IN RECOGNITION OF MAJ. MICHAEL S. AVEY FOR EXEMPLARY AND DEDICATED SERVICE IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an outstanding soldier and my good friend, Maj. Michael S. Avey, whose exemplary and dedicated service as a Congressional Liaison Officer in support of the United States House of Representatives stands as a testament to the honor and excellence of the United States Army.

A native of Redford, Michigan, Maj. Avey joined the United States Army House Liaison Division in January of 2008, following the completion of his one-year post as a Staff Action Officer with the United States Army Joint Staff. Maj. Avey's prior military experience also includes distinguished service in Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of Stabilization Force 8 and deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, during which he commanded the A/2–327th Infantry Regiment with distinction. In recognition of his distinguished service, Maj. Avey has received several military awards and decorations, including the Bronze Star Medal, two Army Meritorious Service Medals, the Ranger Tab, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

For the past year and a half, Maj. Avey has provided exemplary and indispensable service to Members of Congress and staff as a Congressional Liaison Officer for the United States Army. In addition to assisting our offices on all matters relating to United States Army practice and policy, Maj. Avey has played an instrumental role in the design, development, and execution of Congressional Delegations, through which Members of Congress are afforded the invaluable opportunity to conduct firsthand oversight of areas of legislative concern.

Since joining the Army House Liaison Division, Maj. Avey has served as my primary military liaison and escort officer on several Congressional Delegations, including site visits to Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, and the Gaza Strip. Accordingly, I have had ample opportunity to witness the excellence, professionalism, and pride with which Maj. Avey conducts his work and in particular, the extent of his admirable commitment to ensuring the safety and security of Members and staff. In addition, I have also had the great privilege to come to know Maj. Avey on a personal level and can genuinely say that his character never fails to reflect the loyalty, honor, and distinction that have come to define his service in the United States Army.

Madam Speaker, Maj. Michael S. Avey stands as the personification of the United States Army's motto, ''Army Strong.'' On behalf of the entire United States House of Representatives, I would like to express my deepest and sincerest gratitude to Maj. Avey for his exemplary and dedicated service and wish him, his wife, Margaret, his son, Brendan, and his daughter, Kate, the best of luck on all of their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on June 16, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my vote for rollcall No. 350.

Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 350—YES—On Motion that the Committee Rise. Making Appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, June 16, 2009, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 350 because the leadership had informed me that there would be no additional votes that evening. Had I been informed of this procedural vote, I would have been present and voted ''aye'' on the Motion that the Committee Rise.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, ''Pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding an earmark I obtained as part of H.R. 2892.''

Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 2892

Account: FEMA, State and Local Programs/Emergency Operations Center

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Brazoria County Emergency Management

Description of Request: An earmark of $100,000 to fund construction of an Emergency Operating Center in Brazoria County, Texas.

HONORING FR. FRANCIS THEODORE PFEIFER

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Fr. Francis Theodore ''Ted'' Pfeifer, a public servant who has dedicated his life to serving others as a spiritual advisor and as an American missionary in Southern Mexico. Fr. Pfeifer has been a passionate advocate against the drug cartel in Mexico, a dedicated priest and kind friend to the San Antonio community.

Born in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, he moved to San Antonio, where he completed his theological and pastoral studies at the Oblate ''De Mazenod Scholasticate,'' now the Oblate School of Theology. He served bravely for more than 23 years as an Oblate Missionary in the Mexican state of Oaxaca, tending to his pastoral duties as a missionary and assuming the additional duties of doctor, dentist, electrical journeyman, mechanic, construction foreman, expert in livestock, and most notably as a courageous leader against the drug cartel.

Fr. Pfeifer made history when he began preaching against the infiltration of the drug traders on the Southern Mexican villages in the early 1980's. His outspoken words from the pulpit against the drug cartel brought him face to face with death on numerous occasions. Once Fr. Pfeifer miraculously escaped with his life when bullets riddled the cab of his truck; rather than cowering at the death threats, he fearlessly persisted preaching against the cartel. He continued to fight the drug cartel with the Gospel and encouraged 15,000 locals in his vast parish to resist the threats, massacres and the alluring offers to use their farmland to grow the plants used for drugs.

The severity of the escalating drug cartel activity in the area prompted Fr. Pfeifer to reach out to my father, the late Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez. The Oblate's outreach to the U.S. government caught the attention of not just my father, but the then U.S. Speaker of the House Jim Wright and Congressman Albert Bustamante, who together played a pivotal role against the infiltration of the drug cartel in Mexico.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Fr. Pfeifer as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of his priestly ordination, a lifetime of bravery and the launch of his book ''When the Wolves Came,'' a detailed chronicle of the rise of the illegal drug trade. He fought hard his entire life for the causes he believed in and never retreated at the sight of danger. Fr. Pfeifer's dedication to justice and the ongoing battle against the drug cartel are remarkable and I wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 349 and 350, I was inadvertently detained. I would have voted ''aye'' on rollcall No. 349 and ''nay'' on rollcall No. 350.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2847, Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010. The entity to receive

the funding is the Lycoming County Commissioners, 48 West Third Street, Williamsport, PA 17701, in the amount of $250,000. This funding through the COPS account will purchase new equipment for use by the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and 9–1–1 center. This will directly support the acquisition of an Emergency 9–1–1 console purchase and relocation into a new addition at the center.

The entity to receive funding is the Clarion County Commissioners, 421 Main Street, Clarion, PA 16214, in the amount of $500,000. This funding through the COPS account will create a joint communication system that will promote seamless interoperability capabilities among counties, hospitals, schools, regional, state, and federal agencies. Radio communications, along with broadband/internet connectivity, are vital elements necessary to link all telecommunications needs together where the counties provide direct services and mutual aid.

The entity to receive funding is the Centre County Commissioners, Willow Bank Office Building, Bellefonte, PA 16823, in the amount of $250,000. The funding will be used for purchase of an upgraded emergency communications system that will improve safety for citizens of the County and allow for interoperability among multiple agencies throughout Centre County.

HONORING JOSEPH F. THOMPSON

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph F. Thompson, the 2008 recipient of the Pennsylvania State Police Trooper of the Year Award and a native of Bucks County.

Trooper Thompson has demonstrated incredible bravery and self-sacrifice during his career as a Pennsylvania State trooper, often putting his own personal safety aside for the sake of serving the public.

Following his graduation from Pennsbury High School, Trooper Thompson enlisted in the Marine Corps. He then attended the Pennsylvania State Police Academy and became a trooper in 1993. After 16 years of distinguished service, he retired this past May.

During his career as a trooper, Thompson worked undercover for the Bureau of Drug and Law Enforcement. He later became a member of Troop K, patrolling highways in search of drug dealers. Over the years, Trooper Thompson faced a number of life-or-death situations, even receiving the State Police Medal of Honor for saving the life of his partner during one such instance.

The Trooper of the Year Award is another highlight in a career marked by much well-deserved recognition. In 2008, Trooper Thompson received the department's highest honor, an award recognizing exceptional performance and courage in the line of duty. This honor was based on accomplishments such as the 108 arrests he made in 2007, as well as an incident where Thompson used his own patrol car to slow a large vehicle carrying $5 million worth of cocaine on the highway.

The Pennsylvania State Police have clearly been privileged to employ such a committed officer. Over his years of service, Mr. Thompson has undoubtedly helped ensure the safety and well-being of countless citizens. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Joseph F. Thompson for his extraordinary accomplishments, and extremely honored to serve as his Congressman.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2346, SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of the FY 2009 Supplemental Conference Report. The funding provided in this Report is part of the President and Congress' comprehensive effort to keep our nation safe. The brave men and women in our armed forces are central to our national security. From ensuring our troops have appropriate equipment to fully funding military pay and providing compensation for stop-loss, President Obama and Congress are committed to providing for our troops and their families. The Conference Report also allows the extension of the new GI-Bill benefits to children of members of the armed forces who die while on active duty.

Another central piece of our national security is implementing the comprehensive plans that President Obama has laid out for Iraq and Afghanistan, and this Conference Report is consistent with those plans. It also funds new initiatives in Pakistan as part of our continued effort to improve their ability to confront the threat posed by the Taliban and al Qaeda. Working to improve our health security, the Supplemental Conference Report provides billions for pandemic flu response to expand detection efforts, supplement federal stockpiles, and develop, purchase and administer vaccines.

Congress is working with President Obama every day to keep our nation safe—this legislation is a key piece of that effort. I urge my colleagues to support it.

CALLING ON NORTH KOREA TO END HOSTILE RHETORIC AND ACTIVITY TOWARD SOUTH KOREA

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 15, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, yesterday morning, President Barack Obama welcomed to our nation's capital Lee Myung-bak, President of the Republic of Korea (South Korea). President Lee's friendship and alliance with this country is an integral part of the United States' policy in Northeast Asia, specifically as it relates to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea). I join President Obama in welcoming President Lee to the United States. On behalf of the Fifth District of New Jersey, I thank President Lee for his leadership in the region and wish him and his nation well.

Though separated by an ocean, the interests of our two nations are joined in the face of current events. The nuclearization of North Korea poses a danger to the security of both the United States and South Korea. There can be no mistake: the threats of Pyongyang cannot be ignored, nor can they be tolerated. North Korea must cease its pursuit of nuclear technology and reengage in dialogue with its neighbor on the Korean Peninsula.

On Monday, the House passed H. Res. 309, of which I was pleased to be an original cosponsor. This bipartisan resolution calls on North Korea to cease its hostile rhetoric, discontinue its nuclear program, and engage in mutual dialogue with South Korea. An immediate end to North Korean aggression is the only acceptable resolution to this conflict.

Continued North Korean hostility will only serve to harden inter-Korean relations and result in the further destabilization of the region. The policy of the U.S. must be to reject any nuclear aspirations or antagonistic rhetoric on the part of North Korea and its leadership. We should not relent, nor should we apologize for implementing economic sanctions against the North. Rather, we should make it clear that additional economic and diplomatic consequences are in store if North Korea continues its reckless course.

North Korean hostility not only endangers South Korea, the United States, and our allies; it poses a danger to the North Korean people as well. Kim Jong-il has drawn his people into a conflict they have not sought. While the dictator pursued nuclear arms and other weaponry, millions of North Koreans have starved to death in the last two decades. The posture of their leader is a poor representation of the North Korean people.

I support President Obama in the steps he has taken to censure North Korea's recent hostilities. I now urge the Administration to continue using diplomatic pressure to disarm North Korea and encourage bilateral discussions between the North and the South.

STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS IN MEDICARE

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, for too long, the federal government has enabled the inefficiencies of our health care system. This is not only wasteful, but inequitable to taxpayers in efficient, low-spending regions such as Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin, North Dakota and Minnesota who are subsidizing high-spending regions of the country.

Medicare beneficiaries living in Miami, Las Vegas, New York and Houston receive approximately 60% more services than those living in low-spending regions. This higher spending has not produced higher quality of care or superior outcomes. In fact, research shows that health care outcomes and patient satisfaction are often greater in regions that spend less.

We cannot afford to ignore this problem any longer. The June 2008 Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) report stated