

extracurricular activities. This diverse upbringing has caught the eye of military academy leaders, as many of them now know our towns and schools by name.

Since the 1830s, Members of Congress have enjoyed meeting, talking with, and nominating those superb young people to our military academies. But how did this process evolve? In 1843, when West Point was the sole academy, Congress ratified the nominating process and became directly involved in the makeup of our military's leadership. The procedure, still used today, is a further check and balance in our democracy. It was originally designed to weaken and divide political coloration in the officer corps, provide geographical balance to our armed services, and to make the officer corps more resilient to the unfettered nepotism that had handicapped European armies.

In 1854, Representative Gerritt Smith of New York added a new component to the academy nomination process, the academy review board. This was the first time a Member of Congress appointed prominent citizens from his district to screen applicants and assist with the serious duty of nominating candidates for academy admission. Today, I am honored to continue this wise tradition in my service to the 11th Congressional District.

The Academy Review Board is composed of six local citizens, several of whom are distinguished veterans, who have shown exemplary service to New Jersey, their communities, and to the continued excellence of education in our area. Members of the board come from diverse backgrounds and professions, but they all share a common dedication that the best qualified and motivated graduates attend our academies. And, as true for most volunteer groups, their service goes largely unnoticed.

I would like to recognize these men and women and thank them publicly for participating in this important panel. Serving as board member requires hard work and an objective mind. They have the responsibility of interviewing over 50 outstanding high school seniors every year in the academy review process.

The nomination process follows a general timetable. Interested high school seniors mail personal information directly to the Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy. Information includes academic achievement, college entry test scores, and other relevant activities. At this time, they also inform my office of their desire to be nominated.

The academies then assess the applicants, rank them based on the data supplied, and return the files to my office with their notations. In late November, our Academy Review Board interviews all of the applicants over the course of 2 days. They assess a student's qualifications and analyze character, desire to serve, and other talents that may be hidden on paper.

This year the board interviewed 38 applicants. Nominations included ten to the Naval Academy, eight to the Military Academy, five to the Merchant Marine Academy, and five to the Air Force Academy; the Coast Guard Academy does not use the Congressional nomination process. The recommendations are then forwarded to the academies by January 31, where admissions staff reviewed files

and notified applicants and my office of their final decision on admittance.

As these highly motivated and talented young men and women go through the academy nominating process, never let us forget the sacrifice they are preparing to make. This holds especially true at a time when our nation is fighting the war against terrorism. The current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan serve as constant reminder that wars are fought by the young. And, while our military missions are both important and sometimes dangerous, it is reassuring to know that we continue to put America's best and brightest in command.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2009—11TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT NEW JERSEY
AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Nicholas A. Davis, Sparta, Sparta H.S.
Joseph W. Geib, Oak Ridge, Jefferson H.S.
Richard B. T. Margerison, Long Valley,
West Morris Central H.S.
Matthew D. Nafie, Basking Ridge, Ridge
H.S.

MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Ian M. Bland, Somerville, Somerville H.S.
Dalton R. Harbula, Parsippany, Parsippany
Hills H.S.
Yehudi Maldonado, Morristown, Morris-
town H.S.
Kevin M. McCormick, Lake Hopatcong,
Pope John XXIII H.S.
Ryan J. McCoy, Flanders, Roxbury H.S.
Andrew M. Seals, Long Valley, West Mor-
ris Central H.S.

MILITARY ACADEMY

Alex P. Filauero, Denville, Morristown
Beard.
John G. French, Jr., Denville, Morris
Catholic H.S.
Steven T. Godine, Whippany, Hanover
Park H.S.
Christopher A. Johnson, Chester, Home
School.
Matthew D. Parsons, Green Pond, Morris
Knolls H.S.
Stephen E. Rogacki, North Caldwell, Seton
Hall Prep.
Luke T. Suczewski, Chatham, Delbarton
School.
Russell J. Tepper, Flanders, Mt. Olive H.S.

NAVAL ACADEMY

Kristen A. Asdal, Chester, West Morris
Mendham H.S.
Zachary GP Beecher, Randolph, Randolph
H.S.
William B. Brundage, New Vernon, Pingry.
Douglas F. Chesnulovitch, Sparta, Sparta
H.S.
Aaron Z. DeWitt, Califon, West Morris
Mendham H.S.
Robert F. Eckert, Parsippany, Parsippany
H.S.
Michael C. Jones, Basking Ridge, Ridge
H.S.
Jacob B. Levin, Madison, Madison H.S.
Marykate B. Moore, Chatham, Villa Walsh
Academy.
Jack A. Morado, West Caldwell, St. Bene-
dict's Prep.

A PROCLAMATION CONGRATU-
LATING MARTHA MILLER ON
ACHIEVING HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Martha Miller will soon celebrate her 100th birthday; and

Whereas, she has been able to drive a car and maintain a home through her 97th year; and

Whereas, Martha Miller has volunteered as a poll worker through her 94th year; therefore, be it

Resolved that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Martha Miller on achieving her 100th birthday, and for her contributions to her community and country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CAN DO
BILL

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Communities in Action Neighborhood and Opportunity bill, also known as the CAN DO bill. The Department of Justice reports that, on average, 45 people are shot and killed daily in America. Annually, there are 16,000–17,000 gun deaths in America.

The Communities in Action Neighborhood Defense and Opportunity Act is a comprehensive, community-based approach designed to address the issue gun violence. The bill calls for a four-pronged strategy in addressing gun violence in our nation's most crime-infested neighborhoods, including aggressive law enforcement, increased access to mental health and psychological counseling, additional employment training and job placement, and increased educational and recreational services for at-risk youth.

Madam Speaker, the issue of gun violence affects all Americans, white, black, Latino, Native American, and Asian. And gun violence pervades in all of our communities: urban, suburban, and rural. This issue is not a black or white issue, and it is not an urban or rural issue. This is an American issue that we must address with all of the resources we have at our disposal.

The research confirms that in order to effectively combat the causes of youth gun violence, there must be a holistic approach that provides not only aggressive law enforcement, but also provides at-risk youth with constructive alternatives to their dangerous lifestyles and gives them access to critical social services and programs.

This bill is unique in that it brings together the entire community to provide alternatives to youth by establishing partnerships between public and private agencies, businesses, community-based nonprofits, churches, schools, and universities. There is an 'all hands on' approach in order to get all of the stakeholders involved and provide a comprehensive and effective strategy that families and communities can support and get behind.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the CAN DO bill and help end the destruction that is tearing apart so many of our communities. Americans of conscious must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will we say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks the Third Congressional District will receive as part of the Consolidated Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2009.

Requesting Member: Congressman ADRIAN SMITH

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Small Business Administration, Salaries and Expenses

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Nebraska Kearney

Address of Requesting Entity: 905 West 25th Street, Kearney, Nebraska, USA

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$100,000 for the University of Nebraska World Trade Center. The funding would be used to provide market research to businesses, facilitate participation in trade shows, organize trade missions, conduct international trade education for businesses, and offer business services that directly support trade for clients. This program will be a one-stop resource for businesses at various stages, from exploring opportunities to forming export and import agreements with trade partners. The Small Business Administration has recognized that support for entrepreneurship is critical to economic growth, as reflected in SBA's guiding principles of supporting entrepreneurs through a network of local resource partners and empowering the spirit of entrepreneurship in every community. This project will provide specific support for growth-oriented small businesses that need access to larger markets, a particular challenge faced in non-metropolitan areas. Because impact is closely tied to the geographic distribution of resources, this project will achieve federal interests by locating a resource partner in a critical region.

Requesting Member: Congressman ADRIAN SMITH

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Transportation and Community and Safety Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Nebraska Department of Roads

Address of Requesting Entity: 1500 Highway 2, Lincoln, Nebraska, USA

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$570,000 for a new interchange located on Interstate 80 at Cherry Avenue, which is located approximately three miles east of Kearney's only interstate exit. This project will provide efficient access from Interstate 80 to the large industrial and commercial area on the northeaster part of the city and relieve traffic congestion along 2nd Avenue. Currently, regional and national truck traffic serving these businesses must pass through the center of Kearney, causing delays and safety concerns. A new interchange and connecting roadway will encourage economic development and investment in this part of the country at a time when rural areas are experiencing difficult economic times.

Requesting Member: Congressman ADRIAN SMITH

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Transportation and Community and Safety Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Panhandle Area Development District

Address of Requesting Entity: 1432 10th Street, Gering, Nebraska, USA

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$475,000 for the Heartland Expressway Corridor Management Study. The funding would be used to prepare a corridor development and management plan for the Heartland Expressway High Priority Corridor which will update project cost estimates, schedule segment priorities, and quantify economic development benefits. The plan will include, at a minimum, a coordinated corridor development plan and schedule, including a timetable for completion of all planning and development activities, environmental reviews and permits, and construction of all segments; the results of any environmental reviews and mitigation plans; a gap analysis identifying areas that need environmental reviews; a complete and comprehensive analysis of corridor costs and benefits; a finance plan, including any innovative financing methods and a State-by-State breakdown of corridor finances; and, the identification of any impediments to the development and construction of the corridor, including any environmental, social, political and economic objections.

RECOGNIZING NEWTON-CONOVER HIGH SCHOOL'S STATE FOOTBALL TITLE

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. McHENRY. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the Red Devils of Newton-Conover High School for winning the North Carolina state football championship. The Red Devils, led by head coach Nick Bazzle, met the Tarboro Vikings in the University of North Carolina's Kenan Stadium for the state 2A title.

Roughly 5,000 fans from Catawba County traveled to Chapel Hill to cheer on the Red Devils to the school's first state football championship. The hard work and dedication that these young men have put into the Newton-Conover football program paid off with an impressive 51-28 victory in the title game.

The enthusiastic support shown by the students, Principal Kevin Campbell, and the community has made this football season a historic one for Newton-Conover High School. I commend them for their efforts—and a great victory!

EARMARK DISCLOSURE

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. COBLE. 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.

Requesting Member: Congressman HOWARD COBLE

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Burlington-Alamance County Regional Airport

Address of Requesting Entity: 3441 North Aviation Drive, Burlington, North Carolina 27215

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$855,000 for lengthening the existing runway to 6,400 feet. Specifically, funds will be used for site preparation, along with paving and airfield strengthening of a 1,500-foot runway extension to 6,400 feet. The airport is located in the heart of North Carolina's premier area of growth and development along the Interstate 40/Interstate 85 corridor between Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill and Greensboro-High Point-Winston-Salem. While completion of significant airport enhancement projects such as the installment of a High Intensity Runway Lighting System and the strengthening of the existing runway to support 120,000-pound aircraft have been successful in increasing corporate air traffic, safe operations of these aircraft are marginal on the airport's existing 5,000-foot runway. This project received \$1,000,000 in Fiscal Year 2004 and \$980,000 in Fiscal Year 2008.

Requesting Member: Congressman HOWARD COBLE

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Federal Highway Administration Transportation and Community Systems Preservation account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: North Carolina Department of Transportation

Address of Requesting Entity: North Carolina Department of Transportation, 1542 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$427,500 for the widening of SR 1306 and SR 1363 (Mebane Street) from SR 1158 to NC 54 in Burlington, North Carolina. Specifically, this project, TIP number U-3303, proposes to widen to multi-lanes SR 1306 and SR 1363 (Mebane Street) from SR 1158 (Huffman Mill Road) to NC 54 (Chapel Hill Road) in Burlington, NC. The length of the project is 2.4 miles. Right-of-way acquisition is currently underway and construction is set to begin in Fiscal Year 2009. This project has received no prior federal appropriations.

Requesting Member: Congressman HOWARD COBLE

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Federal Railroad Administration Grade Crossings on Designated High Speed Rail Corridors account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: North Carolina Department of Transportation

Address of Requesting Entity: North Carolina Department of Transportation, 1542 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$2,280,000 for the Southeast High Speed Rail (SEHSR) Corridor Initiative from Greensboro to Charlotte. The project is located on the rail corridor between Greensboro and Charlotte. Specifically, funding will be used to restore three double track sections, adding capacity, improving freight and passenger service reliability and bi-directional operation. North Carolina has invested significant funds to renovate or replace all passenger stations, improve grade crossing safety, and reduce travel time by approximately one hour to be automobile-competitive. The corridor supports