

front lines of disaster prevention and response for more than a century. This elite humanitarian society is among the most effective and recognized disaster relief organizations in the world. We have an opportunity this month to recognize the essential role the Red Cross plays in our communities. Since President Franklin Delano Roosevelt served in office, every President of the United States has proclaimed March to be "Red Cross Month."

The Red Cross responds to more than 70,000 natural and manmade disasters each year, caring for victims of fires, floods, hurricanes, hazardous materials spills, explosions, and many other kinds of incidents. Volunteers provide food, shelter, and health services to meet the most basic human needs of victims and first responders. The Red Cross also provides critical blood supplies to hospitals, first aid classes to the public, and disaster aid to the international community.

In responding to disasters small or large, the Red Cross has proven its incomparable worth time and again for over 127 years. Just this month in my district in New York, fire destroyed a North Massapequa home, and Nassau County's Red Cross arrived on the scene to offer assistance. Timely response to such daily but devastating small-scale disasters is one of the Red Cross' most important humanitarian services.

Large-scale disasters also demonstrate major successes. Immediately following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, relief workers rushed to the World Trade Center, to the Pentagon, and to the fields of Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The Red Cross played an invaluable role in assisting over 59,000 individuals and families affected by those horrific acts of terror.

No matter the response, volunteers are the key to Red Cross efforts, representing 96 percent of the organization's workforce. They cannot do what they do without the support of donated manpower, finding, and supplies. The Red Cross, the dedicated individuals who serve in the organization, and the thousands of citizens who fund relief efforts epitomize the humanitarian spirit of the American people.

I join with my colleagues today to recognize the Red Cross, and thank the organization's staff and volunteers for all of their continued assistance to American communities.

THE BULLYING AND GANG REDUC-
TION FOR IMPROVED EDUCATION
ACT

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, today, Mr. EHLERS and I are introducing the Bullying and Gang Reduction for Improved Education Act. It is time that we recognize bullying and gangs as serious problems that impede student achievement.

Bullying, harassment, and gang-related activity have serious consequences for schools and students. Nearly 40% of middle-school and high-school students report that they do not feel safe at school. Children who are bullied miss more school, have lower self-esteem, and are more likely to commit suicide than those who are not.

According to young people themselves, one reason they get involved in gang activity is to seek protection from bullying. We cannot address one without addressing the other.

Contrary to popular belief, bullying is neither a minor nuisance, something to be laughed at or ignored. It is not a rite of passage, but instead interferes with a child's right to attend school and learn. Although any child may be bullied, some children face much greater risks than others. Children who are obese and those whom others perceive to be gay or lesbian are especially at risk.

Violence in our schools caused by gang activity and bullying can cause childhood trauma, depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder. These conditions are not conducive to learning. Youth involved in gang activity also have lower expectations about their educational attainment.

The Bullying and Gang Reduction for Improved Education Act would take important steps to address these issues by allowing states and localities to use Safe Schools funds for comprehensive bullying and gang prevention programs.

I urge my colleagues to take a stand. All children, especially societies most vulnerable, deserve their support of the Bullying and Gang Prevention for Improved Education Act.

HONORING MARKET STREET
MISSION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Market Street Mission in Morristown, Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant community I am proud to represent. On March 18, 2009, the good citizens of New Jersey will celebrate the Market Street Mission's 120th Anniversary.

The aim of the Market Street Mission is to assist those who are "homeless, helpless and hopeless" in northern New Jersey, through physical, emotional, and spiritual support that will guide them toward responsible and productive lives. The Market Street Mission is an experienced organization with a proven method of helping to fight alcoholism, drug abuse, and homelessness in the Northern New Jersey Area. We need the Market Street Mission and more places like it.

The Market Street Mission was established in 1889 by the Reverend Dr. F.W. Owen and his wife, Mrs. Louisa Graves Owen, as a residential program for alcoholic husbands in the Morristown area. With support from the South Street Presbyterian Church, the Mission provided meals, lodging, clothing, and temporary employment for homeless men. Over the years, the Market Street Mission has grown in scope and size.

During the Great Depression, the Market Street Mission ended its affiliation with the Presbyterian Church and added the "Industrial Department," a self-supporting thrift store that provided jobs during difficult economic times. Today, residents of the Mission work at the Industrial Department as part of the successful "New Reality of Recovery" program. The Market Street Mission also has an Emergency Assistance program that provides meals and

lodging for disadvantaged men, women, and children.

Led by Executive Director G. David Scott, the Market Street Mission continues to offer indispensable support and rehabilitation to those in need.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Market Street Mission, as well as G. David Scott, on the celebration of 120 years serving the people of Northern New Jersey.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL NICHOLAS
GEORGE "NICK" PSAKI, JR.

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and report the passing of an American patriot and a neighbor, Colonel Nicholas George "Nick" Psaki, Jr., of Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania. Colonel Psaki passed away on the afternoon of March 14th at the age of 89.

The passing of Colonel Psaki is yet another reminder for all of us that we are losing a generation of great Americans who served their country in the wars that shaped the world we live in today. The lives and the stories of these Americans, the members of the Greatest Generation, must never be forgotten.

Colonel Psaki was truly a part of that Greatest Generation. He fought with distinction in three wars, seeing combat in World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam. Colonel Psaki made his mark on the golden age of Army aviation and retired from the Army a veteran pilot with over 5,000 hours in flight time spent in fixed and rotary wing aircraft.

Throughout his distinguished military career, Colonel Psaki received numerous medals and commendations for his service to his nation. Among those decorations are the Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Purple Heart, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster, the Combat Infantry Badge Second Award, the Master Army Aviator Wings, as well as numerous campaign ribbons and service merit badges.

In addition to his combat service, Colonel Psaki was a graduate of the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, as well as the Armed Forces Staff College at Norfolk, Virginia, and the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Preceding these military degrees, Colonel Psaki attended Kings College in New York and received a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Southern California. He is survived by his wife Cindy, his son Nicholas, daughters Diane, Denise, Regina, and Alexandra, three grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Colonel Nick Psaki was a patriot, a family man and an active civic member. For all who came in contact with him, Nicholas Psaki will be remembered as a gentleman who exemplified quiet dignity, thoughtfulness and generosity. Colonel Psaki was a class act in and out of uniform and his absence will be noticeably felt by a grateful nation and by all who knew him.

My thoughts and prayers and those of my constituents are with the members of the

Psaki family as they grieve over their loss. Colonel Psaki was a great American. He will be missed and he will be remembered.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act:

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: Economic Development Initiatives

Name of requesting entity: Syracuse City Corporation, UT

Address of requesting entity: 1787 South 200 West, Syracuse, Utah 84075

Description of request: \$95,000 for the Davis Economic Technology Cooperative Master Plan, a comprehensive economic development plan for areas within the communities of Syracuse City, West Point City, and Clearfield City, Utah

WATER QUALITY INVESTMENT
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1262):

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 1262, the "Water Quality Investment Act of 2009."

The integrity of our water infrastructure and fresh water drinking sources is critical to our environment, our health and our economy. Many older systems around the Great Lakes have combined sewer systems, which utilize the same pipes to collect rain water, sewage, and domestic and industrial waste. In periods of heavy rain or snow, these systems can overflow and allow raw sewage to be released into our rivers, streets, and homes. As many as 850 billion gallons of this waste is discharged into rivers and streams each year because of combined sewer system overflows.

While the problems of combined sewer systems are clear, the upfront cost of replacing

entire sewer systems is beyond the reach of many municipalities. Communities that have the largest problems are often also the oldest communities. They may be struggling with declining populations, falling tax revenues, poverty, and crime. Yet if their infrastructure fails, the pollution moves downstream to the next community.

Because our water infrastructure exists out of sight and beneath our feet, the need for investment is not as obvious as with a crumbling bridge or pothole ridden road. As long as the water comes on when the knob is turned, it is easy to believe that our water infrastructure system is working fine. However, this is often far from the truth.

I am fortunate enough to represent a district that has been able to make the investments necessary to address our largest water quality problems. Because my district is the headwaters of the five major watersheds in Southeast Michigan, the communities surrounding my district have also benefited. It is important to remember that water does not stop at political boundaries; problems left untreated flow downstream and impact our neighbors.

The public works professionals in southeast Michigan have done a tremendous job to curb water pollution in the area and continue to make major strides in cleaning our waterways. Lead by the efforts of John McCulloch, Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner, Oakland County has eliminated all of their untreated CSO and continues to aggressively attack our SSO and storm water control challenges.

Great progress has been made in Oakland County, but it was not made in a vacuum. The federal Government has been a full partner in this process, contributing over \$300 million in grant funds in Southeast Michigan to water quality control projects over the past 15 years. That federal investment has led to over \$1 billion dollars in the Rouge Watershed alone, and the water quality of the Rouge River, the Clinton River and the Huron River has improved dramatically because the federal government has been at the table.

Despite all the progress that has been made in my district, there is still more work to be done. That is why it is crucial that we continue to make a strong federal investment in our water infrastructure. H.R. 1262 includes investments in water quality restoration, CSO control, SSO control, and infrastructure repair and I urge my colleagues to support its passage here today.

HONORING THE URBAN LEAGUE
OF GREATER RICHMOND, VIRGINIA,
FOR 95 YEARS OF EXEMPLARY
COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the Urban League of Greater Richmond, which has served the communities of Richmond, Chesterfield, Henrico, Petersburg, Colonials Heights and Chester, Virginia for 95 years.

One of the oldest of 102 affiliates of the National Urban League, the Urban League of Greater Richmond has enabled many African-Americans and other minorities in the Commonwealth of Virginia to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power, and civil rights.

The Urban League of Greater Richmond has always been committed to assisting those it serves in their professional and personal lives, and to promoting lifelong learning and educational achievement at all levels of education. The Urban League of Greater Richmond provides vital services to the Richmond community. These services include providing access to housing counseling, employment services, a full computer center, credit services, and health services in partnership with the MCV/VCU Hospital Quality Care Unit program.

On Friday, March 20, 2009, the Urban League of Greater Richmond will celebrate its 95th anniversary with music legend Chuck Brown. This event will not only celebrate and honor 95 years of service to the Richmond community, but it will also raise money for college scholarships for underserved students.

I have had the opportunity to work alongside the Urban League of Greater Richmond to better the Richmond community for many years. Whether it's civil rights, crime policy, or welfare reform, the Urban League has always been out there leading the charge and making sure the urban agenda and those issues important to minority communities are a part of the local, state and national conversation.

While today I honor their first 95 years of service of the Urban League of Greater Richmond, I look forward to many, many more years of dedicated service, commitment and passion for the welfare of the people of Greater Richmond. I commend their many volunteers, their hard working staff, their board of directors and their President and CEO Thomas Victory, and I thank the Urban League of Greater Richmond for 95 years of outstanding leadership on issues that directly affect our urban community.