

WOLF and myself in writing this legislation. Though Congressman CONNOLLY is new to this body, he is not new to telework. As Chairman of the Fairfax County, Virginia Board of Supervisors, Congressman CONNOLLY instituted a far-reaching telework policy—performing a great service to the employees of Fairfax County and offering a model solution for the federal government.

Finally, I would like to thank Congressman DANNY K. DAVIS for his support. Congressman DAVIS and I introduced a similar piece of legislation in the 110th Congress. As chairman of the Federal Workforce Subcommittee of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Congressman shepherded this crucial legislation through the House of Representatives, but unfortunately the measure stalled in the Senate. We are hopeful that we will get a bill to the President's desk during the 111th Congress.

Madam Speaker, the federal government should lead the way as a model employer and embrace innovative personnel policies that increase productivity while striking the right balance between family and work. By enacting the Telework Improvements Act, we have the opportunity to bolster the federal workforce, reduce traffic and carbon emissions, and improve the quality of life for our dedicated civil servants all in one fell swoop. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this pragmatic, commonsense legislation.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER NASA ADMINISTRATOR DR. MICHAEL D. GRIFFIN

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the aerospace and aeronautics communities, and to our country, have been exceptional. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has been fortunate to have a dynamic and dedicated leader who has given his time and talent to advance U.S. interests in space, science and aeronautics. On January 20, 2009, Administrator Michael Griffin concluded nearly four years of service as the NASA Administrator.

Dr. Griffin was nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the United States Senate as the 11th Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He began his term on April 14, 2005. As Administrator, Mike led the NASA team and managed its resources to advance the U.S. Vision for Space Exploration which included returning the space shuttle to flight, completing assembly of the International Space Station and development of the Ares rocket and Orion crew vehicle to return us to the moon and eventually to Mars.

Prior to his tenure with NASA, Griffin served as Space Department Head at Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland. He was previously President and Chief Operating Officer of In-Q-Tel, Inc., and also served in several positions within Orbital Sciences Corporation, Dulles, Virginia, including Chief Executive Officer of Orbital's Ma-

gellan Systems division and General Manager of the Space Systems Group. Griffin also previously served as chief engineer and as associate administrator for exploration at NASA, and as deputy for technology at the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization.

Mike Griffin is a true rocket scientist and has the post-secondary degrees to prove it. He received a bachelor's degree in physics from Johns Hopkins University; a master's degree in aerospace science from Catholic University of America; a Ph.D. in aerospace engineering from the University of Maryland; a master's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Southern California; a master's degree in applied physics from Johns Hopkins University; a master's degree in business administration from Loyola College; and a master's degree in Civil Engineering from George Washington University.

Mike Griffin is a certified flight instructor with instrument and multiengine ratings. In addition, he is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and International Academy of Astronautics, an Honorary Fellow of the American Astronautical Society, a Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, and a previous adjunct professor at the University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins University, and George Washington University, where he taught courses in spacecraft design, applied mathematics, guidance and navigation, compressible flow, computational fluid dynamics, spacecraft attitude control, astrodynamics and introductory aerospace engineering. He is the lead author of more than two dozen technical papers, as well as the textbook, "Space Vehicle Design." Mike is also the recipient of the Department of Defense's Distinguished Public Service Medal, the highest award given to a non-government employee.

Mike has demonstrated his ongoing passion for NASA and provided tremendous leadership for the agency in the Second Space Age. I am proud to call Mike a fellow American and friend. I know that many people around the country are grateful for his service and join me in saluting his many achievements. Whatever the future holds for him, Godspeed Mike Griffin.

CONGRATULATIONS LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, during this year's Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC) convention, which took place March 4th to 8th in Birmingham, Alabama, South Carolina's own Lexington High School earned runner-up honors for their production of "Scooter Thomas Makes It To The Top Of The World" in the High School Theatre Festival. Three Lexington High School students won recognition for their roles in the production: William Vaughan won the Best Actor Award; Luke Whitmire won the Best Supporting Actor Award; and, Danielle Peterson won the Best Assistant Director Award.

In November 2008, Lexington High School took top honors at the South Carolina Theatre Association's festival which earned them a

spot in the Southeastern Theatre Conference. The play, "Scooter Thomas Makes It To The Top Of The World," written by Peter Parnell, tells the story of Dennis who travels to the funeral of his childhood friend Scooter Thomas and reflects on their relationship and the decisions they made growing up.

I wish to commend all the students involved in this production—including Lachlan Medley, stage manager; Johnny Hawley, sound and light technician; Justin Hall, master set builder; Shelly Skelly, light technician; stage hands Elliott Carter and Bradley Cockrell—as well as their director and drama teacher, Leslie Dellinger. Congratulations to Lexington High School, under the professional leadership of Principal B. Creig Tyler, for their continued dedication and support of the arts and to the success of our students and community.

HOUSING CRISIS IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues that the housing crisis continues to devastate communities across the country.

By all measures my district has been among the hardest hit by the foreclosure epidemic and the recession.

Constituents in Merced, California, near my hometown of Atwater, are suffering from 19.9% unemployment, the highest rate of foreclosures in the nation, and a loss of 70% of their home equity over the last three years.

They are experiencing an economic tsunami that will leave the Central Valley struggling for many years to come.

I am working on an effort to devise an Economic Disaster Area designation.

So places like my district, whose communities have been disproportionately affected by the country's recession, can receive the additional federal funding they need to keep from falling off the map.

The future of my constituents and my district is in jeopardy.

That is why I am asking my colleagues to support me in my efforts to create this Economic Disaster Area designation and to help my constituents and the entire Central Valley recover from this economic downturn.

MORRIS TOMORROW CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the Twenty Fifth Anniversary of Morris Tomorrow of Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant organization that I am proud to represent.

Morris Tomorrow's primary mission includes focusing attention on issues of regional significance, promoting public discussion, facilitating consensus towards viable solutions, and serving as a catalyst for implementation. Founded

as Morris 2000 in 1984, the organization has managed to successfully bridge environment and business interests, working to further both causes to the mutual benefit of both.

Morris Tomorrow has established several high-profile programs that have helped define issues facing Morris County and the surrounding area. Among the programs is Midday Morris, a quarterly lecture series targeted toward business, government, civic and education leaders; Building Cross-Cultural Communities, works to address issues faced by our immigrant communities; Morris Summit, brings together local leaders from our business, government, education and nonprofit communities to explore quality of life issues. Additionally, three organizations that have proved essential to the watershed management issues that are vital to the area are offshoots of Morris Tomorrow—the Ten Towns Great Swamp Watershed Management Committee, the Rockaway River Watershed Cabinet, and the Raritan Highlands Compact.

We are privileged to have such a dynamic and dedicated non-profit organization in Morris County.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Morris tomorrow on the celebration of its 25 years serving Morris County.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks received as part of H.R. 1105, Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Name of the Requesting Member: LEE TERRY.

The bill number: H.R. 1105, Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Project Name: Special Olympics Educational Programs.

Amount Requested: \$6,000,000.

The legal name and address of requesting entity: 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games 8801 F Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68127.

Description of earmark: The request I made was for the 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games to assist in funding the Special Olympics' Second USA National Games. This money would be spent on logistics, security, transportation, housing and meals for athletes during the 2010 games in Nebraska. It is my understanding that this project, which included my name as a requestor, is for Special Olympics educational programs that can be integrated into classroom instruction and for activities to increase the participation of individuals with intellectual disabilities, as authorized under the Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment Act.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD'S 48TH INFANTRY BRIGADE BRAVO COMPANY SECOND BATTALION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Georgia National Guard's 48th Infantry Brigade Bravo Company Second Battalion, which will soon deploy for a yearlong mission to train and mentor members of the Afghan National Army.

The Bravo Company Second Battalion, based out of Newnan in Georgia's 3rd Congressional District, has trained intensely at Fort Gordon in Augusta, Fort Polk in Louisiana and Fort Stewart in southeast Georgia leading up to its deployment.

These 130 U.S. soldiers will do a great job serving their nation and assisting the Afghans in building their own proud military. They bring with them to Afghanistan a wealth of expertise and battle-tested experience.

Half of the soldiers deployed to Iraq in 2005–2006, a time of intense fighting with insurgents, and the unit suffered heavy losses. As today's unit carries on the fight, they remember and honor their fallen comrades.

On April 13, the unit will ship off to Camp Shelby, MS, before heading to their overseas destination. I look forward to taking part in community events to see them off and give them the honor and gratitude they and their families so richly deserve.

Georgians in the 3rd District are proud to have these patriots as neighbors. The soldiers of the 48th Infantry Brigade put themselves on the front lines to defend our nation and protect our freedom. The families they leave behind sacrifice just as much. We pray that God blesses their mission and watches over them until their safe return to Georgia and their loving families.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO GIVE DC CITIZENS A PLACE IN STATUARY HALL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a bill today to permit two statues honoring citizens of the District of Columbia in Statuary Hall in the Capitol, just as statues honoring citizens of States are placed in the historic hall. This legislation would allow the city to offer two statues to the Congress on behalf of D.C. residents. This bill is important to ensure equal treatment for the residents of the District of Columbia with the residents of the 50 States, who already have statues representing them in Statuary Hall.

The D.C. statues would likely be of Frederick Douglass and Pierre L'Enfant, known for their contributions to the city and to the Nation, who were selected by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities through a

public process. The D.C. statues could help cure the diversity embarrassment of statues in the Capitol. When the Capitol Visitors Center (CVC) opened in December, many were surprised and embarrassed that even in the part of the CVC Congress named Emancipation Hall, to honor the slaves and free blacks who helped build the Capitol, there were no statues of African Americans. It also is an embarrassment, and an indefensible one at that, that the 600,000 American citizens who live in the nation's capital have no statues of their own, while all 50 States have statues.

On August 10, 2006, the D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities began the process of creating the two statues to be placed in Statuary Hall, when the Commission chose Frederick Douglass and Pierre L'Enfant as the two prominent residents whose statues would represent the District of Columbia. The Commission also hired two Washington area sculptors, Steven Weitzman and Gordon Kay, to work on the sculptures of Frederick Douglass and Pierre L'Enfant. Both statues were placed in the lobby of One Judiciary Square, a District government building.

Douglass (1818–1895) was born a slave in Maryland and became a District resident in the 1870s. He held diplomatic and District appointments and is considered to be the Father of the Civil Rights Movement. Douglass also displayed his talents as an orator and journalist throughout his life here. His home in southeast Washington is a national monument that attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors annually.

L'Enfant (1754–1825), an architect, engineer and soldier, left France to serve in the American Revolution. George Washington chose L'Enfant to design the new federal city of Washington, D.C. He became a U.S. citizen and spent the remainder of his life in D.C., implementing the plan that made the Nation's capital the beautiful city it is today.

The District of Columbia was born with the Nation itself over 200 years ago. Throughout these two centuries, the city has created its very own rich and uniquely American history. In the Congress, we undermine the Nation's efforts to spread full democracy around the world. While D.C. residents have not yet obtained the same political equality and voting rights as the citizens of the States, they have all the responsibilities of the citizens of the States, including paying all Federal taxes and serving in all the Nation's wars. Today, when our residents are serving in Iraq, the least we should do is to give this city its rightful and equal place in the Capitol.

The statues would offer District residents the opportunity to enjoy the same pride that all other citizens experience when they come to their Capitol—the opportunity to view memorials that commemorate the efforts of residents who have made significant contributions to their jurisdiction and to American history.

The statue bill I introduce today is part of our "Free and Equal D.C." series, which includes the D.C. House Voting Rights Act, bills for budget autonomy and legislative autonomy, an elected district attorney position, and other bills designed to ensure that District residents, who pay Federal taxes and fight in wars like other Americans, are granted the same privileges as other Americans.