

2,699,232 cubic yards of dredged material; 5.32 percent for planning, engineering and design work; 2.42 percent for construction management; 12.57 percent in project construction contingency; and 3.83 percent in project escalation. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted an Environmental Assessment in accordance with Engineer Regulation (ER) 200-2-2, Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Pts. 1500-1508) resulting in a FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI). Construction of the authorized turning basin has been evaluated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through the Corps General Reevaluation Report (GRR) to alleviate harbor delays and improve safety conditions, and reflects a benefit-to-cost ratio of 3.46 to 1. This project is permitted. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers General Construction account. The Alabama State Port Authority, the 10th largest port in the U.S., is the federally designated local sponsor for the Port of Mobile Harbor and will provide the 25 percent cost share for the Mobile Harbor Turning Basin project. The Alabama State Port Authority's 25 percent cost share funding is secured. Turning basin will help serve a new container terminal, coal terminal and two raw material terminals.

#### HONORING GARY SHEPHERD

#### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 16, 2009*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I would like the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Gary Shepherd as he retires after 33 years of service from General Motors and the UAW. A retirement party will be held in his honor on March 27th in Saginaw, Michigan.

A native of Saginaw County, Gary was hired by General Motors in 1976. He worked at the Saginaw Steering Gear facility and worked his way from the production line to journeyman status as a machine repairman. In 1985 he was elected an Alternate Committeeman at UAW Local 699. From this position he went on to serve as the District Committeeman on the Bargaining Committee, as Chairman of the Bargaining Unit for Local 699, and Top Negotiator of GM Sub-Council 5. Gary has also served on the CAP and Recreation Committee of the Local. Local 699 was featured in a 1999 Industry Week article entitled, "A Perfect Union," outlining the cooperative relationship between the UAW and the auto manufacturer. Gary continued his career with the UAW and in 1998 he was appointed as a Region 1-D International Representative and as the Skilled Trades Representative. He rounded out his career by serving on UAW President Ron Gettelfinger's staff as Coordinator for Michigan CAP in Region 1-D.

In addition to his work on behalf of UAW workers, Gary has worked extensively in the community. He is the president of the Saginaw Area Fireworks, served as co-chair of the Saginaw County Vision 20/20, and on the

Boards of Saginaw Future, Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works, and Saginaw County United Way. He received the Chamber of Commerce President's Award for his work. Gary also finds time to be a read volunteer and he is a lifelong member of Second Presbyterian Church.

Gary is the past Chairman of the Saginaw County Democratic Party, a member of the Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, was elected as a John Kerry delegate to the 2004 Democratic National Convention and was the 2008 Electoral College Delegate for the Michigan 4th Congressional District, casting his ballot for President Barack Obama. He has 3 daughters and 4 grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Gary Shepherd as he retires from the UAW and General Motors. I wish him the best as he starts this next phase of his life and continued success in his future endeavors.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SOUTHAMPTON FIRE COMPANY #1

#### HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 16, 2009*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Southampton Fire Company #1 for 100 years of distinguished service. Since their inception in 1909, Southampton Fire Company #1 has remained an all-volunteer fire department.

On December 10, 1909, the first meeting of the Southampton Fire Company was held, and four years later they were incorporated with 88 charter members. They utilized a variety of firefighting equipment through the years, such as a horse-drawn button hand pumper in 1913, a Ford Model T/Hale fire engine in 1921, and an 85-foot Hi-Ranger Snorkel elevated platform truck in 1965, the first of its kind in Bucks County.

A major renovation of the firehouse was dedicated in May 2000 to the "past, present, and future members of the Southampton Fire Company #1, in recognition of their unselfish service to the citizens of Upper Southampton Township." Now, on the Fire Company's 100th Anniversary, we also extend our greatest thanks and appreciation for their unwavering service.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing the Southampton Fire Company #1 for their 100 years of service to our families in Bucks County. I am honored to serve as their Congressman.

#### HONORING STEPHANIE C. KOPELOUSOS

#### HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 16, 2009*

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker I rise today to honor a great leader from the State of Florida, Stephanie C. Kopelousos. She was appointed Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation in 2007 and since then has been working to ensure our safety on Florida's roads.

Secretary Kopelousos got her start in public service right here in the halls of Congress in 1993 as a Legislative Assistant to then Congresswoman Tillie K. Fowler of Florida's 4th District and Chair of the Transportation Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations and Emergency Management.

In 2001 she joined the Florida Department of Transportation as their primary federal liaison in Washington, D.C. focusing on transportation, emergency management and disaster relief, and housing. She was instrumental in negotiations during the reauthorization of the federal transportation bill. In 2005 she became the Department's Chief of Staff, and in early 2007 was appointed Interim Secretary.

Secretary Kopelousos carries with her more than a decade of professional experience in state and federal public policy, with a particular emphasis in transportation. As Secretary, she oversees more than 7,000 employees and an annual budget of \$8 billion, always keeping with the agency's mission of providing a safe transportation system that fuels economic growth and enhances quality of life for all Floridians.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, I ask you to join me in congratulating Secretary Stephanie C. Kopelousos for her commitment to ensuring a safe and efficient transportation system in Florida and her invaluable contributions in the field of public service.

#### HONORING TuCARE

#### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 16, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources and Environment, incorporated upon the celebration of their 20th anniversary. The anniversary will be celebrated on Saturday, March 14, 2009 at the "Annual Dinner and Auction" in Sonoma, California.

Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources and Environment, Inc, or TuCARE, was first organized in 1989 when a group of individuals came together to enlighten others in the wise use of natural resources in Tuolumne County. The organization has a history of commitment to ensuring the long-term viability of all of the natural resources through an ecosystem management approach toward the stewardship of the public lands. They are firm believers that man must play an active role to protect the forests from the destruction of wildfires. The multiple-use system that TuCARE promotes allows for everyone to benefit from the forest. Livestock owners use the pastures in the summer, miners are allowed to extract minerals, loggers can help thin the forest and everyone can enjoy the recreation the forest has to offer.

The organization ensures that the private and the public sector work together to protect property rights and to educate our future generations. TuCARE advocates awareness in schools and communities by sponsoring "Tours for Kids" for more than twelve hundred students each year and a Natural Resources Tour for invited guests from the State of California, Congress, local businesses, educators and various agencies. TuCARE is connected to schools in Tuolumne, Calaveras and

Stanislaus Counties and participates in the Tuolumne County Schools Forestry Institute for Teachers and presents to civic groups and organizations. They also sponsor various public forums on issues related to natural resources and is represented at the annual Alliance on American Fly-in for Freedom forum held in Washington, DC. The organization prepares press releases for all media outlets and meets with local, state and federal elected officials regarding issues of concern.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources and Environment, Inc. on twenty years of service. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing TuCARE many years of continued success.

**HONORING GEORGE VUJNOVICH  
FOR HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE  
HALYARD MISSION**

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 16, 2009*

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I am joined by the co-chairs of the Congressional Serbian Caucus, Representatives MELISSA BEAN of Illinois and DAN BURTON of Indiana, in honoring a treasured constituent of mine and one of the unsung heroes of World War II, retired Major George Vujnovich. Major Vujnovich, a proud Serbian-American, was instrumental in "Operation Halyard" and one of the last surviving members of that successful wartime mission.

In the summer of 1944, Americans and Allied airmen flew hundreds of sorties over Europe with the aim of disrupting the Ploesti oil complex, Adolf Hitler's most important oil pipeline. During their treacherous journey from Italian bases to the Romanian oil complex, 1,500 of our brave men were forced to bail out over Yugoslavia. Scores of American crewmen were trapped behind enemy lines and dependent on Serbian villagers to hide them from the Germans.

Although Yugoslavia was enemy territory at the time, much of the country's Serbian regions remained under the control of Yugoslav guerilla resistance leader General Draja Mihailovich and his Chetnik forces. General Mihailovich remained loyal to the Allies, and under his orders the Serbian people shielded these airmen and protected them from capture and imprisonment by German troops.

General Mihailovich passed information about the downed American airmen to the United States authorities. The Office of Strategic Services (OSS) put together Operation Halyard, a daring mission to save the men without drawing the attention of the Nazis. The mission entailed flying and landing C-47 cargo planes into enemy territory, picking up the downed airmen, and flying back to allied territory. Before the mission could go forward, however, the Allied forces cut ties with General Mihailovich and no longer had specific information about the location of the American airmen. Major George Vujnovich, the OSS operation chief stationed in Bari, Italy, discovered that Mihailovich was hiding the airmen near his headquarters in the city of Pranjani. He informed U.S. officials of their location and Operation Halyard progressed.

As the mission advanced, Major Vujnovich's experience and expertise were indispensable. Major Vujnovich was responsible for selecting members of the Halyard Mission, and orchestrating the initial parachute drop into the area. The rescue plans hinged on his direction and the ability of local Serbs to build an airstrip without any modern tools and without German detection.

Operation Halyard took place between August and December 1944 and was a complete success. Hundreds of men were rescued behind enemy lines and no lives were lost in the mission. The Halyard Mission was a success thanks to the brave men and women of the OSS and the courageous Serbian locals who risked their lives to safeguard American airmen. Thanks to a keen mind and tactical expertise, Major Vujnovich demonstrated the courage and selflessness that mark him as an American hero.

Major George Vujnovich was born to Serbian parents in 1915. In 1934 he received a scholarship from the Serb National Federation and left his home in New York to attend college in Belgrade. While living in Belgrade, Mr. Vujnovich met and married his wife, Mirjana. Their life was disrupted in 1941, when the German Luftwaffe bombed Belgrade in Operation Punishment. Mr. Vujnovich was a firsthand witness to the bombing, nearly losing his life when a falling bomb destroyed a nearby streetcar. After the bombing, Mr. and Mrs. Vujnovich fled Yugoslavia, and he accepted a job in Ghana as assistant airport manager while Mirjana moved to Washington, DC to work at the Yugoslav Embassy. When the US entered the war, Mr. Vujnovich received a commission as a second lieutenant and assumed command of an airbase in Nigeria. While working at the airbase, he was recruited by the OSS for the clandestine services, and was later sent to the OSS post in Bari, Italy. From this post he saved the lives of his fellow servicemen and earned the title of hero. I am honored to have this opportunity to acknowledge Major Vujnovich's contribution to the Halyard Mission.

**IN CELEBRATION OF MARTIN J.  
AND ELEANOR R. KEARNEY**

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 16, 2009*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I would like to acknowledge Martin J. and Eleanor R. Kearney for being named the Irish Couple of the Year by the John Boyle O'Reilly Club in Springfield, Massachusetts. They were awarded this deserved title on February 7, 2009 for their support and contributions to the club. The couple has been active with the club for over fifty years. Both have helped with fundraisers and dances. Eleanor is an avid baker for the club and Martin was a strong supporter of the new building fund. A reception dinner was held in their honor on March 1, 2009.

Martin was born in the Great Blasket Islands in Dingle, County Kerry, Ireland on December 31, 1926. Eleanor is a life-long Springfield resident who was born on December 17, 1932. Martin came to America in 1951 where he soon met Eleanor. In 1953, they were mar-

ried in Saint Thomas Aquinas Church in Springfield. Martin became a member of the John Boyle O'Reilly Club in 1953 and now both Martin and Eleanor are life members.

The John Boyle O'Reilly Club was founded in 1880. The club consists of dedicated Irish and Irish-Americans whose goal is to preserve and promote their Irish heritage. The club's motto is culture, family and tradition. Since March 1970, the club has been located on 33 Progress Avenue in Springfield, Massachusetts. Today, the club is very active in their community, awarding the John Boyle O'Reilly Scholarship every year to college-bound students.

**HONORING RABBI JON E. CUTLER**

**HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 16, 2009*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Jon E. Cutler—the only Jewish Chaplain currently serving in western Iraq. And as a former paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division who served in Baghdad 5 years ago and the first Iraq war veteran to serve in this great body, it fills me with tremendous pride to be Rabbi Cutler's Congressman. Rabbi Cutler has set an example for all of us—not just through his spiritual leadership—but through selfless service to our community and our nation.

In Iraq, Rabbi Cutler serves as the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Chaplain, and assists the entire Al Asad Marine Air Base. Prior to his service in Iraq, Rabbi Cutler served as the pulpit rabbi of Tiferes B'nai Israel in Warrington, Bucks County, Pennsylvania for the past 8 years.

As the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Chaplain, Rabbi Cutler supervises 20 Christian chaplains and chaplain assistants, and has worked to create a center for Jewish troops who are serving in Anbar Province. The congregants of Tiferes B'nai Israel even contributed to this effort, sending tiles and paste to be used for the chapel floor.

As the Rabbi for Tiferes B'nai Israel in Warrington, Rabbi Cutler worked tirelessly to unite his congregants, both old and new. He strived to make new members feel welcome while respecting the needs and wishes of long-standing members. Before he was deployed to Iraq, he also proudly received his Navy commander pins on the pulpit at Tiferes B'nai Israel.

Commander Cutler has been a chaplain in the U.S. Navy Reserve for 23 years. He was the only Jewish chaplain serving with the Marines in Desert Storm, and after 9/11, he was called to the Pentagon to counsel family members who lost loved ones during the tragic events of that terrible day.

When not serving our troops in Iraq or his congregants in Warrington, Rabbi Cutler has served as an instructor at Gratz College for Jewish education and a visiting professor at Philadelphia University. He received his B.A. and M.A. in religious studies from Temple University, and holds a Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Counseling from Hebrew Union College. Rabbi Cutler was ordained by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Wyncote, PA.

Rabbi Cutler has contributed enormously to the citizens of Bucks County and given so