

PAUL that would eliminate funding for important allies like Israel, Egypt, and Jordan.

It is a hard to imagine a program that is more fiscally conservative. The cost is minimal compared to most government programs because the Center, because of its size, operates far more efficiently and flexibly and because, unlike government departments, it leverages significant amounts of non-appropriated sources for its national mission. This figure is 40 percent in last year's budget.

The Center originally was supported fully by the U.S. government and at much higher levels of appropriations during the Reagan and Bush 41 administrations. It has been repositioning itself as a public-private partnership. The amendment to zero out its funding would have a devastating impact on its ability to continue to increase private funding and leverage public funding. It also would have a devastating impact on U.S. public diplomacy in East, Southeast, and South Asia and the Pacific islands just at a time that other countries, especially China, are ramping up their public diplomacy programs in that region that is so important to our future.

Under the successful leadership of Charles Morrison, the East-West Center chaired the committee that developed the Hawaii hosting proposal for the 2011 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders Summit.

The Center supports and leads the official APEC Pacific Economic Cooperation Council on behalf of the United States. It has provided essential research support for several APEC activities, including an assessment requested by the APEC Business Advisory Council of the U.S.-proposed Free Trade Area of Asia and the Pacific and studies in the area of energy security. I know that President Morrison and the East-West Center are integral to a successful U.S. hosting APEC year. This Congress needs to continue to support the East-West Center in these efforts.

Mahalo nui loa (thank you very much).

CELEBRATING 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF MORRIS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY,
MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Morris Habitat for Humanity, Morris County, New Jersey, celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year.

The Morris Habitat for Humanity was established in 1985 and its presence in Morris County has been growing ever since. However, attaining the permission from Habitat International to start a Habitat for Humanity in one of New Jersey's wealthiest counties was no easy accomplishment. With the help of many individuals, including Millard Fuller, the founder of Habitat for Humanity International, and former President Jimmy Carter, the Morris County Chapter of Habitat for Humanity was founded. This organization has worked alongside 190 families building over 45 homes and preserving 42 houses in Morris County. Habitat for Humanity's achievements have not only spanned across the great state of New Jersey but all around the world having built 103 houses to date in other countries.

I had the good fortune of working with the Morris Habitat on "The House that Congress Built" and experienced firsthand the dedication of the volunteers and staff. The advancement of this inspirational organization is credited in large part to its volunteers. Over 45,000 people have given their time to help others achieve home ownership. Habitat for Humanity provides a vast number of opportunities to its volunteers. With the opening of the ReStore Outlet in Mine Hill, New Jersey, Morris Habitat has expanded its services by offering reusable and spare building materials to the public at discounted prices, making home improvements attainable for families.

The Morris Habitat for Humanity has continuously provided steadfast dedication to home ownership. The valuable support they have provided to those in need in Morris County and surrounding counties is remarkable.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Morris Habitat for Humanity as they celebrate 25 dedicated years of service.

RECOGNIZING STEPHANIE THETFORD AS THE 2011 OKALOOSA COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Stephanie Thetford as the 2011 Okaloosa County Teacher of the Year. For 17 years Mrs. Thetford has been an inspiration to her students, motivating them to realize their true potential and achieve excellence, and I am honored to recognize her achievements.

Mrs. Thetford is a proud product of the Okaloosa County, Florida, school system. She is a graduate of Crestview High School, and her passion for serving the students of Northwest Florida led her to pursue a teaching career in Okaloosa County.

Mrs. Thetford has spent the past 11 years teaching at Fort Walton Beach High School, where she has taught numerous math courses. She has had the opportunity to teach students at all levels, including Algebra IA, Algebra IB, Geometry, Math Analysis and Informal Geometry. For the past six years she has also had the opportunity to teach students at the highest levels, serving as the teacher for AP Calculus AB and BC. When she took over the class, there were 25 students enrolled in the AP Calculus curriculum. Today, through her hard work and dedication, there are 62 students enrolled in these courses.

Quantity, however, is hollow without quality results. Mrs. Thetford has delivered these results year after year. Last year, 66 of her students took the AP Calculus AB exam, with 60 of these students receiving a passing score. She also had 6 students take the AP Calculus BC exam; all of these students passed the test, and five out of six received the highest possible score.

Mrs. Thetford realizes that the key to achieving success is hard work and dedication. She offers daily tutoring before school, starting at 6 a.m., to ensure that students are prepared to achieve their goals. Mrs. Thetford

takes every possible measure to identify any problems or confusion that students may have, and she is always available to her students to answer questions and help them work through their difficulties so that they are not left behind when a new concept is introduced.

Her dedication to the students of Okaloosa County does not end when school is on summer break. In the summer, she has conducted county-wide math in-service training for Pre-Algebra, Algebra, and Algebra II teachers, where she teaches methods to integrate technology to help students who are struggling with these mathematical concepts. This ensures that the primary level math classes help build the foundational skills necessary to succeed in upper-level courses. She serves as the Vertical Team Trainer for Okaloosa County and as an AP Calculus mentor for other Calculus teachers in the county, ensuring that other schools can replicate the success of her students in Advanced Placement courses.

Great teachers are an invaluable asset to our nation's students. To be honored as Teacher of the Year is an immense honor, and it is a reflection of her indefatigable dedication to the students of Okaloosa County. She has proven herself to be among the many exceptional teachers in our nation, and I am proud to have her as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Stephanie Thetford for her accomplishments and her continuing commitment to excellence at Fort Walton Beach High School and in the Okaloosa County School District. Her passion for her students is laudable, and her dedication to her profession is exemplary. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Mrs. Thetford, and we wish her all the best.

HONORING THE HEROICS OF DAVID BENKE

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero, Mr. David Benke, an ordinary man who through extraordinary courage saved the lives of an innumerable number of children. His valor, daring, and selflessness are a compelling reminder of the strength and virtue of the American spirit.

It was a chilly afternoon on February 23, 2010, when Mr. Benke's mettle was tested. He heard nearby gunshots on the grounds of the Littleton school where he teaches. 60 feet away a 32-year-old man was taking shots with a hunting rifle at a group of students. Heedless of the danger to himself, Mr. Benke tore towards the assailant and in an instant had wrestled him to the pavement and the rifle from his grasp. Two students had been wounded, but countless others were saved by his heroic efforts.

In recognition and in honor of this selfless act, the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission has awarded him the Carnegie Medal, a high honor "given to those who risk their lives to an extraordinary degree while saving or attempting to save the lives of others." Today, I too

would like to recognize Mr. Benke's valor and selflessness and do honor to one of Colorado's most distinguished heroes. I am extremely proud to have David as a constituent and know that his bravery and courage will shine as a beacon of magnanimity that others will aspire to.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS CAPPSS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes.

Mrs. CAPPSS. Mr. Chair, I rise to speak in strong support of Mr. BLUMENAUER's amendment to restore funding to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

The Republican move to gut funding for public broadcasting in this Omnibus spending bill is an incredibly bad idea.

Millions of Americans rely on public broadcasting for their news, entertainment, and local programming.

Public broadcasting provides programs and services that inform, enlighten, and enrich our society.

And in a world enlightened by all too often ill-informed and sensationalist cable "news" shows, public broadcasting provides thoughtful, even handed analysis of the issues of the day.

Simply put, public broadcasting helps educate our society and celebrates the arts, education, respectful debate and civil discourse.

The CPB enables nearly 1,300 public radio and television stations—like KCBX, KCLU, and KOCE, in my district—to stay on the air and broadcast quality, commercial-free news and educational programming.

These stations reach 260 million Americans in every corner of this country—bringing "All Things Considered" and "Car Talk" into our cars and Sesame Street, Frontline, the NewsHour and NOVA into our living rooms.

I know that my district is a far richer place because of these important public broadcasting outlets.

The CPB also promotes public-private partnerships.

And as we look for ways to reduce our spending, we ought to look to agencies and programs that have the most bang for the buck.

By providing essential foundational money, the CPB enables public stations to leverage funds to raise the additional resources they need to fully cover operating costs.

Ending CPB funding would undeniably punish these successful partnerships.

Finally, the public radio and TV stations supported by CPB are locally owned and consistently broadcast content important to their communities.

In rural areas, these stations are frequently the only source of free local, national, and international news.

Public broadcasting is often a lifeline for Americans in times of natural disasters, providing up-to-date information on evacuation routes and evacuation center locations.

CPB funds are vital to the success of public broadcasting.

You know, some years ago Newt Gingrich went after Big Bird and the results weren't pretty.

The American people made it clear that they like their local NPR stations and other public broadcasters.

They believed that supporting public broadcasting was a worthwhile use of their tax dollars.

I don't think that sentiment has changed.

I urge my colleagues to restore funding to the CPB by supporting Mr. BLUMENAUER's commonsense amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MARK DYER AND THE VOLUNTEERS OF SHELTERBOX USA

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mark Dyer, a resident of Elmhurst, Illinois. Mark was recently recognized along with other volunteers for their efforts in furthering disaster relief efforts through ShelterBox USA. ShelterBox USA is a worldwide relief organization that specializes in providing emergency shelter to those displaced by natural disasters.

As the horrific events unfolded in the wake of Haiti's devastating earthquake, many watched as news reports flashed images of human tragedy and suffering, but Mark Dyer was moved to action. Through Mr. Dyer's hard work to raise awareness and funds, ShelterBox was able to provide more than 28,000 ShelterBoxes full of cooking sets, tents, water purification supplies, and other essential items to the survivors in Haiti. Mark's determination is reflected in the fact that those 28,000 ShelterBoxes accounted for one-quarter of all the tented shelters in Haiti.

Mark is also a ShelterBox Response Team member who volunteers his time all over the world. In the past two years Mark has deployed to Somaliland, Niger, Columbia, and Haiti to deliver much needed assistance following disasters.

Few are willing to heed the call to service following devastating natural disasters, and even fewer are willing to commit to such a level, and with as much passion, as Mark Dyer. His efforts were recently recognized with The President's Volunteer Service Award, a special recognition presented on behalf of President Barack Obama for those who contribute a significant amount of time to volunteer activities. Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, Mark Dyer deserves our recognition and commendation.

Please join me in recognizing the impressive work of Mark Dyer and the volunteers of ShelterBox USA while wishing them every success in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE VILLAGE OF PALMETTO BAY

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Village of Palmetto Bay on the grand opening of the new Village Hall, the first "Platinum" LEED-Certified Municipal Center and Emergency Operations Center in the State of Florida. This state-of-the-art facility will provide much needed services and support for the residents and Council members of Palmetto Bay. Located on E. Hibiscus Street, this new 26,005 square-foot Municipal Center is easily accessible and welcomes all residents.

The facility was internationally recognized as a green building by its "Platinum" LEED-Certification. The design and construction of the building aims at energy savings, water efficiency, improved indoor environmental quality, and carbon dioxide emissions reduction. The framework used reflects environmental awareness and economic responsibility.

The Municipal Center provides a center for government and serves as the emergency operating center for the Village designed to withstand category 5 hurricanes. I commend Mayor Shelley Stanczyk and her staff for finalizing the move and creating a smart and conservative community to engage the residents of Palmetto Village.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me on this special occasion and commend those who have worked relentlessly to make the opening of the Municipal Center a reality.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. ELLIN LIEBERMAN

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the extraordinary leadership of Dr. Ellin Lieberman. Through her unwavering commitment to service, she has transformed the lives of many and made profound contributions to our community and country.

Dr. Lieberman, born and raised in New York City, began her professional career of service after receiving her B.A. from Harvard University and her medical degree, specializing in Internal Medicine & Pediatrics with a subspecialty in Pediatric Nephrology, from Boston University School of Medicine. She joined the USC faculty in 1963, then headed the Division of Nephrology at Children's Hospital Los Angeles from 1967-1995. After retiring from an outstanding medical career in 1998, Ellin continued her work in medical education by advancing medicine around the world. In 2001, she was a Senior Visiting Scholar of the International Society of Nephrology in Russia, started a postgraduate pilot program in St. Petersburg, and later founded the Los Angeles-St. Petersburg Sister City Medical Committee.

After returning to her home in South Pasadena, California, Ellin, turned her energy to community activism, championing a plethora of local and national causes. Ellin and her