

21) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Transportation, Buses and Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission

Address of Requesting Entity: 568 Big Bend Drive, Victoria, TX 77904

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$237,500 for bus replacement in Victoria, Texas in furtherance of transportation system improvement to enhance job retention and creation in and around Victoria, Texas

22) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: HHS, HRSA, Health Facilities and Services

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Memorial Hermann Health Care Systems

Address of Requesting Entity: 7737 Southwest Freeway, Houston, Texas 77074

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$190,000 for healthcare facilities and equipment in and around Houston, Texas

23) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Education, Innovation and Improvements

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Reach out and Read

Address of Requesting Entity: 56 Roland Street, Suite 100D; Boston, MA 02129

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$4,965,000 for reading based federally-funded national educational program.

24) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Education, Innovation and Improvements

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Reading is Fundamental (RIF)

Address of Requesting Entity: 1825 Connecticut Avenue, NW—Suite 400; Washington, DC 20009

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$24,803,000 for reading based federally-funded national educational program.

25) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Education, Innovation and Improvements

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: SURE BET

Address of Requesting Entity: 5606 N. Navarro, Suite 200 R; Victoria, TX 77904

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$95,000 for program to reduce school drop-out rates in and around Victoria, Texas

26) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Economic Development Initiatives
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Housing and Community Services, Inc

Address of Requesting Entity: 8610 N. New Braunfels, Suite 500; San Antonio, TX 78217

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$23,750 for equipment at Fox Run Apartments in Victoria, Texas

27) Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: OJP, Juvenile Justice

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Texana Center, inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 4910 Airport Avenue, Rosenberg, TX 77471

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$500,000 for Nublac drug rehabilitation program targeted to serve minority residents in and around Bay City, Texas

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL FOR RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, for almost half a century Rabbi Arthur Schneier has promoted religious freedom and human rights throughout the world. A Holocaust survivor, and the Founder and President of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, Rabbi Schneier has devoted his life to overcoming the forces of hatred and intolerance.

He has been a pioneer in bringing together religious leaders to address, ethnic or religious conflicts. For example, in Bosnia in 1997, he convened government and religious leaders to promote healing and conciliation between Orthodox, Muslim and Jewish communities. In the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia he worked with the Orthodox Patriarch and the Turkish Government to hold the Peace and Tolerance Conference in 1994 and address religious and ethnic tensions in that area. In the former Yugoslavia, he mobilized religious leaders to halt the bloodshed of the early 90s, holding the Religious Summit on the Former Yugoslavia and the Conflict Resolution Conference to build support and consensus among religious leaders of different faiths. Since the early 1980s, he has led delegations of religious leaders to China to open a dialogue on religious freedom.

Born in Vienna, Austria, in 1930, Rabbi Schneier lived under Nazi occupation in Budapest during World War II and came to the United States in 1947. He has been the Spiritual Leader of the Park East Synagogue in New York City since 1962.

Today I am reintroducing the Rabbi Arthur Schneier Gold Medal act and I urge my colleague to support this legislation in recognition of a truly remarkable man.

RECOGNIZING AT&T FOR JOBS CREATION AND COMMITMENT TO CLEAN ENERGY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to applaud AT&T for its commitment to creating new jobs with an environmentally friendly, clean energy business model.

At a time when millions of Americans are suffering through one of the most difficult economies in many years, AT&T plans to create 3,000 new jobs as part of an \$18 billion investment. Under this initiative, the company will enhance its broadband capacity—increasing Internet speed and accessibility for its customers.

AT&T also plans to invest \$565 million in replacing its current fleet with 15,000 domestically manufactured Compressed Natural Gas, CNG, and alternative-fuel vehicles. Over the next 10 years, this will create or save 1,000 jobs.

The Center for Automotive Research, CAR, in Ann Arbor, MI., estimates that the new vehicles will save 49 million gallons of gasoline and reduce carbon emissions by 211,000 metric tons over the 10-year deployment period. That is equivalent to removing the emissions from more than 38,600 traditional passenger vehicles for a year.

Madam Speaker, AT&T has not only answered the call to help lead this country out of the economic downturn, but done so in an environmentally conscious manner. AT&T stands as a strong example for corporate America, and I hope that others will follow in their footsteps.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, I was unexpectedly detained at a doctor's appointment and missed one vote. I would like the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted.

Rollcall No. 116, on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 67, Recognizing and commending the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), and Cornell University for the success of the Mars Exploration Rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, on the 5th anniversary of their successful landing, I would have voted "yea."

SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. SIRE. Mr. Speaker. I rise today in support of House Resolution 194, supporting the goals of International Women's Day. Women have come a long way in our nation; leading graduation rates at universities, running major corporations and being elected to the highest levels of government. I am proud to live in a country where more women than ever before are being elected to office and I am proud to serve with the first woman Speaker of the House of Representatives. However, many women around the world continue to be less fortunate; living in poverty, without access to health care, education or basic human rights. We must continue to be their voice, so that women all across the world will one day have the ability to make their own decisions about their lives. I hope that by providing women with the tools to educate themselves, they are better equipped to provide for their families, protect themselves against HIV/AIDS, end cycles of domestic violence, and fight for their rights. Mr. Speaker, we must continue to support the goals of International Women's Day to

ensure the further advancement of women in our country and around the globe.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION TO
COMMEND THE AUSTRALIANS'
UNQUALIFIED APOLOGY TO IN-
DIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS AND
TORRES ISLANDERS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that commends the Australian government for apologizing for its mistreatment of Indigenous Australians and Torres Islanders, and for committing to fighting the disparities that continue to impact Indigenous communities.

Indigenous Australians first arrived on the continent more than 50,000 years ago, developed one of the oldest cultures on earth, and made world renowned contributions to the arts, politics and athletics despite the hardships that they faced at home.

From the mass killings of Indigenous people by European settlers during the 18th Century to restricting Indigenous Australians from the right to vote until 1962, violence, discrimination and disenfranchisement have however, played a significant role in European and Indigenous relations for centuries. Perhaps Australia's most notorious action against the Indigenous population during the 20th Century was the Australian government's authorization of the removal of tens of thousands of children of native and mixed ancestry from their homes under the Protection Acts. These were inspired by racist and pseudo-scientific notions of cultural and racial superiority, and designed to eradicate Indigenous culture and the very existence of the Indigenous people. The victims of this national atrocity are often referred to as the Stolen Generation.

Madam Speaker, the legacy of official and unofficial discriminatory practices by the Australian Government has contributed to substandard education, health, employment and lack of political power among Australia's Indigenous population. On average, Indigenous Australians die 17 years earlier than white Australians, and have higher instances of infant mortality, unemployment and homelessness. These figures are a jarring reminder that Australia's prosperity has yet to fully reach the people who first inhabited the land.

On February 13, 2008 millions of Australians of all colors and ethnicities witnessed Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's formal apology—on behalf of the Australian Government and its Parliament—to the Indigenous and Torres Island community. The long awaited apology was accompanied with a promise from the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to donate \$4.6 billion to fund initiatives to improve life expectancy, health, education and employment in Indigenous communities. Nearly a year later, Prime Minister Rudd addressed the nation and reported on the status of the initiatives that were implemented and drafted after the apology, and reiterated the importance of change and reconciliation.

Madam Speaker, American Theologian Tryon Edwards said, "Right actions in the future are the best apologies for bad actions in

the past." The value of Australia's apology is undoubtedly determined by the Australian government's ability to aggressively address the systemic inequalities that exclude most Indigenous people from the standard of living that is held by the vast majority of non-Indigenous Australians.

Like Australia, racial disparities exist in the United States. As we commend Australia on its willingness to confront its past, let us also reflect on our history with the purpose of comprehensively targeting the residual barriers that prevent some Americans from accessing opportunities in this country.

A TRIBUTE TO KO-THI AFRICAN
DANCE COMPANY OF MILWAUKEE

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the internationally renowned dance troupe, Ko-Thi African Dance Company of Milwaukee. In May, 2009, Ko-Thi African Dance Troupe will celebrate its 40th anniversary.

Much of the success of the Ko-Thi African Dance Company can be attributed to its founder and Artistic/Executive Director, Ferne Caulker. Ms. Caulker, born in Sierra Leone, West Africa is a creative genius blessed with the passion and determination needed to create a "family" of professional performers. She is a full professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the School of Dance where she has taught since 1971. Ms. Caulker is not only a former Fulbright Fellow but a recipient of numerous award. She has made the music and dance of the peoples of the African Diaspora accessible to all Americans, especially African-American audiences. Twenty years ago she extended that vision to include a children's troupe, Ton Ko-Thi, to instill cultural pride and self-worth to children through the discipline required to create art.

The Company is comprised of both musicians and dancers trained in the history, mythology and techniques of art forms within the African Diaspora. The troupe utilizes a myriad of traditional instruments, authentic costumes, infectious music and extraordinary dance to educate and bridge the gap between cultures. Ko-Thi operates a comprehensive educational outreach program, Drum Talk that works with institutions to assist with expanding and diversifying any curriculum with the history, dance, and drumming of the African continent and its Diaspora. If you have had the privilege of attending a Ko-Thi Dance Company performance, you know it is a tremendous experience to observe their exacting stepping, pulsating vibrant rhythm and hypnotic movement. The Ko-Thi African Dance Company is Wisconsin's regional, national and international touring gem. They have performed in Japan, Canada and many venues throughout the United States.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to say the Ko-Thi African Dance Company hails from the 4th Congressional District and pleased to give praise to Ferne Caulker, the ensemble, and their Board of Directors. I wish them many more years of success.

RECOGNIZING FAIRFAX COUNTY
FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT
RECIPIENTS OF THE FAIRFAX
COUNTY CHAMBER OF COM-
MERCE 2009 VALOR AWARD

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 everyday 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.

Nine members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department earned this high honor. It is with great pride that we submit their names into the Congressional Record:

Recipients of the Lifesaving Award: Shift Captain Ronald A. Gemsheim Jr. and Firefighter Brian J. Bonkoski.

Recipients of the Certificate of Valor: Technician Michael S. Eddy, Technician Tie L. Burlow, Technician Kathleen M. Vorbau, and Firefighter Medic Damian C. Ripley.

Recipients of the Bronze Medal of Valor: Station Captain Tony C. Kostecka, Firefighter Miguel Obleas, and Firefighter Henry T. Chan.

Madam Speaker, in closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue 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.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GERI-
ATRICS LOAN FORGIVENESS ACT
OF 2009

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Geriatrics Loan Forgiveness Act of 2009. This bill would take an important step towards encouraging more health professionals to enter the field of geriatrics and care for our aging population.

In 2011—just two years from now—the first baby boomers will turn 65. By 2030, the number of Americans 65 and older will have nearly doubled, to over 70 million.

Our nation currently has too few health care professionals who specialize in geriatrics to treat older adults with complicated illnesses,