

should strengthen its role in rail transit safety oversight. Currently, there are no nationwide mandatory minimum standards for rail transit safety. Unlike the Federal Aviation Administration and the Federal Railroad Administration, the Federal Transit Administration does not have the authority to directly regulate public transit systems. Instead, FTA oversees a State Safety Oversight (SSO) program which puts the safety oversight and enforcement responsibility for rail transit systems on States rather than the Federal Government. However, the legal authorities of the various state oversight agencies are limited and vary widely from State to State. According to a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report in 2006, some States employ as few as 0.1 or 0.2 full-time equivalent positions dedicated to the safety of rail transit systems they are required to oversee. GAO also found that many SSOs lack sufficient financial resources and independence from the transit systems under their purview. The relationship between the Federal Government and States is a partnership, and a culture of safety must permeate this relationship, including at the Federal level. As in all partnerships, when one partner does not do his or her job well, the other must step in to help achieve their shared goals.

I commend the Obama administration for acknowledging the shortfalls of the current state-based safety system and I believe that the Department's proposal represents much needed improvements. It will assure that each State has an adequate number of fully-trained staff, that it has sufficient authority granted by the state legislature and governor, that it can compel compliance by the transit agencies, and that the state oversight entity has financial independence from the transit systems it oversees. I think those are reasonable propositions. Safety is our number one responsibility in transportation.

I would also like to applaud Secretary Ray LaHood for his leadership on this critical safety issue, and for directing DOT to take intermodal initiatives to enhance transit safety. This is a nonpartisan issue—protecting human life from injury or death. I appreciate the Secretary's decision to create a new, internal safety council designed to enhance the culture of safety at the Department. At a very basic level, we need to ensure that passengers feel completely safe as they board rail transit systems, as ensuring safety is a key component of creating livable communities, which is a goal that both Secretary LaHood and I share.

I look forward to working with the Department of Transportation on this proposal during consideration of the comprehensive, long-term surface transportation authorization bill. Improving transportation safety across all modes is a core principle of the "Surface Transportation Authorization Act", and I look forward to working with the Administration to further strengthen its transit safety provisions.

HONORING DR. RUTH SIMMONS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Ruth Simmons who is President of Brown Uni-

versity and is the first African American to head an Ivy League institution.

Dr. Simmons began her life as the youngest of 12 children to a sharecropper in Grapeland, Texas. She spent her formative years in segregated Houston, and went on to complete a bachelor's degree on a scholarship from Dillard University in New Orleans. She completed her education with a master's degree and a doctorate in Romance literature from Harvard University.

Today, Dr. Simmons is regarded as one of the most notable people in academia and academic administration. Through the years, she has served as Dean at Princeton University and President of Smith College where she was responsible for starting the institution's engineering program. In 2001, she became President of Brown University, and there she has completed a \$1.4 billion initiative to enhance Brown's academic program entitled Boldly Brown: The Campaign for Academic Enrichment.

Dr. Simmons recently visited Dallas where the city's Brown University Club hosted her at a reception. Additionally, she attended a luncheon at St. Phillips School and Community Center, an institution dedicated to enhancing the lives of children and families with low and moderate income. We were very privileged to have Dr. Simmons visit our city, and I know that her personality and character will be an inspiration to the countless people that were privileged to meet her.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring Dr. Ruth Simmons for her countless achievements and dedication to higher education. Additionally, I would like to personally thank her for visiting Dallas and inspiring people across our community to achieve their goals.

SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME
VICTIMS

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I would like to insert the following list of Shaken Baby Syndrome victims:

Cynthia Gibbs from New York,
Tanner Jurisch from South Dakota,
Cheyenne Huffines from Georgia,
Macie McCarty from Minnesota,
Jake Belisle from Maine,
Benjamin Zentz from Michigan,
Chole Salazar from New Mexico,
Madison Musser from Oklahoma,
Daniel Carbajal from Texas,
Nykkole Becker from Minnesota,
Gianna D'Alessio from Rhode Island,
Brynn Ackley from Washington,
Rachael Kang from Texas,
John Sprague from Maryland,
Ryan Sanders from Virginia,
Reagan Johnson from Virginia,
Brittney Sheets from New York,
Dalton Fish from Indiana,
Nicolette Klinker from Colorado,
Brianna Moore from West Virginia,
Shania Maria from Massachusetts,
Dayton Jones from Pennsylvania,
Breanna Sherer from California,
Evelyn Biondo from New York,
Kenneth Hardy from Pennsylvania,
Alexis Vazquez from Florida,

Joshua True from Washington,
Stephen David from California,
Michael Blair from Arkansas,
Olivia Thomas from Ohio,
Kaleb Schwade from Florida,
Aiden Jenkins from Pennsylvania,
Isabella Clark from Pennsylvania,
Aaron Cherry from Texas,
Skipper Lithco from New York,
Madilyne Wentz from Missouri,
Chelsea Forant from Massachusetts,
David Sedlet from California,
Joshua Cross from Ohio,
Taylor Rogers from Illinois,
Kaden Isings from Washington,
Hannah Juceam from California,
Sarah Donohue from New York,
Gavin Calloway from Maryland,
Kierra Harrison from Nevada,
Christopher Daughtrey from North Carolina,

Miranda Raymond from Pennsylvania,
Dominic Morelock from Ohio,
Emmy Cole from Maine,
McKynzee Goin from Oregon,
Bryce McCormick from Florida,
Dawson Rath from Pennsylvania,
Joseph Wells from Texas,
Stephen Siegfried from Texas,
Margaret Dittman from Texas,
Jamison Carmichael from Florida,
Bennett Sandwell from Missouri,
Amber Stone from New York,
Cassandra Castens from Arizona,
Gabriela Poole from Florida.

On behalf of these victims and many other innocent lives lost or damaged, I look forward to working with my colleagues to see that legislation becomes law so that we can expand efforts to eradicate Shaken Baby Syndrome.

HONORING MOLLY SABOLSKY, RECIPIENT OF THE HARRY F. BYRD, JR. LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Molly Sabolsky, a senior from W.T. Woodson High School in Fairfax, Va., for receiving a 2010 Harry F. Byrd Jr. Leadership Award. Senator Byrd developed the award to recognize and reward students that are strong academically and demonstrate leadership qualities. A \$10,000 scholarship is awarded to one student from each congressional district in Virginia.

Each high school in Virginia is able to nominate one student to compete for the award. Students are nominated based upon their excellence in academics, leadership, good citizenship, and character. Molly Sabolsky embodies the reward through her academic achievement in the classroom and her leadership on the volleyball team.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Molly Sabolsky for being recognized by the Harry F. Byrd, Jr. Leadership for her academic success and leadership qualities.

HOUSTON LEADS NATION IN
ENERGY STAR QUALIFIED HOMES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, recently our Environmental Protection Agency

announced a major milestone in saving electricity and avoiding greenhouse gases. One million Energy Star qualified homes have been built since the start of the program in 1992. \$1.2 billion has been saved on energy bills and we have been able to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 22 billion pounds. In 2009, Americans have saved more than \$270 million on utility bills.

I am proud to say that Houston, a portion of the second district of Texas, leads the nation, with 144,000 Energy Star qualified homes since 1995. Altogether, Texas cities hold 4 spots in the top 20 geographical areas.

Thousands of Texans are saving millions of dollars by being aware of their energy consumption, making smart energy choices, and getting the most bang for their energy buck. The guidelines to getting a house Energy Star labeled are strict, but using common sense when trying to save energy can prevent greenhouse gases. Homes must have effective insulation systems, high-performance windows, tight construction and ductwork, efficient heating and cooling, and high-efficiency lighting. Houston has the most of these homes, in a state where one-third of all electricity is used for air conditioning. That is almost three times the national average.

Studies have shown that if Texas embraces conservation and comprehensive sets of energy technology, our state could avoid building any new electric generating plants for at least 15 years. Right now in 2009, Texans have the highest average spending on residential electricity in the South. That is changing, and rapidly.

The Energy Star program has paved the way for a new, energy efficient America. Houston, Texas is at the helm and our nation's advances in efficiency and awareness show no signs of slowing.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO GERALD WAYNE
SMITH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today and ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Gerald Wayne Smith as he is awarded the rank of Eagle Scout by the Boy Scouts of America. At the age of 71, Gerald is one of the oldest individuals in our country to receive this distinction.

Over the years the Tall Pine Council of the Boy Scouts of America has worked to provide the Scouting opportunity for every youngster. The focus of their program is to accommodate all abilities. The Council holds a "Handicapable Camporee" on a regular basis to allow all scouts regardless of their abilities to learn how to function in an outdoors setting. The Tall Pine Council ranks near the top of Boy Scout Councils across the Nation that have awarded the Eagle Scout rank to youngsters with disabilities.

Gerald Wayne Smith is a charter member of Boy Scout Troop 117, a Tall Pine Council Boy Scout Troop founded on October 16, 1961 as a troop devoted to Scouts with differing abilities. He has served as Junior Assistant Scoutmaster since 1974, and was promoted to Life Scout in 1989.

Gerald was elected to the Order of the Arrow, an honor given to those Scouts that best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. He completed his Ordeal requirements in 1985, the Brotherhood requirements in 1986 and completed the Vigil level requirements in 1998. The Order of the Arrow is considered to be scouting's national service organization and Gerald is recognized as an honored camper. The purpose of the Order is to promote the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of cheerful service to others.

After overseeing a landscaping and canopy renovation project at Asbury United Methodist Church in Flint, Michigan, Gerald fulfilled the requirements to receive the Eagle Scout Award. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout and it is the highest level a Boy Scout can achieve. He is the ninth Scout in Troop 117 to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.

Madam Speaker, Gerald Wayne Smith has exhibited leadership, service, and outdoor skills, throughout his Boy Scout career. These are the three essential elements to earning the Eagle Scout Award and he is to be commended for his commitment to Scouting and his perseverance in achieving his goal. I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding this tremendous achievement and congratulating him for his accomplishment.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit documentation consistent with the Republican Earmark Standards.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 3326—Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010

Account: RDTE, A

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Florida State University (FSU)

Address of Receiving Entity: 109 Westcott Building Tallahassee, FL 32306

Description of Request: I have secured \$3,200,000 in funding in H.R. 3326 in the RDTE, A Account for the Nanotubes Optimized for Lightweight Exceptional Strength (NOLES) Composite Materials.

It is my understanding that the funding would be used to develop effective personnel protection and a lighter, stronger fleet of fighting vehicles through diminutive nanotubes.

This is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because the U.S. Army's objective of developing effective personnel protection and a lighter, stronger fleet of fighting vehicles may be achieved through the diminutive nanotubes that (1) are the strongest fiber known, (2) have a thermal conductivity two times higher than pure diamond, and (3) have unique electrical conductivity properties and an ultrahigh current carrying capacity.

There are no matching funds required for this project.

IN MEMORY OF MARY
RUTHSDOTTER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor my dear friend, Mary Ruthsdotter, who passed away January 8, 2010, at the age of 65. Mary was a sparkling personality and a community leader, friend to many, devoted family woman, and a prominent activist for women's issues. As one of four women who founded the National Women's History Project, NWHP, in 1980 in Santa Rosa, California, she profoundly influenced the Nation's understanding of women's roles in our lives.

Born in Iowa in 1944 to a military family, Mary traveled widely while growing up. She attended UCLA and, while living in Los Angeles, married Dave Crawford. The couple moved to Sonoma County in 1977. Later, as the spirit of feminism informed her life, Mary changed her last name from Crawford to Ruthsdotter in honor of her mother Ruth.

With a strong mother and grandmother as role models, Mary was always a feminist. The move to Sonoma County turned her into an activist. She learned about women's history from Molly MacGregor, Bette Morgan, and Paula Hammett, future co-founders with her of the NWHP. She also heeded the call from the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women for volunteers and eventually became its Chair.

The founding of the NWHP, a national clearinghouse and curriculum development center, was the realization of a dream to promote and celebrate the diverse accomplishments of women. As Mary explained it, "Not knowing women's history and trying to understand the world is like not knowing odd numbers and trying to figure out math."

She served as a researcher and writer and traveled around the country making presentations, training teachers, and lobbying for the inclusion of women's accomplishments in the nation's history. She established a nationwide network to provide resource materials to schools; co-produced a video series, Women in American Life, as well as the first video documenting the role of Latino women, Adelante, Mujeres; and coordinated reviews for thousands of books on women in history submitted by publishers across the Nation. She donated these selections to Sonoma State University.

Thanks to the NWHP, March is now recognized as National Women's History Month. Mary, of course, was on the front lines spearheading the movement for National Women's History Week which became the full month of recognition in 1987. That is one reason I nominated her for the Women's History Month 2007 list of prominent women, a fitting tribute. She received the award at a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda in Washington, DC.

Mary's community involvement included a stint as a field representative for former State Assemblymember Patricia Wiggins. Ten years ago, she and Dave were leaders in organizing a co-housing community, the Two Acre Wood, in Sebastopol, California, where they lived with people from varied backgrounds, ages, and perspectives. Mary enjoyed this extended family and working in the garden on the property.