

Native American Housing Block Grants. Indian Housing Block Grants go directly to tribally designated housing entities (TDHEs) for housing development, housing services for eligible families, crime prevention and safety, and demonstration projects that provide creative approaches to solving affordable housing shortages. TDHEs must submit an Indian Housing Plan each year they receive funding, followed by an end-of-year Annual Performance Report to report on progress towards meeting their goals. The Committee recommended \$650 million for these grants, thereby meeting my request.

HUD–VASH Program. HUD–VASH is the only program that supports the permanent housing and rehabilitation of homeless veterans. HUD–VASH is a joint HUD and VA initiative that provides specially designated Section 8 “Housing Choice” vouchers, case management, and supportive services to homeless veterans. Vouchers are used to assist with the payment of rent for veterans and their families. The goal of the program is to support veterans’ permanent housing in the community. The Committee’s recommendation was equal to my request of \$75 million.

Maritime Security Program. The Maritime Security Program ensures that the United States has the U.S.-flag commercial sealift capability and trained U.S. citizen merchant mariners available to crew the government and privately-owned vessels needed by the Department of Defense in time of war or other international emergency. The Committee matched my request of \$184 million, which increased funding over FY12 levels by \$10 million.

Housing for the Elderly (Section 202) Capital Advance Program. Capital advances finance construction, rehabilitation, or acquisition of structures that will serve as supportive housing for very low-income elderly persons. Section 202 provides rent subsidies for projects to help keep them affordable for these vulnerable populations. We recommend reinstating funding to allow affordable special needs housing developers to provide supportive housing options for the elderly, particularly within AANHPI enclaves. The Committee exceeded my request for funding by allocating \$425 million.

Mr. Chair, I again extend my sincere thanks to Chairman LATHAM and Ranking Member OLVER for their careful consideration of my appropriations requests. While I reserve my final judgment on this bill, I do believe that the full funding of these programs and departments will make a real difference in boosting the economy and improving the lives of vulnerable communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRESNO COUNTY FARM BUREAU

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations to the Fresno County Farm Bureau which is celebrating its 95th anniversary this year. Since its establishment in 1917, the organization has continued to evolve. It began as general farm orga-

nization as an arm of the Agriculture Extension Service, and is now at the forefront of farming in California. As it nears the end of its first century, it continues to lead the agriculture industry and the community in addressing issues that result in long-term economic viability for agriculture and promoting the economic vitality of the region as we move forward in the 21st Century.

The Farm Bureau started shortly after the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 established the Agriculture Extension Service. The Act stipulated that before a county could obtain farm advisor services, it had to form a general farm organization through which the Extension Service could disseminate information and promote better farming methods. In the fall of 1917, George Fever, J.A. Poytress, Sam Heisinger, H.W. Wrightson and Charles Parlier were among a group of farmers that met with Leroy Smith, the first Extension Service farm advisor assigned to Fresno County, to lay the groundwork for a Fresno County Farm Bureau organization.

Fresno County Farm Bureau, like many other County Farm Bureau organizations, was originally set up in joint offices within the University of California Agriculture Extension Service. The Farm Bureau membership rose and fell in the pre-World War II days, dropping to 350 during the Depression. The largest growth in membership occurred around the Farm Bureau’s 50th anniversary, between 1945 and 1967 when it rose from 1,000 to 4,500 members. Today, the Fresno County Farm Bureau represents more than 4,000 members. In the early 1960s, Fresno County took first place in total production value of agriculture commodities. Fresno County remains the number one agricultural county in the country, bringing in \$5.94 billion in 2010.

The Farm Bureau has played an integral role in many projects throughout its history, including: presenting President Franklin D. Roosevelt a program to strengthen agriculture during the Great Depression years in 1931; partnering with the Madera, Tulare and Kings County Farm Bureaus to organize the California Farm Bureau Marketing Association in 1918; starting a pilot program to sell tree-ripened fruit to southern California consumers in 1966; and playing a major role in the development and implementation of the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986.

Today, the Farm Bureau is a grassroots, nationwide network of Farm Bureaus organized on county, state and national levels. The county Farm Bureau is the center of the organization and is one of 53 county Farm Bureaus currently representing a combined membership of over 4,000 family members in Fresno County. Collectively, Farm Bureau is California’s largest farm organization with memberships from 76,500 farm families in 56 counties.

The Farm Bureau continues to lead the agriculture industry and the community in addressing issues that result in long-term viability for agriculture and promoting the economic vitality of the region. Farm Bureau spends countless hours researching agriculturally-related legislation; testifying in front of local, state and federal government; and conducting meetings with elected officials. In addition, it fields hundreds of calls, providing education and outreach to the community, which has continued to be a centerpiece of the Farm Bureau. Through Coffee Talk meetings, which

provide the opportunity for farmers to share information in an informal setting and discuss current, local issues with special guest speakers, the Bureau has continued to make community outreach a top priority. It is also involved in promoting the Blossom Trail, the Fruit Trail and the Big Fresno Fair, and annually recognizes deserving reporters and editors for conveying accurate and objective reporting about agricultural issues and the industry.

On top of these important efforts, the Farm Bureau offers valuable agriculture education and leadership development assistance in the community. The annual Farm and Nutrition Day is put on for more than 1,500 third-graders, providing facts about food and fiber production in Fresno County. In addition, representatives from the Farm Bureau are on-hand during the annual Fair Education Program to conduct mini-presentations about agriculture for students. The Fresno County Farm Bureau also works with local universities and conducts classroom presentations. In addition to this, the Future Advocates for Agriculture Concerned about Tomorrow (FAACT) Leadership Development Program provides community leaders with a comprehensive eight-month class, highlighting specific issue areas in agriculture. FAACT offers a balanced, factual presentation of several issue areas specific to agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Fresno County Farm Bureau as it celebrates its 95th anniversary and prepares to continue to provide outstanding leadership for the agriculture industry throughout the Central Valley, the State of California, and our nation.

DORIT AND SHAWN EVENHAIM

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2012

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to Dorit and Shawn Evenhaim for their generosity and dedication to help the less fortunate as well as provide the highest possible quality of education in our community.

Dorit and Shawn Evenhaim are Israeli Angelenos that own and operate California Home Builders. Both Dorit and Shawn grew up in Southern Israel where they learned the Jewish value of tzedakah, the act of charitable giving and helping the less fortunate. They came to the United States following their service in the Israeli military and continued to practice this philanthropy. They have contributed countless hours of community service and provided leadership to many charitable organizations throughout the San Fernando Valley such as the Israeli Leadership Council, the Jewish Federation, and StandWithUs.

In 2004, Kadima, a 34-year-old Solomon Schecter Conservative day school in the West San Fernando Valley, had to relocate when LAUSD needed the campus that Kadima had been leasing. The Evenhaim’s generous donation provided the resources for Kadima to purchase a former hospital about a mile away from the previous campus.

The Evenhaim’s involvement did not end with their donation. They were also instrumental in locating the site for the new campus,

acquiring the necessary permits, and remodeling the site to fit the needs of the school. Kadima's facilities now include separate yard spaces for the Early Childhood Education Center and Kindergarten, as well as athletic fields, an auditorium and swimming pool, ample classroom space, a 6,000 volume library, and a full kitchen and cafeteria. Both Dorit and Shawn have done a great job serving on Kadima's Board of Trustees.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in recognizing Dorit and Shawn for their philanthropy and their years of service and dedication to the education and service of our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF UNITED
WAY'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to extend a heartfelt congratulations to the volunteers, employees and representatives of United Way as they celebrate 125 years of motivating millions of people to advance the common good.

On June 21, 2012, the worldwide network celebrated their United Way Day of Action, a day dedicated to volunteer and community service activities and encouraging others to pledge to become readers, tutors, or mentors. Also, on June 28, 2012, they will be celebrating the official United Way Founders Day, commemorating community leaders Frances Wisebart Jacobs, the Rev. Myron W. Reed, Msgr. William J. O'Ryan, Dean H. Martyn Hart and Rabbi William S. Friedman for founding the Charity Organizations Society, the first "United Way" Organization in Denver, Colorado in 1887.

In 125 years, United Way has expanded beyond Denver and Colorado and beyond the United States to become a network of almost 1,800 community-based United Ways in 45 countries and territories around the world. In as many years, United Way has become one of the biggest and most influential charity organizations in the world. To emphasize this point, United Way, in a partnership with the National Football League (NFL), raised more than \$1 billion dollars in 1974—the first time in history that an annual campaign of a single organization had raised this much money.

United Way envisions "a world where all individuals and families achieve their human potential through education, income stability and healthy lives." For this reason, in 2008, they set forth a 10-year program to achieve three goals by 2018: (1) Improve education and cut the number of high school dropouts (1.2 million students every year) in half; (2) help people achieve financial stability and get at least half of lower-income families (1.9 million families) on the way to economic independence; (3) promote healthy lives and increase by one-third the number of youth and adults who are healthy and avoid risky behaviors. These are ambitious goals but I am confident that the thousands of United Way advocates will work tirelessly to achieve them.

I would like to especially recognize the local United Way organizations in Georgia's Second Congressional District: Greater Valdosta

United Way, Inc., United Way of South Central Georgia, United Way of Southwest Georgia, Bainbridge—Decatur United Way, United Way of Colquitt County, and United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley. I applaud the members and volunteers of these organizations for dedicating their time and efforts to support their neighbors in need.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing our collective and profound gratitude to the volunteers, employees and representatives of United Way for all they have done to improve the quality of life for the residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District and all around the world.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH'S HOME

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph's Home, a safe, supportive environment for homeless individuals transitioning from local hospitals and other social service agencies following a period of illness or surgery.

Cleveland has had a long history of organizations stepping up and caring for the less fortunate. The Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine (CSA) arrived in Cleveland, Ohio from France in 1851 to serve as the city's first public health nurses, laying the foundation for what would become Joseph's House. The CSA quickly began providing the health and educational needs of Cleveland's most impoverished and vulnerable residents. Over the past 160 years, the CSA has remained dedicated to addressing the root causes of poverty and meeting the needs of the communities they serve.

A group of CSA Sisters, led by founding Sisters Joan Gallagher and Regina Fierman, noticed that Greater Cleveland's homeless community transitioning from local hospitals and other social service agencies following a period of illness or surgery did not have access to a safe and supportive environment. With a legacy of responding to the unmet needs of the community's most vulnerable residents, the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine opened the doors of Joseph's Home in June 2000.

Joseph's House has helped over 400 men transition back into the world and has provided them with a second chance in life. Each year, around 50 men are helped; the house has a capacity of 11 men at any given time. The people served by Joseph's House, leave it with the confidence and support that helps them succeed. Joseph's House provides its residents with job opportunities, educational advancement and more importantly, a place to call home.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Joseph's House for its years of service and dedication to improving the lives of the less fortunate.

A TRIBUTE TO BISHOP ALBERT L.
JAMISON, SR.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Bishop Albert L. Jamison, Sr.

Bishop Albert L. Jamison, Sr. is a native of Brooklyn, New York. He serves as the distinguished Pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Tabernacle where he holds the unique honor of pastoring in the church of which he was born and raised. He has taken his congregation to a new awareness of God.

He is a nationally known evangelist, who travels across the United States to some of the largest cities and churches preaching the Gospel. He is the president and founder of "Pentecost At Any Cost" ministry. As a dedicated pastor and leader in the ministerial field, Bishop Jamison exemplifies a powerful Gospel music ministry. In 1970, Bishop Jamison began working with the late Reverend James Cleveland and continued working with him until the Lord called Rev. Cleveland home.

While serving on the Board of Directors, Bishop Jamison was voted "Chairman" of the Board of Directors, March 1996. He has taken the world's largest Gospel music organization, The Gospel Music Workshop of America, to new heights.

He is the loving husband of Lady Dianette Jamison and the proud father of Jourdan Allen and Joshua Jermelle Jamison. His eldest son, Albert J. Jamison preceded him in death in January 2001.

Because he dares to believe God, his life serves as an example to those he leads to develop a personal relationship with the Lord, to study the Word of God and to face the challenges of life depending wholeheartedly in faith on the Lord. This way of life is expressed in one of his favorite scriptures found in II Corinthians 15:58—Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Bishop Albert L. Jamison, Sr. for his extraordinary contributions to the Brooklyn community.

IN SUPPORT OF THE SUPREME
COURT DECISION UPHOLDING
THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, after two years battling in the courts I am proud to announce today that the Supreme Court has upheld the Affordable Care Act. This has been a long and difficult fight, but I can say without a doubt it has been worth it.

This landmark ruling will allow millions of Americans to rest easy, knowing that they will not be driven into debt from medical bills if they get sick. Children will no longer be denied possibly life saving healthcare because of