

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker:
Requesting Member: Representative ADAM H. PUTNAM

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009

Account: FY09 Financial Services appropriations bill, Small Business Account

Project Funding Amount: \$298,257

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Florida Department of Citrus

Address of Requesting Entity: Post Office Box 148, Lakeland, FL 33802

Description of Request: In order for small business citrus operations to remain viable in an ever competitive marketplace and lessen their reliance on manual labor, an effective mechanical harvesting technology must be developed. These small business operations are currently at competitive disadvantage, as they are one of the last sectors for which mechanization has become an effective alternative. Such technology is critical for the future economic survival of Florida's small business-run citrus operations.

For this reason, funding is sought for the benefit of citrus small business operators, directed to the Florida Department of Citrus, to continue completion of the development of a mechanical harvesting abscission compound, through the FY2009 Financial Services and General Government appropriations bill.

COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF SOMERSET COUNTY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 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 Public Service Award winner is Pamela Ely of Bridgewater. She is a founding member of the Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity.

Pamela served on the organization's board of trustees for three years and as president for three years.

She has been the organization's executive director for the past decade, and has made substantial contributions to the organization's growth and success.

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

EL SALVADOR ELECTIONS

HON. PAUL C. BROUN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, El Salvador is a good friend and ally of the United States. After we suffered the attacks of 9–11, most Salvadorans kept us in their prayers . . . But one group felt differently.

The Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), an extreme left-wing party, issued a communiqué that the U.S., for its policies, was itself to blame for being attacked. The U.S. Embassy publicly denounced the FMLN's declaration.

Four days after 9/11, the FMLN had a march in their capital city to celebrate the attack by Al-Qaeda and to burn the American flag. The leader of that march was Salvador Sanchez Ceren, who today is the FMLN's candidate for Vice President. The FMLN political party in El Salvador supports designated terrorist organizations, such as the FARC and State Sponsors of Terror, such as Iran and Cuba.

The FMLN has a long history of hostility towards us. If the FMLN should take power in El Salvador, it will be urgent for Congress to review our policies in order to assure the national security of the United States. Under current law, the election of a pro-terrorism party in El Salvador would have real consequences. Since the 9/11 attacks, the U.S. has enacted stronger tools to fight terrorism and those who funnel money to support it.

I want to make clear that these actions would not be punitive; they are not meant to chastise Salvadorans, but the U.S. will not aid sponsors of terrorism. We have an obligation to protect the U.S. and our citizens against those seeking to do us harm.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF UNITED STATES MARINE CORPORAL JAVIER ALVA-REZ

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize former United States Marine Corporal Javier Alvarez, who January of this year was awarded the Silver Star for his gallantry in Iraq.

As a Squad Leader with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit near New Ubaydi, Iraq, Corporal Alvarez joined other U.S. and Coalition forces attempting to stem the flow of foreign fighters and insurgents in Operation STEEL CURTAIN. Corporal Alvarez and his platoon were attacked by frontal and flanking fire from four, well-fortified enemy positions.

Braving certain peril, Corporal Alvarez courageously led his squad one-hundred meters through withering automatic weapons fire to reinforce his Platoon Commander and other Marines. Although wounded, Corporal Alvarez continued to lead his Marines in close combat with the enemy, while aiding in the evacuation of other Marines. While reloading his weapon, an enemy grenade was thrown in the midst of

Corporal Alvarez and his squad. Selflessly and without regard to his own well being, he grabbed the grenade and began to throw it back at the enemy when it detonated.

Severely injured by the blast, Corporal Alvarez was evacuated by his Platoon Sergeant. His valiant efforts and those of his fellow Marines resulted in the deaths of 18 enemy insurgents and undoubtedly saved the lives of numerous Marines and Sailors.

His citation reads in part, "Corporal Alvarez's indomitable spirit, dauntless initiative and heroism were an inspiration to those with whom he served. By his outstanding display of decisive leadership, unlimited courage in the face of heavy enemy fire, and total devotion to duty, Corporal Alvarez reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service."

Our Nation owes him a debt of gratitude and remembers his fellow Marines, Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen who have paid the ultimate price in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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This year's Management Award winner is Nandita Kamdar of Branchburg. She is currently vice president at Paulus, Sokolowski & Sartor in Warren and in charge of the mechanical-engineering department.

Nandita earned her MBA in management from Rutgers. She holds multiple engineering licenses in New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania and California.

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

MAKE HEALTH CARE A PRIORITY

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, yesterday, the New Democrat Coalition including myself met with President Obama at the White House to discuss legislative strategy including the looming crisis of health care.

Missourians I represent expect their leaders to talk straight and provide common-sense solutions. President Obama and the new Congress have been doing just that. This year we

have sought solutions to cover the more than 47 million Americans without health care.

Already this year we have dramatically increased health care coverage for low-income and uninsured children.

We've also modernized the health care system to lower costs and save lives by investing in Health Information Technology systems.

It is reassuring to see that the President's budget puts aside more than \$630 billion over the next 10 years to reform health care, reduce Medicare overpayments to private insurers, and reduce drug prices. By tackling this issue we can rein in the high costs that are a drag on the entire economy.

The commitment by the New Dems and President Obama to health care is working to not only do the right thing but to ensure America and its children remain competitive in today's global economy.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S EXECUTIVE ORDER ON STEM CELL RESEARCH

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, this Tuesday marked an historic day for science and medical research efforts across our country as President Obama lifted the ban on federally funded stem cell research enacted in 2001. With this executive order, the President has restored the federal government's commitment to funding promising medical research with the potential to treat and cure some of the most debilitating human diseases.

One of the great promises of stem cells is their potential for use in developing new therapies for life altering diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and Parkinson's. Stem cell research offers the hope of a better life to millions of Americans, and by supporting this research we will open the door for groundbreaking discoveries at research facilities like Scripps Florida. The President has been clear that stem cell research in this country will not be undertaken lightly, and will only be conducted in the most responsible, ethical manner possible, with strict guidelines to prevent misuse and abuse.

Funding stem cell research is also a great investment in our future, not only from a personal health standpoint but from an economical and cost-efficiency perspective. Finding cures and therapies may reduce the cost of hospitalization and other expensive components of our health care system. By increasing our investment in stem cell research, we can also retain and attract some of the best and brightest scientists that have, up to now, been stifled by restrictions on which stem cell lines they may use for their research. The United States has always been a world leader in science and technology, and with this ban lifted, we can once again conduct the most cutting-edge research right here in the U.S. that will bring the next big breakthroughs in the world of medicine.

From juvenile diabetes to paralysis, the potential of stem cell research in all of its forms presents one of humanity's greatest leaps toward the ultimate goal of preserving, prolonging and improving the quality of our lives. As a strong advocate of this research, I com-

mend the President for his commitment to funding comprehensive stem cell research in the United States.

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This year's Business Award winner is Ann Minzner Conley, the vice president of Loss Control Services for Chubb Commercial Insurance.

Ann is the company's executive-liability specialist. She mentors young adults considering careers in science and engineering, and also coaches youth soccer and plays on the Basking Ridge Mavericks women's soccer team.

I am pleased to congratulate Ann Minzner Conley on her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD M. SCHOELL

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Richard M. Schoell, Executive Director of the Office of Governmental Relations at the University of Illinois. Rick recently announced his retirement from the University after spending 22 years of dedicated time and effort ensuring that the University of Illinois remains one of the premier research institutions in the world.

I have known Rick for every one of those 22 years through my time as a State Representative in Illinois and as a Member of Congress, where I have been honored to be able to represent the University of Illinois' campus at Urbana-Champaign. His work ethic, dedication, and professionalism have been a reflection of his overall character and he will be sorely missed, not only on campus, but in my office as well.

Rick, I wish you nothing but the best in your future endeavors. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with you these past 22 years.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN MARVIN WESTBERG

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. COFFMAN. Madam Speaker, last Friday, at Ft. Logan National Cemetery in Colorado, Captain Marvin Westberg was laid to his rest with full honors. He passed away February 18 at the age of 87.

Captain Westberg attended what is now the University of Northern Colorado, in Greeley. He then joined the United States Navy, spending 22 years on active duty. He served in both WWII and the Korea War. After retiring from the United States Navy in 1964, he started a second long career with United Airlines.

I have spoken to Marv on several occasions. Among the best stories he told was about one instance when he was training a young pilot to fly. Marv fired up his trademark pipe in the cockpit and gave the trainee a command, to which the trainee replied, "Can't see sir, too much smoke, sir!" Marv never forgot that the trainee was the elder George Bush. Marv also witnessed the surrender of Japan from his ship, anchored next to the USS *Missouri* in Tokyo harbor, on September 2, 1945.

Madam Speaker, our nation and our liberties are built from the service of men and women like Captain Marvin Westberg. He contributed his talents and abilities to our national defense, to our nation's economy, to our political system, and to the life of his friends and neighbors. I just wanted to take a small moment to recognize his service, and his career.

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This year's Journalism Award winner is Alice Steinbacher of Bernardsville, where she is an accomplished writer.

Alice began her career in marketing, radio, advertising, public relations and publishing in 1970 as marketing assistant at John Blair and Co. in New York City.

In 1979, she opened her own agency, Steinbacher Advertising.

She published Renaissance Morristown. Alice edits and publishes Chapter II for the seniors of the Somerset Hills.

I am pleased to congratulate Alice Steinbacher for her outstanding efforts and