Allen is a wonderful example of educators who make a positive difference in the lives of their students.

Ms. Allen graduated from Clemson University in 2000 and continued her education at The University of South Florida, graduating in 2003 with a master's degree in elementary education. Until her senior of her undergraduate studies, Ms. Allen planned on pursuing a law degree and eventually a career as a lawyer. However after losing her mother to pancreatic cancer during her senior year of college, Ms. Allen made the decision to pursue a degree in education—just as her mother had done years before.

Ms. Allen, who was named Teacher of the Year for Hillsborough County in February, was chosen from more than 180,000 public school teachers throughout the state. Ms. Allen has taught the fourth grade at Cleveland Elementary School in Tampa for five years.

Ms. Allen's impact is felt throughout the community. A National Board Certified Teacher, Ms. Allen was selected for her energetic, enthusiastic teaching style, and her community service projects outside the classroom. Beloved by her students, Ms. Allen often dresses up for FCAT study sessions, and leads her class in decimal-point rap songs. She says her style involves anything to grab the kids' attention.

Madam Speaker, the selection of Megan Allen is a firm testament to the standards of quality education in the state of Florida. Ms. Allen is one example of the dedication and incredible talent of our teachers, and I am so happy that she chose to follow in her mother's footsteps and am proud to have her teaching the children of my community.

RECOGNIZING THE FAMILY BUSINESS, AOC HOLDING COMPANY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of the Arguindegui family, of AOC Holding Company. The family has truly worked towards and achieved the American dream.

This American success story begins with Peter R. Arguindegui Sr., who founded Arguindegui Oil Company in August of 1942. His sons put education and service to our nation first, before later joining the family business. So, after serving in the military and graduating from Texas A&M, Peter Jr. and Carlos Arguindegui joined their father in the late 1950s. With the additional help, the company was transformed into a corporation which then focused on wholesale commercial fuels.

Within 20 years grandsons Carlos Jr. and Alfonso Arguindegui joined the family business after graduating from college, bringing with them new ideas.

AOC Holding Company, as it is now called, has expanded into convenience store marketing by converting a dozen existing stations into convenience stores under the ConocoPhillips and Valero brands. It also runs four bulk warehouse operations in South Texas.

This company is on track to become the leader in retail and wholesale fuels in the South Texas area.

An admirable quality of the Arguindegui family is they do not reserve success for themselves. They have engaged in philanthropy by staying involved with local charities such as the United Way, the Boys & Girls Club, and other organizations that are too numerous to mention. They have also provided scholarships to area students.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize a true American success story. I am pleased to have such a valued family in my district.

CONGRATULATIONS TO UNITED SPACE SCHOOL PROGRAM

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, on August 4 the Foundation for International Space Education (FISE) will host United Space School Day at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston, Texas. The United Space School Day is a summer science camp/health careers promotion activity coordinated by the East Texas Area Health Education Center (AHEC). The United Space School Day's activities will focus on the education pathways appropriate for students interested in careers in life sciences, aerospace medicine, and bioastronautics.

United Space School Day is just one part of FISE's United Space School program. The United Space School program, which is rooted in the International Space School that was established in 1994, is the major way FISE carries out its mission of providing space-based academic instruction to pre-collegiate students from across America and around the world who are interested in science, engineering, technology, or mathematics careers. The United Space School gives these students the opportunity to learn from some of the space industry's leading experts. Participants in the programs follow a curriculum specially designed to provide appropriate training and development by instructors qualified and knowledgeable in the proper disciplines.

As the students visit the various educational venues and participate in the space-related learning initiatives, they are exposed to myriad examples of space-related careers as well as careers in industries that support the space programs, including life sciences. United Space School students also benefit from daily one-on-one interaction with leading aerospace professionals from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s Johnson Space Center (JSC), and the supporting aerospace community.

United Space School participants are also given a unique ''hands on'' learning experience through the development of a Manned Mission to Mars Project. United Space School's organization, schedule, and curriculum are designed to provide the structure, knowledge, resources, mentoring, and appropriate settings to complete the Manned Mission to Mars project.

Madam Speaker, FISE's United Space School program is doing invaluable work in preparing the next generation of scientists and aerospace engineers. I would not be surprised if future breakthroughs in space technology came from alumni of the United Space School program. It is therefore my pleasure to extend my congratulations to the United Space School program on the occasion of the United Space School Day. I also extend my thanks to NASA, the Johnson Space Center, the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, East Texas AHEC, and all the volunteers who help make the United Space School program possible.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I was absent for the last three votes of the day on Tuesday July 21st. I apologize for my absence, and wish to add my intentions to the RECORD.

H. Con. Res. 123—Vote of ''yes'' would have been made.

H.R. 1933—Vote of ''yes'' would have been made.

H.R. 2632—Vote of ''yes'' would have been made.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, July 20, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes'' on rollcall vote No. 593 (On approving the Journal), ''yes'' on rollcall vote No. 594 (On the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 607), ''yes'' on rollcall vote No. 595 (On the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2245).

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks received as part of H.R. 3288—Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Hon. THOMAS E. PETRI

Bill Number: H.R. 3288

Account: FAA—Airport Improvement Program

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Address of Requesting Entity: 4802 Sheboygan Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Description of Project: This $950,000 will be used for phase 2 of the 3-phase reconstruction of the primary runway at Wittman Regional Airport, Oshkosh, Wisconsin. This is one of the largest projects in the state with a total cost of $13 million. The current Pavement

Condition Index Report identifies the northern 6,000 feet of the runway at below minimum service level.

Requesting Member: Hon. THOMAS E. PETRI

Bill Number: H.R. 3288

Account: Federal Highway Administration—Surface Transportation Priorities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Address of Requesting Entity: 4802 Sheboygan Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Description of Project: This $500,000 will be used to complete a study and begin construction of an overpass across the Wisconsin Central Railyard on Lake Shore Drive in the Village of North Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. The railyard is the largest of its kind in the State of Wisconsin and access at Lake Shore Drive is frequently blocked due to trains parked on the tracks. This overpass will allow for the safe and efficient passage of rail traffic through the community and allow for the delivery of essential services (including emergency services) to the residents of the community. The overpass will consist of a 532-foot bridge span across the yard and access ramps to the connecting roads on both sides of the structure.

Requesting Member: Hon. THOMAS E. PETRI

Bill Number: H.R. 3288

Account: Federal Transit Administration—Buses & Bus Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Address of Requesting Entity: 4802 Sheboygan Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Description of Project: This $250,000 will be used to purchase 35-foot replacement accessible buses and related fare box equipment for the Fond du Lac Area Transit System.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JUDICIAL SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today I am honored to introduce the Judicial Survivors Protection Act of 2009. The bill would provide a limited six month period for incumbent federal judges to opt into the Judicial Survivors' Annuities System (JSAS) and authorizes federal judges to voluntarily increase their contributions to JSAS to enhance their survivors' annuities.

The JSAS is an important optional benefit for federal judges. Unlike the survivors of other federal employees, judges' spouses and dependent children receive no survivor income benefits unless the judge elects to participate. Also, for a spouse to continue health insurance coverage under the Federal Employees Health Benefits program after the judge's death, the judge must have elected JSAS.

Currently only sixty percent of Article III and non-Article III judges participate in JSAS. While, the system is an opt-in system, in general, judges are bound by their initial decision for the remainder of their career despite changes in life circumstances. This leaves the survivors of the remaining forty percent of Article III and non-Article III judges at risk.

This bill would simply provide those forty percent of Judges, who did not initially enroll in JSAS, a limited six month open season window to enroll in JSAS.

To compensate for their delay, new enrollees who previously declined to participate in JSAS would pay an enhanced contribution rate to preserve the financial integrity of the JSAS Fund. Finally, it would authorize federal judges to voluntarily increase their contributions to JSAS in order to enhance the value of their survivors' annuities.

Over the years, Congress has authorized such an open season three times: in 1976, 1985 and 1992. It has been seventeen years since the last open season and this bill is but a small step towards lightening what is often the financial burden of judicial public service.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards, I am submitting the following information regarding projects I received funding for as part of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman VERNON J. EHLERS

Bill Number: H.R.

Agency: Federal Transit Administration

Account: Buses & Bus Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Barry County Transit

Address of Requesting Entity: 1216 W. State Street, Hastings, MI 49058

Description of Request: This bill provides $127,000 for vehicle equipment replacement and building repair. This funding is a valuable use of taxpayer money because it will replace two expansion vans that provide safe and efficient transportation to a growing rural senior and physically challenged population in Barry County. It will also provide for replacement radios and building repair.

Requesting Member: Congressman VERNON J. EHLERS

Bill Number: H.R.

Agency: Federal Transit Administration

Account: Buses & Bus Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Belding Dial-A-Ride

Address of Requesting Entity: 100 Depot Street, Belding, MI 48809

Description of Request: This bill provides $63,000 for the City of Belding Dial-A-Ride. This funding is a valuable use of taxpayer money because it will go towards the purchase of a lift-equipped bus, which will replace an older bus that has met its useful life.

Requesting Member: Congressman VERNON J. EHLERS

Bill Number: H.R.

Agency: Federal Highway Administration

Account: Surface Transportation Priorities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Grand Rapids, Michigan

Address of Requesting Entity: 300 Monroe Ave, NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Description of Request: This bill provides $500,000 for the Wealthy Street Extension. This funding is a valuable use of taxpayer money because the construction project will extend Wealthy Street and improve the existing street network in the vicinity of Millennium Park, which will ease traffic congestion and create an alternative artery to US–131.

Requesting Member: Congressman VERNON J. EHLERS

Bill Number: H.R.

Agency: Federal Transit Administration

Account: Buses & Bus Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Ionia Dial-A-Ride

Address of Requesting Entity: 251 East Adams Street, Ionia, MI 48846

Description of Request: This bill provides $100,000 for the City of Ionia Dial-A-Ride. This funding is a valuable use of taxpayer money because it will upgrade the Dial-A-Ride's facility. The upgrades include a new emergency generator, parking resurfacing, a new heater, and a new irrigation system.

Requesting Member: Congressman VERNON J. EHLERS

Bill Number: H.R.

Agency: Federal Transit Administration

Account: Alternatives Analysis

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The Rapid

Address of Requesting Entity: 300 Ellsworth Ave, SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Description of Request: This bill provides $360,000 for a Streetcar Alternative Analysis Study. This funding is a valuable use of taxpayer money because it will allow the Rapid to assess the ridership projections, economic development potential and funding options that will determine if a streetcar system would be a valuable investment in the Grand Rapids metro area. The study is to examine different models of public and private partnerships to build the infrastructure and operate the system.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3288, the Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

Member requesting: GUS M. BILIRAKIS

Bill number: H.R. 3288

Account: Economic Development Initiatives

Name of requesting entity: Central City Community Development Corporation

Address of requesting entity: 2612 North Tampa Street, Tampa, Florida 33602

Description: The $500,000 will be used to rehabilitate property to house homeless veterans.

Member requesting: GUS M. BILIRAKIS

Bill number: H.R. 3288

Account: Surface Transportation Priorities

Name of requesting entity: City of Tampa, Florida

Address of requesting entity: 315 East Kennedy Boulevard, Tampa, Florida 33602

Description: The $500,000 will be used to widen Cross Creek Boulevard, which provides an important connection from the city to the