

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