

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, every March, we celebrate women's history and we remember their struggle for justice and equality. It's an occasion on which we honor the brave women who fought to improve and re-define America.

My home state of Rhode Island has known its share of extraordinary women. From Anne Hutchinson, a religious and social activist who challenged male hegemony, to Isabelle Ahearn O'Neill, who became Rhode Island's first woman legislator, women have fought with courage and perseverance for the freedom and equality that are rightfully theirs.

In the last two years alone, we have witnessed the first female Speaker of the House of Representatives and the first major female candidate for the Presidency of the United States. In January, the first action taken by Congress and the President, was to make the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act law. This legislation brings us one step closer to making sure that our female students someday enter our workforce at a wage equal to their male counterparts. At a time when we celebrate women's achievements, we must not, however, lose sight of the work that still lies ahead. In the effort to empower women, we must continue their fight for pay equity, eliminating health disparities, and strengthening domestic violence laws.

As we look towards the challenges we face, we must not forget those that got us to where we are today, and continue to encourage and seek progress.

HONORING HOSCHTON, GEORGIA FOR SETTING THE RECORD FOR "THE MOST SCARECROWS IN ONE LOCATION"

HON. PAUL C. BROUN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues a great accomplishment that occurred in my district in the town of Hoschton, Georgia.

Hoschton, Georgia is a classic American town in Jackson County that cherishes a model American history. In 1865, the Hosch brothers founded this town on entrepreneurship and the American dream when they built the town's first store. This small town grew on these American ideals and, among other things, built two banks, a cotton gin, a cotton oil mill, and a train depot. In May 2008, the town decided to strive for yet another milestone—to set the world record for "the Most Scarecrows in One Location."

Mayor Bill Copenhaver and life-long resident Robbie Bettis co-chaired the Hoschton Fall Festival Committee that conceived of this challenge. The goal was clear. They needed four thousand scarecrows within the city limits by September 1, 2008. But these great community leaders pulled Hoschton's citizens together and surpassed their goal by 1,441

scarecrows. In less than four months, more than five thousand scarecrows were placed within the city limits. That's more than forty per day.

The Hoschton Fall Festival was then held last year on September 26 and 27 and drew more than 25,000 people who traveled far and wide to view a new World Record. It must also be noted that the other outstanding members of the Hoschton Fall Festival Committee were: Chuck Cope, Chris Hoffman, Theresa Kenerly, Leah Nelson, Nancy Rhodes, John Schulte, Richard Shepherd, Kristen Smith, Lisa Stovall, Ray Vaughn, Tom Walden, and Mark Williams. Furthermore, this great feat received state, national, and international media attention.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great American town. Its accomplishments show all of America what can be done when a dedicated community works together to meet, and in this case surpass, a stated goal.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding an earmark I received as part of the FY2009 Omnibus.

Division I: Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2009

Account: Department of Transportation, Technical Corrections

Legal Name of Entity: County of Morris
Address of Requesting Entity: 30 Schuyler Place, Morristown, New Jersey 07940

Description of Request: \$800,000 was authorized under section 1702 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (P.L. 109-59), to divert traffic from the steep grade at Schooley's Mountain Road and add roadway, construct a bridge over the Raritan River, and replace existing culverts. The technical correction will modify the current language of "Construct Long Valley Bypass," with "Planning, design, engineering, environmental analysis, acquisition of rights-of-way, and construction for the Long Valley Bypass." This is a technical correction to an existing authorization and has no budgetary impact.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1400

HON. JOHN M. MCHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, on March 9, 2009, I introduced H.R. 1400, a bill designed to further combat and reduce underage smoking. Specifically, this measure would make cigarettes and certain other tobacco products nonmailable through the United States Postal Service.

This bill is necessary because the United States Postal Service is being used to facilitate the delivery of cigarettes that were pur-

chased illegally on the Internet by underage minors. Unfortunately, those existing safeguards designed to prevent minors from purchasing cigarettes online have proven ineffective. For example, although 80 percent of cigarette vendor websites allege that transactions with minors will not be completed, there is little in place to enforce this policy. In fact, one study found that only seven percent of online vendors require driver's license information, while more than 50 percent simply require customers to verify their age by selecting an "I am over 18 years old" option. These and other safeguards clearly did not deter the 50,000 minors estimated, based on U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data, to have purchased cigarettes online in 2003. As Internet commerce expands, the number of persons (including minors) purchasing cigarettes online is expected to increase dramatically.

The problem H.R. 1400 is designed to address is illustrated by the disturbing results from Internet "sting" operations conducted by over 15 states in recent years. In New York State, 24 out of 26 websites sold cigarettes to minors as young as nine years old. Moreover, in 2005, a group of Upstate New York teenagers in my Congressional District conducted a similar experiment in collaboration with law enforcement. Half of their orders were successfully delivered, and, unfortunately, 90 percent were delivered via the United States Postal Service.

In addition to helping curb the usage of tobacco products among minors, H.R. 1400 would end tax evasions that hurt our States and local governments. These revenues are not insignificant. Rather, annual tax revenues estimated at \$1.4 billion are being lost; in 2005, New York State alone lost \$400 million.

Madam Speaker, Congress has the opportunity to combat underage tobacco use and tax evasion by enacting H.R. 1400. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to work with me to enact this important measure.

COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF SOMERSET COUNTY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month, and I would like to congratulate a number of outstanding women who will be recognized at the Somerset County's Commission on the Status of Women awards in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

The Commission presents awards annually in celebration of National Women's History Month in March. This year there are 17 women being honored, including entrepreneurs, educators and hometown heroes whose community service is considered extraordinary.

This year's Entrepreneur Award winner is Lisa Kent of Hillsborough. She is the founder and president of the Luminations Group, a strategy and innovation firm.

The company began as a nonprofit enterprise that helped Hillsborough retailers and businesses develop marketing plans and materials. Today, the company includes eight female principals with more than 100 years of

combined marketing and general-management experience, and serves large brands and entrepreneurial endeavors. Lisa's company takes on pro-bono projects through Luminations' "Charity of Choice" program.

She co-chairs the Hebrew Education Committee at Congregation Kehilat Shalom in Hillsborough and volunteers with the Central Jersey MS Society.

I am pleased to congratulate Lisa Kent for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

IN RECOGNITION OF GENE MARIE
O'CONNELL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, for more than a decade, Gene Marie O'Connell has faithfully served the city we share as CEO of San Francisco General Hospital, the city's primary safety-net hospital. Under her skilled and passionate leadership, San Francisco General achieved designation as a level one trauma center, the only one of its kind serving San Francisco and northern San Mateo County. Additionally, the hospital received the notable distinction of "certified stroke center" and has been deemed "baby friendly" by the World Health Organization—the only health care facility in the Bay Area with that designation.

Gene Marie's own accomplishments are nearly as impressive as those of the hospital she serves so well. In 2007 she was named chair of the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems, an organization that represents more than 100 health systems nationwide. Ever cognizant of the needs of public hospitals and those they serve, Gene Marie made it a priority for the organization to improve the quality of patient care and to secure adequate Medicare and Medicaid funding.

Gene Marie has further devoted her time and talents to the medical field as a board member of the National Public Health & Hospital Institute, the branch that handles the national association's research initiatives. Her achievements attest to her steadfast devotion to providing exceptional medical care and treatment while seeking solutions to the field's most pressing issues.

As we both know, Madam Speaker, healthcare is an ever-changing arena. Despite this, Gene Marie's tireless dedication to the field and her genuine desire to positively impact the lives of those in need has remained constant. Such attributes attest to the magnitude of her influence on patients, co-workers, and members of the medical community who have benefited from her devoted care and faithful service.

Bolstering a personal philosophy that emphasizes the importance of compassion and support, Gene Marie has proved indispensable in all the positions she has held. Prior to her post as CEO of San Francisco General, she served as the hospital's chief operating officer, the senior associate administrator for clinical services, the director of emergency services, and the director of staff development, research, quality assurance, and discharge plan-

ning. The incredible breadth of her experience in the medical field also includes time spent as the director of patient care services at the Department of Public Health's Community Health Network.

Madam Speaker, the astounding accomplishments of Gene Marie O'Connell make us all proud. Through her leadership, San Francisco General has risen to the top of public hospitals and her initiatives guarantee that it will continue to be an innovative and compassionate member of our community. She has left an indelible mark on the hospital and all those it serves and her efforts ensure its persistent growth and prominence. Our community owes her a debt of gratitude and special thanks go to her supportive husband, Joel Hurwitz, and children, Tanya and Thorin, for sharing this very special woman with all of us.

SUPPORTING THE EMPLOYEE
FREE CHOICE ACT OF 2009

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Employee Free Choice Act of 2009, which my good friend GEORGE MILLER has reintroduced today.

Passage of the Employee Free Choice Act is long overdue. Middle-class Americans are the backbone of the economy, and yet they took a back seat to corporate giants over the past eight years. The previous Administration decided to protect big business at the expense of their employees, and corporate profits ballooned while real worker wages stagnated or even declined.

Right now, employers can use coercive tactics in the run-up to an employer-forced election even when a majority of workers want to form a union, they can stall indefinitely during contract negotiations, and they can engage in illegal labor practices and receive only a slap on the wrist. American workers deserve better.

The Employee Free Choice Act levels the playing field between employees and employers by allowing workers to decide whether to hold a NLRB election or instead show that a majority of workers support unionization. The Act prevents employers from stonewalling and makes it easier for employees to reach a collective bargaining agreement. Finally, the Employee Free Choice Act stiffens penalties against employers who violate the law.

The current economic recession makes passage of the Employee Free Choice Act even more important. Workers with higher wages will stimulate the economy, spur investment, and get America back on the road to prosperity. That's why I'm proud to be a co-sponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act of 2009, and why I urge all of my colleagues to support this vital piece of legislation. It's time to recognize and support American workers instead of leaving them behind.

IN SUPPORT OF SMALL,
MINORITY-OWNED BANKS

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, on behalf of Congressman AL GREEN and myself, I wish to submit copies of letters sent by the Greenling Institute of Berkeley, California, and by the National Bankers Association, which highlight the need for small banks, including minority owned banks that work with the inner city communities, to receive some of the federal Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) monies that are being distributed largely to the national financial institutions. While AIG, Citibank, JPMorganChase and others are receiving billions of dollars in aid, the opportunity to save a minority bank, OneUnited, with twelve million dollars is not only right and justified, it is essential. It is these small banks, typified by OneUnited that are vital to the communities we represent.

We commend the actions taken by Representative FRANK in urging the Department of the Treasury to notice and come to the aid of OneUnited. It is not a coincidence that so much attention has been devoted to what is a relatively small amount of money in the context of the hundreds of billions of dollars that have been distributed. OneUnited has been a profitable bank for every quarter for the last ten years, but had its capital wiped out when Fannie and Freddie preferred shares were deemed valueless due to the takeover of Fannie and Freddie by the Federal government. The preferred stock of Fannie and Freddie were always highly recommended investments and, in the case of OneUnited, a Community Development Finance Institution, these investments fit the mission of the bank. Before any TARP money was invested, OneUnited first received an investment of \$17 million dollars of additional private capital. This bank, like others, is trying to cope in this new financial world. We see every reason that minority banks are worthy of federal assistance and should be treated with the same care that the larger, and I might add, more irresponsible and careless banks have been treated by the Federal Government.

Again, Madam Speaker, Congressman GREEN and I applaud the actions taken by our colleague, Chairman FRANK in support of OneUnited a small minority owned bank. We encourage the Treasury Department and the federal financial regulators to treat all stressed financial institutions fairly regarding usage of the TARP funds during this very difficult financial situation.

THE GREENLINING INSTITUTE,

Berkeley, CA, January 26, 2009.

One united and creating equal opportunities for minority-owned banks under TARP.

Congressman BARNEY FRANK,

Rayburn H.O.B.,

Washington, DC.

DEAR BARNEY, Greenling Institute met with the Federal Reserve, OCC and FDIC on November 17th and 18th to, in part, formally complain that none of the fifty-two Latino or African American-owned banks, as of early November, had received any bailout funds. We contended that many were better equipped than Citigroup, for example, to assist Main St. borrowers but lack the clout to advance their interests.