

the National Academy of Engineering to examine the policies and procedures for ensuring the oil and gas from federal lands is appropriately measured for the purposes of paying royalties.

The bill has two components. The first calls on the National Academy of Engineering to study specific ways to improve the accuracy of the collection of royalties on oil and natural gas from Federal and Tribal lands. The study is needed because current methods used in the United States for collecting, measuring, valuing, and storing oil and natural gas may not lead to royalty payments that are as accurate as they could be.

Lawsuits have been filed alleging that energy companies are underpaying billions of dollars in royalties because of these inaccuracies—or possibly because of outright manipulation—in the process for determining royalty payments.

Many of these lawsuits have been settled, and we're talking about a lot of money here:

In 2000 and 2001, major oil companies settled with the Justice Department for over half a billion dollars in two False Claims Act lawsuits over oil and royalty underpayments.

In 2004, Chevron paid out \$111 million to the State of Louisiana for underpayments.

In 2005, BP owned up to the tune of \$233 in a Colorado case.

And, in a case still pending, Exxon Mobil may owe up to \$3.6 billion or much more to the State of Alabama for underpayments in royalties there.

Certainly, for this kind of money, we can afford to ask the experts who understand the technical issues here to study the major underlying problems.

The second part of the bill is a review of royalty payments. It provides for a comparison of royalty payments made under federal oil and gas lease provisions to data supplied to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. This is to determine whether such payments were adequate under the terms of the oil and gas leases. With completion of these studies, the Congress, Minerals Management Service, and the Bureau of Land Management will have a better understanding of changes that should be undertaken to make the process more accurate and transparent, and American taxpayers will have a better chance of getting all the oil and gas royalties that they are owed.

HONORING THE MODEL HIGH
SCHOOL LADY DEVILS

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a talented group of girls from Floyd County in Georgia's 11th Congressional District. As we move towards March Madness in college basketball, the Georgia High School Association's state basketball playoffs are already underway. The Model High School Girl's Basketball Team—or Lady Devils—have soared to a perfect 30–0 record and are poised for a trip to the Georgia High School Association's Final Four tonight.

The Lady Devils' road to the Final Four has led them through a Region 7AA Championship

and three rounds of State playoffs to send them to the semi-finals for the first time in over a decade.

Although many around Floyd County are riding high on the team's success, the girls of the No. 2–ranked and unbeaten Lady Devils are focused on getting back to work as they prepare for tonight's Final Four match-up against Henry County at the Macon Centreplex.

The Lady Devils are led by Coach Sally Echols, who actually played in Model High School's last trip to the Final Four in 1997. Echols has proved just as valuable as a head coach as she was on the court—leading the Lady Devils to four straight Region Championships. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Coach Echols and the Model High School Lady Blue Devils for their success on the court as well as the hard work and determination that got them there. I wish them luck in the Final Four.

ON EL SALVADOR

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my grave concern about the upcoming elections in El Salvador this week.

Under its current and recent governments, El Salvador has served as a Forward Operating Location in the war on drugs and cooperates closely with the United States. However that may change if the opposition party, the FMLN, comes to power in Sunday's election.

The Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) is a pro-terrorist party with direct ties to sponsors of terror like Cuba, Iran, and FARC, the narcoguerrilla terrorist organization in Colombia. Based on its relationships, the FMLN clearly is not a reliable partner in the fight on drug trafficking and money laundering.

If the FMLN were to enter government in El Salvador, the Department of the Treasury would be forced to use its legal authority to monitor, control, delay, or terminate the movement of nearly \$4 billion in remittances and other money transfers to El Salvador.

The United States must be prepared to apply, on an urgent basis, the full array of legal instruments available should circumstances after the Salvadoran election require the urgent termination of the flow of remittances to that country.

The government of El Salvador has shown itself to be a reliable and trustworthy counterpart regarding U.S. national security. For the sake of the Salvadorans and the United States, I pray that the FMLN is defeated, so that the United States can maintain its special relationship with the government of El Salvador.

On Election Day, El Salvador will be choosing between remaining a close U.S. ally, or realigning itself with countries hostile to the U.S. Let's hope they choose freedom, security, and good neighborliness with the U.S.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT ON
H.R. 1463

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, one of the most important challenges confronting the intelligence community is learning the nature of and damage done by the worldwide network in nuclear centrifuge technology, bomb components and training run for almost two decades by A. Q. Khan—the revered “father” of his country's nuclear program. Considered a pariah abroad but a hero at home, that task got a lot tougher when Pakistan's High Court ordered Khan released from house arrest last month.

At the recent Wehrkunde Security Conference in Munich, Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi astonished delegates, telling us that his government had not decided whether to challenge the court decision but that Pakistan would continue to monitor Khan.

For those who stay awake at night worrying about Iran's increasing mastery of centrifuge technology and the ability of terror groups to access nuclear components, Pakistan's action is distressing.

When Khan “confessed” in 2004 to his illegal nuclear dealings, he was promptly placed under “house arrest” and pardoned by then President Pervez Musharraf. The U.S. government was denied access to him, and was never able to question him about what he did and what else he knew.

Today, we introduce legislation to condition future military aid to Pakistan on two things: that the Pakistani Government make A.Q. Khan available for questioning and that it monitor Khan's activities.

This much we do know. As a university student in Europe in the late 1960s and early 1970s, Khan earned degrees in metallurgical engineering from institutions in Holland and Belgium. In 1972, he began working for the Dutch partner of a uranium enrichment consortium and almost immediately raised eyebrows for repeated visits to a facility he was not cleared to see and for inquiries made about technical data unrelated to his own assignments.

Dutch intelligence quietly began to monitor him. In 1974, following India's first nuclear test, Khan offered his expertise to Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Later that year, Khan's company assigned him to work on Dutch translations of advanced, German-designed centrifuges—data to which he had unsupervised access for 16 days.

By 1975, the damage appears to have been done. Pakistan began to purchase components for its domestic uranium enrichment program from European suppliers, and Khan was transferred away from enrichment work due to concern about his activities.

In December, he abruptly returned to Pakistan with blueprints for centrifuges and other components and detailed lists of suppliers.

Convicted in absentia by the Dutch government for nuclear espionage, beginning in the mid-1980s, Khan is widely believed to have provided nuclear weapons technology to Iran, North Korea, Libya and possibly Syria and Iraq. His network involved front companies

and operatives in Dubai, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Switzerland and Turkey. Though much of the network was taken down following his confession, there is no conclusive evidence that it was destroyed.

Khan is again a loose nuke scientist with proven ability to sell the worst weapons to the worst people. Hopefully, appropriate Pakistani officials worry as we do that their civilians could become nuclear targets—as could NATO soldiers in neighboring Afghanistan or civilians in any number of Western countries.

Our bill provides a path for the Zardari government to do the right thing—to allow the U.S. to evaluate the full extent of A. Q. Khan's proliferation activities in order to halt any ongoing or future harm.

VEOLIA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to honor Veolia Environmental Services and their facility in Port Arthur, TX, for their successful destruction of 1.5 million gallons of what was once the deadly nerve agent VX. Working in conjunction with Tri-State Motor Transit (TSMT) and the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), they were able to complete the project safely and on time.

In the 1950s, the United States began to stockpile VX. Signed by the U.S. in 1993, The International Chemical Weapons Convention requires destruction of all chemical agents by participating nations by specified target dates. The U.S. had a stockpile of VX at the Newport Chemical Weapons Depot in Newport, Indiana where they could deactivate the chemical. They needed a facility to destroy hydrolysate, the caustic wastewater created by the agent's destruction.

The CMA discussed building a \$300 million facility in Indiana to handle the process but the terrorist attack of 2001 forced them to reconsider. In 2007 they awarded Veolia with a \$49 million contract to incinerate the corrosive wastewater. The wastewater would be put in specialized containers and hauled more than 1,000 miles through 8 states by TSMT to Veolia's Port Arthur facility where it would be destroyed.

This is not the type of project that a community greets with open arms. Two other sites denied the venture due to political and community concerns. Public protests and a federal lawsuit almost derailed the project once more, but Veolia made a promise to handle the job safely, in accordance with all regulations and without impact to the environment, 18 months and 428 shipments later, the process concluded without a single incident of any kind.

The project was successful on a number of levels. By utilizing the Port Arthur facility, taxpayers were saved close to \$250 million. Veolia was able to assist the U.S. government in accomplishing its treaty obligations in an expeditious and safe manner. They also brought money and national attention to Southeast Texas.

I would like to commend Veolia Environmental Services and their employees for their hard work and dedication during this project.

Companies like Veolia that care about the community they serve make Southeast Texas such a special place.

INTRODUCING THE NURSING HOME EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Nursing Home Emergency Assistance Act. This act makes private, for-profit nursing homes eligible for the same federal aid as is currently available to public nursing homes. Under current federal law, only public nursing homes may receive federal disaster assistance. However, hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes do not distinguish between private and public, or for-profit and not-for-profit, nursing homes.

As I have recently seen in my district, all nursing homes face unique challenges coping with natural disasters and their aftermaths. It is not fair to the taxpayers who work in, reside in, or have entrusted the care of their loved ones to, a private nursing home that private nursing homes are denied the same federal aid available to their public counterparts. Mr. Speaker, the Nursing Home Emergency Assistance Act ensures all residents of nursing homes can benefit from federal disaster aid. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2009 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today, joined by my colleagues Rep. FRANK WOLF and Rep. JAMES MORAN, to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Awards recognize remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety agencies and their commitment to the community. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. More than 80 awards were presented at this year's ceremony in a variety of categories: The Lifesaving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Medal of Valor.

Two members of the Town of Herndon Police Department have earned this highest honor. It is with great pride that we submit their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Recipient of the Lifesaving Award: Captain Robert L. Presgrave.

Recipient of the Certificate of Valor: Sergeant Darcy L. Nidell.

Madam Speaker, in closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the men

and women who serve in the Town of Herndon Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join us in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

IN RECOGNITION OF TALLADEGA COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM WINNING NATIONAL TITLE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to The Talladega College Tornadoes Men's Basketball Team for winning their first United States Collegiate Athletic Association National Championship Title.

The Talladega College Tornadoes won the national title on Saturday, March 7th in Uniontown, Pennsylvania on the Penn State Fayette campus by beating Rochester College 45 to 31.

I am proud to recognize Head Coach Matt Cross, President Billy Hawkins and the entire Tornado team and staff for their outstanding athleticism both on and off the basketball court. I congratulate each of these young men in claiming their first national championship for Talladega College.

Players: Romondo Banks, Jorge Canedo, Jeral Davis, Michael Ervine, Tory Guillory, Micah Hagans, Ricardo Moss, Donell Pope, Patrick Rodgers and Tarium Taylor.

Coaches: Matt Cross—Athletic Director and Head Men's Basketball Coach; Randy Pulley—Assistant Coach; Ricky Smith—Assistant Coach; Hellion Knight—Assistant Coach; and Demond Walker—Athletic Trainer.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, "Pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of HR 1105."

1) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, General Investigations

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: US Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 Fort Point Road, Galveston, Texas

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$382,000 to complete investigations at Freeport Harbor, Texas in furtherance of maintaining a federally authorized waterway.

2) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, General Investigations

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: US Army Corps of Engineers