

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

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:

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to any cuts to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, in this misguided Republican CR.

Mr. Chair, cutting LIHEAP would literally leave thousands of families and seniors in the cold.

My constituents in the 3rd congressional district and people across the country, are experiencing one of the coldest winters on record.

The number of households served by LIHEAP has skyrocketed in recent years, jumping from 5.8 million in fiscal year 2008 to a projected 8.9 million in fiscal year 2011.

In just this year alone, Massachusetts expects to see a 21 percent increase in the number of eligible applications.

And, to make matters worse, the cost of home heating oil continues to go up this winter. Since November, the cost of heating oil has gone from \$3.11 to \$3.58 a gallon.

This means that the average family living in New England is now paying about \$30 more for home heating than they initially expected at the start of this winter.

It is unconscionable that we would even consider cutting heating assistance at a time like this.

My Republican colleagues seem to have no problem supporting tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires but, when it comes to families and seniors struggling to heat their homes, they have no problem saying "so be it."

I understand that we need to reduce our deficit and long-term debt but doing so by literally leaving thousands of Americans out in the cold is exactly the wrong approach.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose cuts to LIHEAP and oppose this CR.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

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:

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

NEA funding is an investment in the arts, but it's also an investment in communities and jobs. The arts have an incredible ability to enrich our communities and strengthen our cultural diversity, while positively impacting local economies and spurring billions in economic activity.

A strong arts sector is an economic engine that stimulates businesses, generating \$166.2 billion annually in economic activity, supports 5.7 million full-time jobs, and returns \$12.6 billion in Federal income taxes.

The NEA provides grants to communities across the country, supporting our national progress and scholarship in the arts. For each Federal dollar spent on the arts, it creates 9 dollars in economic activity for local communities.

The arts creates jobs in every Congressional District across the country. In Representative GARRETT's district alone, there are 2,042 arts-related businesses that employ 8,473 people, according to Americans for the Arts. And yet, Representative GARRETT is proposing to completely eliminate funding for the NEA, which will threaten jobs and businesses in his district.

The arts also generates tourism revenue. Arts audiences spend more than \$100 billion annually boosting local economies. Every year, 78-percent of U.S. travelers take arts and heritage trips with their families, contributing more than \$192 billion annually to the U.S. economy.

In my district, the 28th District of New York, we have impressive institutions that attract tourists from far and wide, like the Shea's Performing Arts Center in Buffalo and the Memorial Art Gallery in Rochester.

Americans embrace the arts on a personal level. Both military and civilian populations have long relied on the arts for inspiration, to raise morale, to fight anxiety, and to express our democratic values.

This amendment represents the Republicans' commitment to killing jobs and stifling economic activity. It's flawed ideas like this one that have created zero jobs with a Republican Majority.

I strongly urge my colleagues to oppose this job killing, economy stifling amendment.

HONORING DR. USHA VARANASI  
ON THE OCCASION OF HER RE-  
TIREMENT**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2011*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to offer special recognition to my constituent, Doctor Usha Varanasi, on the occasion of her

retirement as the Science and Research Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Northwest Fisheries Science Center, a position Dr. Varanasi has held since 1994, when she became the first woman to lead a National Marine Fisheries Service Science Center.

During Dr. Varanasi's 35 years of federal service as a research chemist and marine scientist, the Northwest Fisheries Science Center has made potent advances in the fields of ecotoxicology, molecular biology, genetics, and microbiology. Dr. Varanasi's multidisciplinary approach has produced innovative research and established the Center as a high-performing and internationally-renowned research institution. Throughout her remarkable career, Dr. Varanasi has furthered science and technology essential to wise fisheries management and marine resource preservation.

Dr. Varanasi began her career at NOAA pursuing breakthrough research on the effects of chemical contamination on marine organisms. Dr. Varanasi's research revolutionized the field. Her work led to the development of techniques to assess the impacts of oil-related pollution on fisheries resources. As a result, Dr. Varanasi and her team provided invaluable seafood safety evaluation during the Exxon Valdez oil spill, Hurricane Katrina, and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Dr. Varanasi's research is recognized nationally and internationally. She has authored more than 150 peer-reviewed articles in journals including *Nature* and *Science*. She has edited two acclaimed books and her seafood safety editorial, *The Seafood "Dilemma"—A Way Forward*, has influenced policymakers broadly.

Dr. Varanasi's ongoing efforts have ensured that the Center's science is of the highest quality, providing the scientific underpinning for complex decisions that guide management of the Nation's marine resources. From careful monitoring of the West Coast ground fishery, to salmon recovery, to protection of the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales, and, finally, to crucial regional ocean governance structures, Dr. Varanasi has led the way. Her foresight and dedication have made possible new collaborations and effective partnerships that changed the way we approach fisheries management and marine resources preservation.

A generous colleague and mentor, Dr. Varanasi has served for many years on the faculties of Seattle University and the University of Washington. She has been instrumental in helping countless students to understand that the wisest policies come from the best science.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Varanasi's remarkable career has advanced substantially our understanding of marine life and its vital connections to our own existence. Her legacy of leadership and breakthrough research will inspire students, scientists, researchers, and policymakers for decades. I extend to Dr. Varanasi my congratulations on her outstanding

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

achievements, my appreciation for her many years of exceptional public service, and my best wishes for her future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF IMMACULATA UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2011*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague Rep. PATRICK MEEHAN (PA-7), to congratulate the Immaculata University women's basketball team on its record of outstanding accomplishment.

Immaculata University, located in Chester County, Pennsylvania, is considered to be the birthplace of modern college women's basketball. Known as the Mighty Macs, the Immaculata women's basketball team won three consecutive national college women's basketball championships in 1972, 1973 and 1974. These championships were the first college women's basketball championships played in the United States. The Mighty Macs also have the distinction of playing in the first nationally televised college women's basketball game as well as being the first college women's basketball team to compete outside the United States.

The Immaculata women's basketball team produced four All-Americans, Marianne Crawford Stanley, Rene Muth Portland, Mary Scharff and Theresa Shank Grentz. All members of the team are trailblazers and true American heroes who set the highest standards both academically and athletically, for not only women's basketball, but for women's and men's sports alike.

Mr. Speaker, I ask, along with Rep. PATRICK MEEHAN (PA-7), that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the Immaculata women's basketball team and, for bringing both tremendous pride to the citizens of Pennsylvania and inspirational change to American intercollegiate sport, ask that March 29, 2011 be known as Immaculata University Mighty Macs Day.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF JOSEPHINE "JOSIE" AVILES

**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 retirement of a dedicated civil servant, Ms. Josephine "Josie" Aviles. Josie has been committed to Homestead Air Reserve Base since 1984, working relentlessly to support and maintain the mission of the 482d Fighter Wing.

Josie has demonstrated genuine dedication as a Protocol officer, providing extraordinary assistance to each Group, Squadron, and Tenant organization. She is well known and admired amongst her peers for her expertise, excellent work ethic and selfless attitude.

Throughout her unwavering leadership, Josie directed the command staff after Hurricane Andrew destroyed Homestead Air Force Base in 1992; served as Administrative Team Chief for the fighter wing's first Operational

Readiness Exercise; and arranged events and conferences as the first Protocol officer. She has demonstrated a level of commitment to her country, community, and colleagues that deserves our sincere admiration and respect.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to pay tribute to my friend Josie, a true leader who has dedicated her life to public service. As her colleagues, friends and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of her life, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding civil servant on this very special occasion. I wish Josie continued success and happiness in all of her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF FREESE AND NICHOLS

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2011*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Freese and Nichols, an engineering, architecture, and environmental science firm, and the recipient of the prestigious 2010 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award in the small business category.

Overseen by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST, the Baldrige Award is the highest level of national recognition granted to organizations for performance excellence. Since its establishment in 1987, 86 organizations have received this prestigious award.

Freese and Nichols, Inc., FNI, traces its historical roots in Texas back to 1894, and has always been dedicated to the spirit of innovation. FNI's emphasis on approaching projects with a fresh and unique perspective allows them to push the boundaries with avant-garde solutions and to stay at the forefront of their field. From designing the first ever LEED certified building to their restoration projects to being conscious of their impact on our environment and striving to make the world a better and cleaner place for future generations, their commitment to responsible and sustainable development is evident. Their community service efforts and partnership with nonprofit organizations speak loudly of their belief in giving back and being good stewards of our local community.

I commend Freese and Nichols for their dedication to innovation and performance excellence; they are truly deserving of this great honor. Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating Freese and Nichols.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CECIL L. ANCHORS, SR.

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2011*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the life of Northwest Florida's beloved Cecil L. Anchors, Sr.

Mr. Anchors was a pivotal community leader in the Northwest Florida community for dec-

ades. He grew up in Niceville, Florida and graduated from Niceville High School in 1936. After high school Mr. Anchors attended the University of Florida. His passion for the Florida Gators' storied athletic program was unrivaled.

Mr. Anchors was also a devoted patriot. After graduating from college, he returned to Northwest Florida to work at the Air Proving Ground at Eglin Air Force Base. When the United States entered World War II, Mr. Anchors volunteered for Army service. He served his country with honor and distinction in the European Theater, including at the famous Battle of the Bulge.

In 1948, Mr. Anchors was elected Clerk of the Circuit Court of Okaloosa County, a position that he held until his retirement in 1976. Mr. Anchors was a leader in the community, and an innovator at the courthouse. He established the first computer system in Okaloosa County public offices and oversaw the construction of a new courthouse in Crestview, Florida.

A true local leader, Mr. Anchors was a charter member of the Choctawhatchee Rotary Club, the Rocky Bayou Country Club, and the Air Force Museum Board of Directors. He also served as the first elected Post Commander of the Niceville Chapter of the American Legion in 1945, as well as president of the Crestview Kiwanis Club.

Mr. Anchors played an active role in local, state, and national politics. He served as the Okaloosa County leader during President Kennedy's 1960 Presidential campaign; however, his fondest memories were of his time serving the people of Okaloosa County as the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

To some Cecil Anchors will be remembered as a patriot and a leader in the civic community. To others he will be remembered as a lifelong Florida Gator. To his friends and family, he will most fondly be remembered as a loving and devoted family man. His tireless work and immense contributions to Northwest Florida cannot be overstated.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to honor the life of Cecil Anchors, Sr., and his living legacy.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

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:

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Chair, as we continue to debate the Continuing Resolution and slowly whittle away funds for important programs, I rise to express my sincere regret over cuts to Community Health Centers.

In my State of Indiana, these health centers serve nearly half a million Hoosiers, and at a time when American families continue to struggle to afford basic healthcare, I believe this is not the time to defund this valuable program.

Not only will patients lose access to care, but jobs will be lost, as well. It will have a devastating impact on communities and patients who need the care most—patients with diabetes, heart disease, HIV/AIDS, pregnant women, and children—and leave them with literally nowhere to turn for care.

This is no way to treat our Nation's most vulnerable populations.

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HONORING HAROLD OSTROW

**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2011*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harold Ostrow and his selfless dedication to his community for over a quarter of a century. Appropriately nicknamed "Mr. Civic," Harold has provided leadership, guidance, and true heart to the community through his volunteer work over the years.

Harold's involvements vary in interest from being the Chairman of the Health Care District where he oversaw the management of the trauma program, the school nursing program, and a program to provide health coverage to the working poor. In addition, as a member of the Judicial Nominating Commission, Harold held the responsibility of providing the Governor with names of candidates for judges.

Mr. Civic did not stop there, though. Harold has also held the position of Chairman of the nonpartisan Voter's Coalition and the citizen's Advisory Committee for the Solid Waste Authority, gaining him the respect of government officials on both sides of the aisle. Harold's activism continues today as a member of the advisory board for the Fire-Rescue Agency.

No matter what the needs of his community was, Harold has been there, lending his open hand without asking for anything in return. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the love and support of Harold's wife, Lenore, by his side. His dedication to participating in every area of community life, helping wherever he could, and mentoring members of the community, has made Harold Ostrow a beacon of volunteer involvement, and I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize him.

I would like to congratulate Harold and his family for this tremendous honor. It is truly an honor to have Harold as a part of the South Florida community and as a friend.

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IN DEFENSE OF THE  
GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

**HON. PEDRO R. PIERLUISI**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2011*

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the chamber this morning with disappointment, sadness, and a deep resolve to set the record straight. I am compelled to respond to remarks delivered yesterday on this floor by my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois, in which he harshly criticized the duly-elected government of Puerto Rico, the officers who serve honorably in its police force, and the chief judge of the U.S. district court

for the District of Puerto Rico. The speech was inappropriate and insulting to the people of Puerto Rico. I hope such action will not be repeated. But if it is, make no mistake: I will return to this floor again to defend my constituents—and the government they chose in free and fair elections—from all unwarranted attacks. I will rise then in the same capacity that I rise now: as Puerto Rico's only elected representative in Congress and the only member of this chamber who can make any claim to speak on behalf of the Island's nearly four million American citizens. I will fight for my people because it is my privilege, my honor, and my duty to do so.

To compare Puerto Rico to an authoritarian country is beyond the pale. It demeans not merely my constituents, but also the millions of men and women around the world who suffer under real dictatorships, who are truly oppressed, and who lack the dignity that comes only with genuine freedom. Puerto Rico is a rich and vibrant democracy, with strong institutions, governed by the rule of law. Fundamental rights protected by the U.S. Constitution—including the right to free speech, free assembly and due process of law—apply fully in Puerto Rico. So does federal civil rights law. This is not to suggest that violations of individual liberties never take place in Puerto Rico. On occasion they may, just as they do in every jurisdiction. And I would be the first person to condemn such conduct if it occurs. But, in Puerto Rico, unlike in a dictatorship, there are legal remedies available to citizens who claim to have been deprived of their rights. Those who fail to grasp this basic distinction do not understand Puerto Rico or appreciate its strengths.

Moreover, I believe it is wrong for a member of this body to insult a federal judge simply because that judge ruled in a way the member finds objectionable. To use an enlarged photo of that judge as a prop is, in my view, particularly unfortunate. Such theatrics undermine, rather than strengthen, the argument being made. Judge Fusté, a man who has devoted over 25 years of his life to public service, does not deserve such treatment.

Yesterday, a great disservice was done to the good name and reputation of the people of Puerto Rico. I regret that it occurred. I hope—and expect—that it will not happen again.

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IN SUPPORT OF AMERICAN COMMERCIAL SPACEFLIGHT INDUSTRY

**HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2011*

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the American commercial spaceflight industry.

Investing in private industry is an effective way to cut federal spending while spurring meaningful job growth and innovation. This is why I am a strong advocate for developing the commercial spaceflight program proposed by President Obama. The President's plan will help lower NASA launch costs by shifting this role to competitive private businesses, while fostering American economic competitiveness and leadership in cutting-edge research and technology. This plan will also end our reli-

ance on Russia to transport NASA astronauts to the International Space Station by utilizing the technology and services of private companies on American soil.

Bigelow Aerospace has been a model of American entrepreneurship and innovation. This company has developed its own spacecraft and created hundreds of much-needed jobs in the Las Vegas Valley. If we follow President Obama's common-sense plan of winding down NASA's Constellation Program and transferring the launch program to private industry, Bigelow Aerospace and many other cutting-edge spaceflight companies will create countless more jobs in the vital science and engineering industry.

The American people have told us emphatically that our top priorities must be jobs and the economy, and leveraging commercial spaceflight capabilities addresses both of these goals. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting fiscally responsible, job-creating investments in the commercial spaceflight industry.

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FULL-YEAR CONTINUING  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

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:

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chair, it is sad to see that amendments like this are being proposed based on no knowledge nor any serious evaluation of the institutions involved.

Anyone who has been involved with the East-West Center would understand that it is exactly the kind of activity that most cost-effectively promotes U.S. foreign policy and security interests in a critically important, fast-growing region of more than 3.5 billion people. Since its creation as a national institution 50 years ago, the Center has impacted more than 58,000 people in its region.

It operates our country's largest outreach program to Asia-Pacific region's journalists, the largest outreach program to the region's teachers, particularly in Muslim countries of Asia, and the only sustained U.S. program for engagement with the leaders of Pacific island nations. Both presidents Bush met Pacific island leaders through the East-West Center.

The Center is not a foreign aid program, but a public diplomacy program. The secret of the Center's effectiveness is that its programs bring together Americans with Asia-Pacific counterparts—American teachers with Asia and Pacific teachers, American youth leaders with their counterparts, etc. This is the very best way to show off American values and interests. If the U.S. had created a similar center for the Middle East, bringing young Israelis, Egyptians, and other Middle Easterners together with Americans for cooperative exchange and research at a location on American soil, our world may be a little different today. We would not see misguided amendments like that offered by Congressman RON

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 CAPPS**

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. CAPPS. 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

husband Harry, both longtime supporters of the arts, host an annual arts benefit that has supported victims of Hurricane Katrina, the New Orleans National Kidney Foundation, and the Louisiana Children's Hospital. In addition to opening up their home for charitable functions, the Liebermans have also hosted educational forums on issues such as climate change, health care reform, sustainable/green living, as well as speaker sessions with Muslim community leader, Dr. Reza Asian, to foster community understanding of Muslim Americans.

Ellin has been a tireless advocate and a humble role model. Her exuberance and passion inspire us. And I ask all Members to join me in thanking Dr. Ellin Lieberman for her many years of selfless, dedicated service to the community.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

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:

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to Sections 2202 through 2214 of the bill, which cuts funding for needed investments in transportation and infrastructure. These are reckless cuts to important programs and place our country's economic recovery in jeopardy.

Specifically, the cuts to transportation and infrastructure funding will not only cut jobs, but will curtail investment in our country's long-term economic growth.

Mr. Chair, the best way to reduce the deficit is to put Americans back to work. The Republican CR is a job-killing bill that would do nothing more than wreak havoc on the American economy and will put us at an overall competitive disadvantage.

The Republican CR cuts almost \$18 billion from transportation and infrastructure investments alone. Investing in our crumbling infrastructure keeps our economy moving forward and puts Americans back to work by creating desperately needed jobs in the hard-hit construction industry.

Adopting the GOP Continuing Resolution would result in the loss of nearly 300,000 private-sector jobs a figure that is in stark contrast to the GOP's commitment to keep job creation their number one priority.

These reckless cuts to investments in roads, bridges, transit and rail will have tremendous consequences to our economic recovery and will render us uncompetitive in the global market.

The cuts to transportation and infrastructure projects include: a cut of \$1.4 billion in the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund program; a \$6.3 billion cut in high-speed/intercity rail; a cut of \$613 million in the Tiger II program; and a cut of \$75 million in the Tigger II program.

These draconian cuts to the transportation and infrastructure budget will have a tremendous impact on the health and stability of our economy. Democrats and Republicans both agree that the Federal Government needs to tighten its belt when it comes to spending.

However, cutting funding to transportation and infrastructure programs will curtail the investments that are desperately needed to sustain our long-term economic recovery.

These divisive cuts to critical transportation and infrastructure projects will compromise programs that are invaluable to increasing efficiency of commerce, reducing fuel consumption, and creating jobs.

The Republican proposal to cut key funding from the transportation and infrastructure budget will undermine the stability that is required of long-term transportation projects that require a steady source of funding and will eliminate key investments in roads and bridges that foster private sector job growth.

The job-killing Republican Continuing Resolution will rescind \$2.5 billion for high-speed rail projects that have already been awarded. These are critical investments for our future.

Creating efficient and affordable high speed rail line in popular transportation corridors, such as the Los Angeles to San Francisco will create thousands of jobs, protect our environment and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. In California alone, the GOP CR rescinds over \$1 billion in funding for high-speed/intercity rail. This is absolutely unacceptable.

In addition, the GOP Continuing Resolution would cancel 76 projects in 40 states and would cut \$234 million that would be used to improve our nation's air traffic control system. The Republican proposal also threatens adequate funding to wastewater treatment facilities and sewer lines putting 40,000 American jobs in jeopardy.

In California alone, the Republican CR would cut over 40,000 transportation related jobs. Hundreds, if not thousands, of those jobs are sure to be lost in my district.

This Continuing Resolution would also cut almost \$100 million in funding to keep our water clean and would reduce funding to the state of California for transportation projects by over \$1.2 billion.

This bill does not create jobs, stifles long-term economic growth, and puts our country at a competitive disadvantage. This is not what the American people want.

I urge my colleagues to stand with me in opposition to this bill.

HONORING DAVID GREENBAUM

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2011*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize my constituent David Greenbaum as he celebrates his 100th birthday.

Like many Jews who escaped Europe on the eve of the Holocaust, Mr. Greenbaum can attribute his survival to a combination of keen perception, perseverance, luck, and the compassion of strangers.

His extraordinary journey began in Starachowice, Poland in 1939 as Hitler invaded Poland. At the time, Mr. Greenbaum was 28 years old and living with his mother

and three younger siblings. His father had passed away two years earlier. With German planes overhead bombing nearby towns, the Greenbaum family left their home and took refuge in the nearby countryside on a farm of a family friend. As German soldiers approached, Mr. Greenbaum left his family and headed north-east with a deserter from the Polish Army.

The two were shortly joined by others seeking to avoid German capture. The group walked without rest on unfamiliar roads to unknown destinations. Mr. Greenbaum walked for 1,100 miles, arriving in Vilnius, Lithuania. Granted shelter for the night by a local tailor, Mr. Greenbaum had a chance meeting with his brother Zack, who had joined the Polish Army. The two then parted, with David Greenbaum planning to continue on to Kaunas (then the capital of Lithuania) in order to ultimately join their sister, Diana, in Washington, D.C.

David Greenbaum may not have survived the Nazi invasion were it not for the assistance of the Jewish social service organization. While in Kaunas, Mr. Greenbaum was informed by the organization that all Jewish refugees were to be jailed. With its help, he obtained a visa to the U.S. Visa in hand, he begged in the streets for money in order to accumulate the \$225 he needed to travel by train to Moscow and then Vladivostok, Russia, a port on the Pacific Ocean. By feigning injury, Mr. Greenbaum evaded the scrutiny of undercover agents patrolling the train. Once he reached his destination, Mr. Greenbaum purchased a ticket to Japan with money again provided by a Jewish social service organization. On December 13, 1940, Mr. Greenbaum boarded The Cleveland, a ship sent to Japan by President Roosevelt, for a trans-Pacific journey to San Francisco.

One year after his journey began, Mr. Greenbaum arrived in Washington, D.C., where he quickly sought to integrate himself into his new surroundings. After completing English lessons, Mr. Greenbaum began work at Berman's, a clothier located in the Pentagon. Mr. Greenbaum learned the trade and became known as an outstanding tailor. In fact, Mr. Greenbaum was chosen to be the personal tailor of Vice President Hubert Humphrey.

Mr. Greenbaum will be celebrating his 100th birthday on February 18, 2011. With Pearl, his wife of 63 years, he shares the joy of two children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to celebrate David Greenbaum's 100th birthday and wish him a year of health and happiness.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. DAVID E. PRICE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 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:

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chair, as Ranking Member of the Homeland Security

Appropriations Subcommittee, rise to discuss the impact this bill will have on our Nation's security.

I am talking, in part, about its impact on the efforts directly managed by the Department of Homeland Security. But I am also talking about our security in a broader sense: about what makes us strong, secure, and prosperous as a Nation.

As for the bill's Homeland Security title, I want to commend Chairman ADERHOLT for doing what he could to shield several critical programs from the ill-advised cuts throughout this bill. Our border security, disaster relief, immigration enforcement, and transportation security efforts—for the most part—are protected.

Unfortunately, these investments offer little consolation when we look at other areas of the DHS budget. This bill would severely cut federal support for state and local first responders, which is particularly troubling when we consider the fiscal restraints that state and local governments are facing right now.

The elimination of firefighter grants is especially galling. That cut is guaranteed to result in thousands of firefighter layoffs across the United States.

But while I am concerned about the problems with the homeland security section of this bill, I know that these cuts pale in comparison to other critical domestic services and investments.

And that is exactly my point: the strength and security of our country are about so much more than how much we spend on weapons systems or how thoroughly we police the border. They are about the investments we make in our people, in our Nation's ability to recover from the current economic downturn and compete in the global economy.

By this measure, this Republican proposal would dangerously weaken our security by undermining the things that make us strong—from education to scientific research to infrastructure—in an effort to achieve an arbitrary level of cuts dictated by the most extreme elements of the Republican Conference.

As an illustration, look no further than my own congressional district, the Research Triangle of North Carolina. In just a few decades, the Triangle has become one of the leading centers of research, education, and innovation in the world—an engine of economic growth whose impact extends well beyond state lines.

But now my Republican colleagues are threatening to undermine the very basis of our economic success.

This bill would gut higher education by slashing the maximum Pell Grant award by 17 percent. In my district, over 27,000 students receive Pell Grants—over 249,000 students in North Carolina overall.

We cannot possibly “out-educate” our competitors by denying a college education to thousands of American students and allowing the most disadvantaged children to fall even further behind.

Nor can we “out-build” our competitors by slashing funding for high-speed rail, clean energy technologies, and other investments in the infrastructure that will be necessary to sustain the industries of the 21st Century—as this Republican proposal would do. Cuts to transportation and infrastructure in this bill would di-

rectly result in the loss of over 20,000 jobs in North Carolina alone.

Indeed, the enactment of this measure could sound the final death knell for any hope that the United States will become the global market leader in “green” technologies. Instead, we will only fall further behind as China and other countries develop the energy sources that will fuel our economy as the price of oil soars.

Finally, this Republican plan would eviscerate our investments in scientific research—in the source of so much of our economic success, especially in the Research Triangle.

It would cut cancer research and other NIH funding by nearly \$1.6 billion. It would cut National Science Foundation research and education by over \$800 million. And it would cut \$400 million from agricultural research that keeps our farmers competitive in the global market.

These are just a few of the dozens of initiatives which have built the foundation for our Nation's economic prosperity—and, by extension, our Nation's security. To take a wrecking ball to this foundation at a time when we are struggling to recover from a financial crisis and compete again in the modern global economy would be both reckless and reprehensible.

We shouldn't even be calling this bill a Continuing Resolution. The “CR” could more accurately stand for “Continuing the Recession”, or “Choking the Recovery”—because that's exactly what this bill will do.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this dangerous measure.

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REMEMBERING AND HONORING  
THE LIFE OF RAYMOND R. ELLIOTT

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2011*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Raymond R. Elliott of Canterbury who passed away on February 5, 2011. Ray served his country honorably in the Vietnam War and continued to serve his community in various capacities throughout his life.

Ray was a past Commander at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #10004 in Jewett City. Whether it was volunteering to work in the kitchen before a dinner or recognizing other veterans for their service, Ray was always ready and willing to give back. He regularly volunteered to drive disabled veterans to their appointments within the Veterans Affairs system and even oversaw the program for some time. In 2007, I had the honor of meeting Ray and working with him to help coordinate the van driving program. I will always remember the compassion and good humor Ray brought to this basic yet essential task.

While deeply dedicated to helping his fellow veterans, the scope of Ray's service within the community was much broader. He volunteered as a mentor at the Windham Center School, coached Willimantic Little League baseball and softball, and was an avid fan of UCONN athletics.

As a beloved husband, father, grandfather, veteran, coach, and mentor, I ask my col-

leagues to join me in honoring Ray Elliott's life of service to his country and community.

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FULL-YEAR CONTINUING  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 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:

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of amendment #488 pre-printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. My amendment is simple and straightforward. It would fence off 24 million dollars for the ground-based augmentation system (GBAS) which is a critical component of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) next generation air traffic control system.

GBAS is in the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) National Airspace System Enterprise Architecture and the Next Generation (NextGen) Implementation Plan and is a foundational operational capability for international aviation. Over time, as aircraft equipment increases, GBAS will allow the FAA to decommission other ground based precision landing aids. It also facilitates the publication of safer, more efficient and highly accurate terminal arrival, departure and approach procedures. These more efficient terminal procedures will help to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and fuel burn over the long run. Further, because of the operational flexibility of a system it will allow airports to quickly recover from natural disasters that can greatly deteriorate those airports landing approach vectors. But, we need to invest in this technology to get it to a Category 3 operational standard and this takes a commitment from the Congress, the FAA and the airlines.

Since we are passing a year-long Continuing Resolution this will give the FAA a considerable amount of discretion in how it obligates funding for its facilities and equipment account. The significant cuts of almost \$400 million to the facilities and equipment account could greatly hamper any true investment in GBAS or other critical components of the NextGen system. It is important for us to invest in the future safety of our skies now rather than later. To date, the FAA has shown a poor track record of supporting this critical part of the NextGen program and we want to ensure that the FAA knows Congress supports this important part of the program. I commend Congressman TOM LATHAM and Congressman JOHN OLVER, Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies for their support of this program in the Omnibus bill. I look forward to working with them to ensure GBAS gets the support it deserves from the FAA.