER, 2009 HONOREE OF THE  
SOCIETY OF THE FRIENDLY  
SONS OF ST. PATRICK OF  
LACKAWANNA COUNTY

**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 James J. Keeler, of Clarks Summit, Lackawanna County, who was selected to receive the prestigious "President's Award" from the Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Lackawanna County for the year 2009.

Mr. Keeler has proudly and successfully served the people of Lackawanna County for many years in a wide variety of ways.

He has served as administrator of the Social Security Administration. He was the first chairman of the Lackawanna County Multi-Purpose Stadium Authority. And he has been a political science instructor at Marywood University and at the University of Scranton.

A native of the City of Scranton, Mr. Keeler began his career in Harrisburg in 1969 as an assistant to then Auditor General Robert P. Casey.

He joined the Social Security Administration in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1971 as a legislative analyst and served on the task force that implemented the Supplemental Security Income, SSI, program. He also worked in Washington DC on Capitol Hill at the Congressional Research Service.

In 1976, Mr. Keeler and his wife, the former Elaine O'Malley, of Scranton, returned to Lackawanna County where they raised their three children: Jimmy, Ellen and Paul in Clarks Summit.

In 1991, Mr. Keeler was recognized by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services with a national Honor Award for an innovative outreach program that found over 200 low income aged and disabled Lackawanna County residents who were eligible for the SSI program.

Mr. Keeler is the author of "Our Team! Insights From the Publicly Owned Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Red Barons," a book based on his doctoral dissertation at the University of Southern California's School of Public Administration.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Keeler for his many years of service to the Lackawanna County community. His commitment to public service has vastly improved the quality of life for many throughout northeastern Pennsylvania and, for that, Mr. Keeler has earned our respect and admiration.