

throughout Southeast Cleveland and its suburbs. Her kind and humble nature draws people to her, and she has garnered the admiration and respect of everyone she knows. She is a longtime member of the Garfield Heights Historical Society and serves as a board member for Cleveland Central Catholic High School. She is currently serving her second term as President of the Kiwanis of Southeast Cleveland. As a member and leader in Kiwanis, Ellen has been instrumental in leading several fundraising efforts aimed at local student scholarship awards, and recently, a fundraiser and recognition dinner honoring Dr. Javier Lopez which raised greatly-needed funds for his medical missions to Central America. Ellen has always reached out with a generous heart wherever and whenever needed. Her efforts in volunteerism also include her tireless dedication in her efforts to save St. Michael's hospital.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Ellen Psenicka, as she celebrates her 40th Anniversary with the Neighborhood News. The Neighborhood News is read by tens of thousands of people weekly, and continues to inform and unite us all. Ellen's commitment to bringing us the news of the neighborhood and her generosity as a community leader and volunteer serves to brighten and strengthen our entire community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ANTHONY APPLEWHITE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Anthony Applewhite of Boy Scout Troop 1577 on being promoted to the rank of Eagle Scout. Fewer than 2% of all scouts have mastered the skills necessary to achieve this honor. Anthony's achievement of this rank is even more extraordinary because, at the age of just 13, he is one of the youngest Eagle Scouts ever in the 100 year history of Boy Scouts of America.

For his Eagle Scout Service Project, Anthony designed, planned and managed the construction of a picnic area at The Kings Chapel in Clifton, Va. This picnic area was completed efficiently and now is enjoyed by community members as well as the children who attend the The Kings Chapel pre-school. This is just a recent example of Anthony's scouting achievements. Anthony also was recognized for his leadership and service in his Boy Scout Troop with membership in the Order of the Arrow, the National Honor Society of Scouting.

In addition to his success within the Boy Scouts, Anthony is an Honor Roll Student at Rocky Run Middle School. He excels in science, math and technology and would like to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Anthony plans a dual career of game designer and neurosurgeon where he can utilize many of his impressive abilities. Anthony's scholastic abilities were highlighted when he captained his Odyssey of the Mind teams for the creative problem solving competitions. He also enjoys travel soccer as well as the violin.

Anthony has set many short- and long-term goals for himself ranging from continuing his involvement in the Scouts where he hopes to be selected to attend the 2010 National Jamboree and the 2012 World Jamboree to a career in the medical and technological fields.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Anthony on being one of the youngest Eagle Scouts in scouting history and in wishing him the very best in what promises to be a very bright future. I would also like to ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our thanks to Anthony's family, friends and troop leaders for the support that they have given Anthony which has allowed and encouraged his development as a fine young citizen.

BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, during the period May 22–31, 2009, I led a bipartisan House delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) meetings in Oslo, Norway and to additional bi-lateral meetings in Helsinki, Finland and Stockholm, Sweden. The co-chair of the NATO PA delegation is the Hon. JOHN SHIMKUS. The delegation also included Representatives JO ANN EMERSON, DENNIS MOORE, JOHN BOOZMAN, MIKE ROSS, DAVID SCOTT, KENDRICK MEEK, JEFF MILLER, BEN CHANDLER, MIKE TURNER and staff. The NATO PA delegation had a highly successful trip in which a wide range of political, economic and security issues on NATO's agenda, as well as issues involving the U.S.–Finland and U.S.–Sweden bi-lateral relationships, were examined. Accompanying the delegation on the visits to Finland and Sweden was Mr. David Hobbs, Secretary General of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, who provided invaluable assistance with respect to Finland and Sweden's participation in the NATO PA and issues related to their cooperation with NATO in numerous Alliance operations.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly consists of parliamentarians from all 28 NATO member states. The NATO PA provides a unique forum for elected officials to analyze and debate issues that the NATO leadership discusses in Brussels. In addition to the 28 member parliaments, parliamentarians from countries such as Russia, Georgia, Afghanistan, and others also participate in the sessions as associate states or observers. Through these sessions, delegates have the opportunity to learn firsthand the views and concerns that other countries have over the key security issues of the day. An invaluable aspect of the meetings is the chance to meet and come to know members of parliaments who play important roles in their own countries in shaping the security agenda that their governments pursue at NATO. These contacts can endure through a career, and can provide an invaluable private avenue for insights into each ally's particular views on an issue.

In early April, NATO celebrated its 60th anniversary at a summit in Strasbourg, France and Kehl, Germany. The key issues on the

agenda of the Alliance included the broader issue of the future of NATO and more specific issues including relations with Russia, energy security, missile defense, the conflict in Afghanistan, and emerging challenges such as piracy and cyber security. Each of these issues was also on the NATO PA agenda in Oslo and many were vigorously debated by the parliamentarians. Relations with Russia and the new strategy towards Afghanistan and Pakistan were two of the issues that dominated the session. Many members of the Alliance questioned whether Russia has begun to implement an increasingly assertive security policy including efforts to intimidate neighboring states, through the threat of force. There was also concern expressed that Russia would continue to use its energy supplies as a political lever to influence European policy. It was clear from our meetings that not only the United States and NATO, but the European Union as well, are concerned about Moscow's posture on a variety of issues. And, while there were differences of opinion over how to structure future relations between NATO and Russia and the NATO PA and the Russian delegates to the Assembly, most felt that dialogue between NATO, the NATO PA, and Russia was important and should continue. Many delegates welcomed the U.S. commitment to a new, constructive relationship with Moscow and expressed hope that through those promising relations, Russia's attitude toward NATO could become more positive. On Afghanistan, there was continued support for the ISAF mission among the allies and a willingness to provide the additional civilian and financial support necessary for the reconstruction effort there. However, we did detect an undercurrent of concern among some allies that through the commitment of 21,000 additional U.S. troops to Afghanistan and the replacement of U.S./ISAF Commander, General McKiernan, the process of the "Americanization" of the war was underway and that NATO could be pushed aside by the United States. Our delegation was clear that this is not the case and that NATO's role in Afghanistan continues to be a critical one that needs to be carried out in an effective and efficient manner.

Before the opening sessions of the Assembly's plenary the U.S. delegation received a detailed briefing from the new U.S. Ambassador to NATO, Ivo Daalder, who had been in his new role for four days. He prepared us for the nuances involved in some of the issues that would be debated during the NATO PA sessions, particularly regarding Russia and NATO's on-going role in Afghanistan. In addition to the briefing by Ambassador Daalder, we also had the opportunity to meet with the new Deputy Chief of Mission to NATO, Mr. John Heffern who represented the United States at the joint NATO PA/North Atlantic Council (NAC) session at the conclusion of the plenary. Another highlight was a private meeting our delegation held with NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer who was attending his last NATO Parliamentary Assembly session as Secretary General. He gave an overview of the most critical challenges confronting the alliance and thanked the U.S. delegation for its continued support for NATO. Later he addressed the NATO PA's plenary session. The Foreign Minister of Norway, Jens Stoltenberg also addressed the plenary and spoke about the continued importance of the

Alliance and the need for a clear direction for NATO's future. The Assembly also received a mixed report on current conditions in Afghanistan from Mr. Kai Eide, the head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. Mr. Eide stressed the need for a sustained commitment of assistance from the international community. We also heard comments from the Speakers of the Albanian and Croatian Parliaments on their nation's status as the newest members of the Alliance.

Over two days of the NATO PA session, intense meetings of the Assembly's committees took place. There are five NATO PA committees. In each, parliamentarians presented reports on issues before the Alliance. The reports were debated by all members of the committee who often made counter-arguments or suggestions for amending a report. Members of the U.S. delegation were present and active in each committee meeting.

The Political Committee heard two very interesting presentations. One on the future relevancy of NATO by Jonas Gahr Store, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway. A second presentation on Iran generated some interesting questions and debate. The Committee received presentations on three reports, one from our colleague, MIKE ROSS who was a rapporteur for a report on possible transatlantic cooperation on Pakistan. Mr. ROSS's presentation was well received by the Committee. Other reports debated included "Resetting Relations with Russia" that featured several interesting comments from the Russian delegates, and "NATO's relationship with Georgia" that included a discussion on the recent Russia-Georgia conflict. There were still differences of opinion on who actually was responsible for starting the war in Georgia and how to deal with Georgia's aspirations for eventual membership in NATO.

The Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security is currently chaired by our colleague, JO ANN EMERSON. The Committee heard three interesting presentations. One covered civil-military relations in Afghanistan and another attempted to discuss how NATO could best communicate the importance of the Alliance and its missions to the general populations of the alliance members. There was also a very interesting presentation on the food-security nexus by Josette Sheeran, Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Program. The Committee then debated a report on the growing threat of piracy to regional and global security. Our colleague, DAVID SCOTT, who had recently visited Somalia, offered several comments on the relationship between the unstable political and economic situation in Somalia and the growing use of Somalia as a base for pirate activity. A report on the current political situation in Moldova was also presented.

The Defense and Security Committee heard two reports on NATO's ongoing operations in Afghanistan, including a report by NATO's senior civilian representative in Afghanistan, Ambassador Fernando Gentilini. The Committee also received a report on the need for NATO to reinforce its mission of territorial defense. Our colleague JOHN SHIMKUS countered the idea that Afghanistan was becoming an "American" war by pointing out that the United States' new Afghanistan/Pakistan strategy, which does include additional U.S. military forces, was developed in part with European input.

The Economics and Security Committee debated three reports, including one on food prices and their implications for security and another on energy production in Central Asia and its potential contribution to transatlantic energy security. The Committee also had a long discussion on a third report that addressed the global financial crisis and its impact on member nations. In that discussion, a number of members suggested that it would be useful to explore how the financial crisis was impinging on national defense budgets in allied countries. The Committee also heard presentations on the security aspects of food-related crises, global energy market trends, and managing defense budgets in times of global recession.

Finally, the Science and Technology Committee heard three reports, including one particularly interesting report on climate change and its relationship to national security. Another addressed the current efforts being used to combat the spread of weapons of mass destruction. A third report provided a look at the resurgence of nuclear power as a source of clean energy.

On Tuesday, the final day of the plenary, the general assembly had the extraordinary opportunity to hear a presentation from the NATO Secretary General in his last address to the Assembly and to participate in a formal meeting with the North Atlantic Council (NAC) in which the Ambassadors to NATO of all 28 Alliance members answered questions from the delegates.

Madam Speaker, as you know, the NATO PA Plenary session also happened to be held over our own Memorial Day. For the members of the U.S. delegation, the highlight of our visit to Oslo was the opportunity to honor the men and women of our armed forces who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of their country. As it happened, a U.S. Navy warship was able to make a port call in Oslo that served as the venue for a Memorial Day observance. For that, I wish to thank Admiral Charles Leidig, Commander Ed Recavarren, Assistant U.S. Naval Attache in Oslo, the ship's Captain, Michael Feyedele and the entire ship's crew for welcoming us aboard for the memorial service. I also wish to thank U.S. Ambassador to Norway, Benson Whitney, for hosting the reception for our delegation, the ship's crew, the Mayor of Oslo, and other dignitaries to share this special moment with us. The members of our delegation were also able to visit with sailors and marines whose stateside homes included many of the states represented by Members of our delegation.

In sum, Madam Speaker, the spring session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Oslo was a success and as President of the Assembly, I took pride in the deliberations and participation of the delegates from all 28 member nations and our associate and observer members. For Members of the House or Senate interested in reading the Committee reports or presentations mentioned in this statement, they are all available on the NPA web site at www.nato-pa.int. I also want to take this opportunity to again thank U.S. Ambassador Whitney, our control officer, Auden McKernan, and all of the fine men and women of our embassy in Oslo for the wonderful job they did assisting the delegation.

Following the NATO PA plenary, the U.S. delegation traveled to Bergen, Norway. Norway was celebrating the 100th anniversary of

the Norwegian submarine fleet and a U.S. submarine had visited Bergen as part of that celebration. The U.S. delegation was given a tour of the submarine and an informal briefing on the cooperation between the Norwegian and U.S. navies. The delegation would like to thank Commander Ed Recavarren, Scott Sommers, our Bergen control officer and U.S. Defense Attache in Oslo, Captain Russell Smith, for their assistance in making this visit a successful one.

After departing Norway, the delegation flew to Helsinki, Finland for bi-lateral meetings with government and parliamentary representatives. On Wednesday, after a country team briefing given by our Charge in Helsinki, Thaddeus Plosser, our Control Officer, Scott Brandon and other staff, we were hosted for a roundtable discussion by the Chairmen of the Committees of Foreign Affairs and Defense. Other committee members participated, including Johannes Koskinen, the Deputy Speaker of the Finnish Parliament and head of Finland's delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. The discussions covered a number of issues including Finland's carefully managed relationship with Russia. Finland and Russia share an 800 mile border, fought two wars, and experience close to 8 million border crossings each year. Russia is Finland's largest trading partner and primary energy supplier, including 100% of Finland's natural gas supplies. The Finns seem surprisingly at ease with their "complex and unpredictable" neighbor and do not see a "Georgia-type" threat from Russia.

The Finns pursue their security interests through the EU, Nordic defense cooperation with Sweden, Norway, and Denmark, and through close cooperation with NATO. While there is growing support among some in the government for possible future NATO membership, the majority of the general public is not yet in favor of such a decision. Finland has been active in Afghanistan (currently 100 troops, soon to reach 200), and participates in the Swedish-led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in northern Afghanistan. Other issues discussed included the current global economic and financial crisis which has hit Finland, climate change, and cooperation on issues involving the "high north" and the arctic.

Our delegation also held policy discussions with representatives of the government, including the Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), the principle policy advisor to the Prime Minister, the Deputy Director of the Political Department in the MFA, the head of the office for North American affairs at the MFA, and the Deputy Director at the Ministry of Defense. Again, a wide range of issues including Russia, NATO, and the economy were discussed.

On May 28, our delegation traveled to Stockholm, Sweden for bi-lateral meetings. The visit to Sweden was also important as the Swedes will take over the rotating presidency of the European Union on July 1, 2009. We were met by U.S. Charge, Robert Silverman and control officer, Jonas Wechsler who briefed the delegation on relations between Sweden and the United States. That evening we were warmly welcomed at a reception at the Ambassador's residence that included guests from the government of Sweden, the Parliament, and others. Lively discussions followed on the new U.S. administration and its

views on transatlantic relations, the differences between the European and U.S. views of the world, the future role of NATO, relations with Russia, and the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The next day, the delegation met with Sten Tolgfors, the Minister of Defense for Sweden. The Minister briefed us on Sweden's global outlook, their participation with NATO in the Balkans and Afghanistan (they have 290 troops and lead a PRT in the north), Russia, and the reforms they have instituted within the defense establishment, including the decision to pursue an all-volunteer professional military (they, like the Finns, have a conscript military). Sweden, like Finland, does entertain the possibility of future NATO membership but the Minister told the delegation that currently the parliament is split on the idea and so it is not on the government's current agenda. The delegation then proceeded to a working lunch hosted by Ms. Karin Enstrom, head of the Swedish delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and attended by other parliamentarians. The discussion was lively and covered the entire spectrum of U.S.-Swedish relations. Following lunch, the delegation met with State Secretary Frank Belfrage from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Discussions centered on Russia, Afghanistan, and Sweden's upcoming presidency of the European Union. One of Sweden's priorities will be climate change and preparing the EU's positions for the Copenhagen Conference on climate change that will be held in December. The Secretary expressed his hope that the United States and EU will work closely together on this issue and to help forge a consensus on the follow-on efforts to the Kyoto Climate agreement.

Madam Speaker, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly provides a unique opportunity for Members of Congress to engage in serious discussions on critical issues with our colleagues from other NATO member states, associate and observer states. I believe our delegation, and thus this Congress, benefits greatly from the information we exchange and the personalities we meet during these meetings. I look forward to our next NATO PA session in November in Edinburgh, Scotland.

In conclusion, I would like to again acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our Embassy staffs in Oslo, Helsinki, and Stockholm, and the men and women of the U.S. Navy vessels we visited while in Norway. I especially want to thank our entire military escort group from the United States Air Force, including the pilots. Our diplomatic corps and military personnel provide a quiet but invaluable service in ensuring our safety and this group of diplomats, servicemen and women was no exception. I thank them for their hard work and their dedication to duty.

HONORING SISTER FRANCINE
LAGOCKI, PRINCIPAL OF SAINT
RICHARD SCHOOL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Francine Lagocki, Principal of Saint Richard School in recognition of her ca-

reer of devoted service. Sister Lagocki's retirement at the end of the 2009 school year will mark the end of nearly seven decades of selfless service to our nation's youth. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sister Lagocki's outstanding commitment to educational excellence. Sister Lagocki embodies the positive influence that teachers and school administrators can be on students every day across this great country.

In Sister Lagocki's accomplished career as an educator, she served as a classroom teacher in three parish schools before becoming assistant principal at Good Council High School. Sister Lagocki then served as principal of St. Mary School and St. Roman School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, before returning to Illinois to serve as Principal for St. Wenceslas in Chicago, and then finally St. Richard School on the Southwest Side.

St. Richard School is a Catholic school that serves the parish community and is both an expression of and a witness to the faith of its people. Believing that a child's development best occurs within the framework of a positive and structured environment, St. Richard School offers innovative and high quality educational programs. The aim of these programs is to challenge each student while teaching basic skills, within a Christian atmosphere where mutual respect, order, and values are high priorities.

It is my honor to recognize Sister Francine Lagocki, who served as an example of one of the best in K-8 school leadership and helped foster a greater understanding of the principal's key role in meeting the challenging responsibility of educating children.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on Congressionally-directed project funding, I am submitting the following information regarding project funding I requested for Southeast Louisiana as part of the Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill.

Requesting Member: Congressman STEVE SCALISE

Bill Number: Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Bill

Account: Department of Justice, COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Washington Parish Sheriff's Office

Address of Requesting Entity: 1002 Main Street, Franklinton, Louisiana 70438

Description of Request: I have secured \$291,000 for the Washington Parish Sheriff's Office. The funding will provide law enforcement equipment, and provide proactive and reactive law enforcement activities for the safety of citizens and law enforcement officials engaged in law enforcement activities. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman STEVE SCALISE

Bill Number: Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Bill

Account: Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs—Juvenile Justice
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Boys Town Louisiana

Address of Requesting Entity: 700 Frenchman Street, New Orleans, LA 70116

Description of Request: I have secured \$147,000 for Boys Town Louisiana, New Orleans, LA. The funding would be to expand an integration of the Boys Town Treatment Family Home program and its Home Family Services program to serve more at-risk girls and boys and their families. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

CONSUMER ASSISTANCE TO RECYCLE AND SAVE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, though I voted for the Consumer Assistance to Recycle and Save or the CARS Act, I have serious reservations about it. Unfortunately, despite its good intentions, it will send jobs overseas and it does little to help our ailing climate.

I cosponsored H.R. 1550, an earlier version of the bill. That version allowed consumers to get a voucher for cars assembled in the U.S. The version under consideration today has no such assurances, which means that significant amounts of the funds will go toward the purchase of cars made in countries like China. We are giving with one hand and taking with the other.

Our auto industry needs our help more than ever. Yet we are handing over money, jobs and infrastructure to our international competition. It is made worse by the terms of the GM bankruptcy which requires that plants in the U.S. are closed while shipping auto manufacturing jobs to other countries like Mexico and South Korea. We can't protect the auto industry by sending their work to other countries.

ENERGY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I would first like to thank Rep. ELLISON for holding this special order tonight as Congress works to break away from business-as-usual with regards to our nation's energy future.

I would also like to thank the Chairs of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, Representatives WOOLSEY and GRIJALVA, for your leadership and your tireless efforts to promote proper stewardship of our communities by protecting the environment.

It is so important that we continue to call for action on these issues surrounding global warming and the continued degradation of our environment that is perpetuated by our dependence on fossil fuels.

As I have said time and time again—there is no denying the interconnection between our stewardship of the environment and the state