

sweetheart, Lula, on April 13, 1964. He also attended Cisco Jr. College and was an active member of Plum Street United Methodist Church. For over 18 years, Claudie was employed by the Keebler Cookie Company.

Abilene remembers Claudie for planning many community activities and for his boldness in executing these plans. He dedicated his life to the youth, the elderly, the truly disadvantaged and those in the community who were not being treated fairly. He encouraged others to become involved in the community.

In 1980, Claudie organized an annual march honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Today that annual march and associated activities are widely acknowledged and participated in by the citizens of Abilene. In 1981, Claudie was the driving force behind the development of a park constructed in the community of Pasadena Heights in Abilene. Through Claudie's influence, the park was named to honor Mr. Nelson Wilson, Sr., a community leader and long time resident of the city. In 1989, Claudie established H.O.P.E., a successful organization devoted to stopping and preventing youth drug use. In 1995, he was honored with the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Human Services Award. After his death, the Abilene City Council permanently named February 15 as Claudie C. Royal Day to honor him.

Claudie was a strong Christian and family man. Claudie and Lula had 5 children: Michael, Cedric, deceased, Michelle, Mitchell and Matthias Royal, and five grandchildren: Mylles, Michael Ryan, BriAnna, Myller, and Mylliah.

During Black History Month, we pay tribute to generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity and made great contributions to shaping our Nation. We should keep in mind those who made a difference in their communities, and Claudie Royal truly made a difference in Abilene, Texas. The 19th Congressional District thanks Claudie for the imprint he left on his community. Even though he is no longer with us, we remember his devoted service to Abilene.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2010*

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 18, I was unable to vote because my arrival in Washington from Iowa was delayed by severe winter weather. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

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#### HONORING PAUL WHITE

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2010*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Paul White upon being honored with the "Trail Blazers Award" by the African American Museum. Mr. White will be honored at the African American History Month Celebration and Banquet on Saturday, February 6th, 2010 in Fresno, California.

Mr. Paul White was born on March 23, 1947 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. At age eleven his mother passed away and he, along with his five siblings, moved to Fresno, California to be raised by their grandparents. He graduated from Edison High School in 1962 and attended Fresno City College where he played basketball. He graduated from California State University, Fresno with a Bachelors of Arts degree and a Masters degree in Public Administration.

Mr. White served the Fresno community for over thirty years with distinguished careers in health care administration, human resources and social services. He was the first African American Assistant Administrator at Saint Agnes Hospital, Valley Medical Center and the Fresno County Health Department. Mr. White served as the Assistant Executive Director of Fresno County Economics Opportunity Commission for many years.

Outside of work, Mr. White was heavily involved with various community organizations including: the Black Infant Health Project, Babies First, the Marjaree Mason Center, March of Dimes, the California Transplant Donor Network, United Network of Organ Sharing, Minority Affairs Committee, Boy Scouts of America and he served on the Board of Directors for West Fresno Health Care Coalition, Inc. For his dedicated service, Mr. White has also been recognized and awarded by many organizations including: Fresno Metro Ministries, the California Transplant Donor Network, the United Black Men of Fresno, former California Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante and the California State Senate and Assembly. Mr. White passed away on March 17, 2005. He and his wife, Sheila, had been married for forty years. Together they raised six children and had nine grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Paul White. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and wishing the best for his family.

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#### HONORING EVAN LYSACEK

### HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2010*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Evan Lysacek on winning an Olympic gold medal in men's figure skating. Evan skated a breathtaking routine in both the short program and free skate to reach the pinnacle of his sport on its greatest stage. All of us in the Chicago area are proud not only of what he has accomplished but also the way he has represented himself, his family, the state of Illinois and all of the United States.

Born in Chicago and raised in Naperville, Evan attended Neuqua Valley High School, where he graduated with honors. In Vancouver, he became the first American man to win gold in figure skating since Brian Boitano in 1988. Evan was the U.S. Champion in 2007 and 2008 and World Champion in 2009, but did not skate his best at the 2006 Olympics in Torino, finishing fourth. His story of triumph and redemption is one we can all learn from. I wish Evan the best of luck in his figure skating career and beyond, and am so proud to recognize him today.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2010*

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably absent on Monday, February 22, 2010, due to a death in my family. Had I been present for the two votes which occurred, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 4425, rollcall No. 49 and H.R. 4238, rollcall No. 50.

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#### EARMARK DECLARATION

### HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2010*

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Priority Name: Thunder Radar Pod (TRP)

Appropriated Amount: \$1.6 million

Account: Air Force—RDT&E

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Mid-American Precision Products

Address of Requesting Entity: 1927 West 4th Street, Joplin, MO 64801

Description of Request: The use of taxpayer funds is justified because the Air National Guard (ANG) has an essential requirement to provide its F-16 fighter forces with all-weather, day & night strike and situational awareness capability that will complement its current EO/IR capability with the Advanced Targeting Pods. This capability can only be provided with an airborne Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) that is capable of seeing through cloud cover, inclement weather, and smoke obscured targets or areas of interest. Lack of an all weather targeting capability will continue to limit the USAF's ability to effectively fulfill its Destruction of Enemy Air Defense (DEAD) tasking regardless of weather and allow the enemy to operate unfettered in poor metrological conditions. This all-weather DEAD capability will not be realized until approximately 2018 with the fielding of a like capability in the F-35, making the procurement of the TRP in the near-term time frame critical.

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#### RETIREMENT OF MARIE RICHARD

### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2010*

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, after more than fifty years of working for The Beaumont Enterprise newspaper, Marie Richard has decided to retire. She is the longtime assistant to the editor and very well known throughout the company and the community.

She began her newspaper career in 1959. At the age of twenty, she started working for the Beaumont Enterprise newspaper, and now at the age of seventy, she is ending her wonderful career.

She is recognized for fortifying relationships with the newspaper's customers; an aspect of her job she has enjoyed the most. She is also recognized for her work with the newspaper's

annual holiday fund drive. Her dedication to the people of the Second District of Texas is truly heartfelt.

Madam Speaker, the Second District of Texas is proud to have such a wonderful individual in its community. We have no doubt that the newspaper will miss Marie Richard and her dedication to the people of Beaumont, Texas.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM D.  
MONTAGUE

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of William D. Montague, Director of the Cleveland, Ohio Veterans Administration Medical Center (Cleveland VAMC), and in celebration of his retirement. For nearly twenty years he provided excellence, leadership and expertise in support of United States Veterans from northeast Ohio.

Thanks in part to his hard work and dedication, the Cleveland VAMC has consistently provided superior and innovative clinical care, outreach services and numerous programs for veterans and their families. Throughout his tenure at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Mr. Montague has served as CEO or acting CEO at six VA facilities, and has been actively involved in 13 major construction projects which enhanced and expanded services and programs for veterans.

Mr. Montague's effective leadership and professional accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. He has been recognized numerous times with local, state and national awards and honors, including the 2009 American College of Healthcare Executives Federal Excellence in Healthcare Leadership Award; the Presidential Meritorious Award (twice); and the AMVETS Civil Servant Award. Mr. Montague was a key contact in working with my Congressional staff to assist veterans who reside in the 10th Congressional District. His response and support was consistently timely and thorough.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of William D. Montague, retiring Director of the Cleveland VAMC, who served with integrity, dedication, diligence, compassion and expertise. I thank Mr. Montague for all of his assistance to United States Veterans of the 10th Congressional District and the region. I wish him and his family peace, health and happiness as he journeys onward.

NATIONAL DISCOVERY TRAILS  
ACT OF 2010

**HON. JOHN P. SARBANES**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2010*

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the bipartisan National Discovery Trails Act of 2010. This legislation seeks to connect existing trails, greenways, and country roads to form the American Discovery Trail a unique coast-to-coast, non-motorized, multi-use trail accessible to urban and rural areas alike all across the country.

Americans have utilized our nation's trail system for more than 40 years for outdoor recreation, exercise, historic study, and general enjoyment of the natural beauty this country has to offer. The American Discovery Trail will connect people to small towns, historic sites and natural wonders along a coast-to-coast route. It will provide millions of people greater access to a trail system that can be utilized for two hours, two days, two weeks, two months or longer giving users the flexibility to explore the trail for as much or as little time as they want. Numerous studies have shown that the presence of trails and greenway corridors positively impact quality of life, but also real estate property values, small businesses, tourism, and even some corporate relocations.

The National Trails System currently has two categories of significant long-distance trails. The first category is the National Historic Trail, which are famous historic routes, such as the Santa Fe Trail, Pony Express Trail, and the Lewis & Clark Trail. The second category is the National Scenic Trail, which are classic wilderness-only routes meant for hiking far from civilization, such as the Appalachian Trail, Pacific Crest Trail, and Continental Divide Trail.

The National Discovery Trails Act of 2010 would add a third long-distance national trails category called National Discovery Trails. National Discovery Trails would tie together historic and scenic trails and connect them with population centers from small towns to big cities in a way that will increase access to and awareness of our national trail system.

The legislation would also designate the American Discovery Trail as the first National Discovery Trail. The American Discovery Trail route—the first non-motorized way to cross the entire country—would utilize already existing right-of-ways on public land. It would be a patchwork quilt of the country's east-west pathways, including National Park hiking trails, National Forest logging roads, sections of historic routes, historic canal towpaths, rails-to-trails conversions, state and county park trails, country roads, small town sidewalks, and big city greenways—all stitched together to form one trail from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The National Park Service supported creation of the National Discovery Trail designation in a comprehensive feasibility study in 1996.

Madam Speaker, it is time to expand the national trails system and establish American Discovery Trails, linking community to community and providing trail users the opportunity to journey into the heart of all that is uniquely American—its culture, heritage, landscape, and spirit. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting of this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDGE J.  
AUGUSTUS ACCURSO

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2010*

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest respect and admiration that I rise today to honor the late Judge J. Augustus "Augie" Accurso. Augie was not only an engaged member of our community in Stanislaus County, California, but he was a beloved fa-

ther and grandfather. He was a very special and well respected man to many people, known for his gift of conversation, sense of humor and positive approach to life. At the age of 79, Augie Accurso passed away on Sunday, February 7, 2010.

The Queens Village, N.Y., native had several other jobs before settling into law. He went to barber school and worked as a pharmacist, which his colleagues said ensured he would carefully scrutinize chemical evidence. Judge Accurso started out in the Stanislaus County district attorney's office in 1969, then after a little more than a year went into private practice. He was then selected by the county Board of Supervisors to become a Justice Court judge in Turlock. In 1977, the Board of Supervisors abolished the Justice Court, the board appointed him to the Municipal Court bench.

Judge Accurso served on the bench for two decades, and during his 20-year career as a judge, he served at every judicial level in the state shy of the Supreme Court. He served on the Justice Court, the Municipal Court, the Superior Court and the Court of Appeal. During his tenure, he also served as dean of the Judges College, an ongoing curriculum to help judges keep abreast of judicial procedures and rules.

Judge Accurso was also an active alumnus of the Theta Chi Fraternity. Judge Accurso pledged, and was initiated, Theta Chi while attending San Jose State. This was a relationship that he held proudly throughout his life as he encouraged and nurtured the chapter that formed at CSU Stanislaus in the late 70s. Judge Accurso was very influential in the lives of the members of the Eta Tau Chapter of Theta Chi at California State University Stanislaus, and was like a father to many of them.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor and privilege to join my community in honoring the memory of Augie Accurso. He will be greatly missed by all.

RECOGNIZING WEST VIRGINIA NATIONAL GUARD AND LOCAL RESPONDERS FOR HEROIC WORK

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2010*

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic efforts of my fellow West Virginians, who safely and successfully rescued 17 individuals from a downed military helicopter in Pocahontas County, WV, last week. The Navy helicopter was participating in the Operation Southbound Trooper X annual military exercise, when it went down in a deep snow-covered and rugged site, which lies in northwestern Pocahontas County.

A West Virginia Army National Guard HH-60 Blackhawk helicopter—piloted by Bluefield, WV, native Major Kevin Hazuka—located the downed aircraft. Two medics were lowered to the landing site to assess the situation and provide assistance to the injured. A C-130 Hercules aircraft from the 130th Airlift Wing in Charleston was dispatched and orbited the site to maintain communications with the downed aircraft, while emergency response and rescue teams worked through the night