

is not intended to be used by an entity to secure funds for entities unless the use of the funding is consistent with the specified purpose of the earmark; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

TEXAS S. CON. RES. 22

**HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 31, 2009*

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, at the request of the Secretary of State of the State of Texas, I am officially entering Senate Concurrent Resolution 22, as passed by the 81st Legislature, Regular Session, 2009 of the State of Texas, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 22

Whereas, The Medal of Honor is the nation's highest decoration for valor in combat awarded to members of the United States armed forces; generally presented to recipients by the president of the United States on congress's behalf, it is often called the Congressional Medal of Honor; and

Whereas, First authorized in 1861 for United States Navy and Marine Corps personnel and for United States Army soldiers the following year, Medals of Honor are awarded sparingly and bestowed only on those individuals performing documented acts of gallant heroism against an enemy force; and

Whereas, Since congress authorized the award, 70 Medals of Honor have been accredited to the State of Texas, yet other Texans have similarly distinguished themselves by acts of courageous gallantry in combat no less deserving of such recognition; one such individual is Marcelino Serna, a native of Mexico whose unflinching and selfless bravery and acts of uncommon valor on the battlefields of World War I made him one of Texas' most decorated heroes; and

Whereas, Born in the Mexican state of Chihuahua in 1896, he came to the United States as a young man in search of a better life, working various jobs in Texas, Kansas, and Colorado; and

Whereas, In 1917, Mr. Serna was working in Colorado when the United States, unable to remain neutral any longer while war raged in Europe, declared war on Germany; later that year, federal officials in Denver, Colorado, gathered a group of men and held them until their draft status could be verified; and

Whereas, Included in this group, Mr. Serna chose not to wait for such verification and instead volunteered for service in the United States Army; after only three weeks of training, 20-year-old Private Serna was shipped to England, where he was assigned to the 355th Infantry of the 89th Division, a unit that was to see action in some of the most arduous campaigns of the war; and

Whereas, By the time the unit arrived in France, Private Serna's status as a noncitizen had come to light, and he was consequently offered a discharge from the army; given the opportunity to return home, Private Serna refused the discharge, choosing to stay with his unit as it began its advance toward the Meuse River and Argonne Forest in northeastern France; and

Whereas, At Saint Mihiel, Private Serna's unit was moving through thick brush when a German machine gunner opened fire, killing 12 American soldiers; with his lieutenant's permission, Private Serna, a scout, contin-

ued forward, dodging machine-gun fire until he reached the gunner's left flank; and

Whereas, Having come through a hail of bullets unscathed, despite being hit twice in the helmet, Private Serna got close enough to lob four grenades into the machine-gun nest, killing six enemy soldiers and taking into custody the eight survivors, who quickly surrendered to the lone American soldier; and

Whereas, This encounter was followed shortly by an even more astounding feat when, during his second scouting mission in the Meuse-Argonne campaign, Private Serna captured 24 German soldiers with his Enfield rifle and grenades, an episode that began when he spied a sniper walking on a trench bank; and

Whereas, Although the sniper was about 200 yards away, Private Serna shot and wounded him, then followed the wounded German's trail into a trench, where he discovered several more enemy soldiers; opening fire, Private Serna killed three of the enemy and scattered the others in that initial burst; and

Whereas, Frequently changing positions, Private Serna fooled the enemy into thinking they were under fire from several Americans, keeping up the ruse until he was close enough to lob three grenades into the German dugout; in about 45 minutes of furious action, Private Serna managed to kill 26 German soldiers and capture another 24, whom he held captive by himself until his unit arrived; and

Whereas, Enduring several months of combat action largely unharmed, Private Serna was shot in both legs by a sniper four days before the Armistice; while he was convalescing in an army hospital in France, General John J. Pershing, commander-in-chief of the American Expeditionary Forces, decorated Private Serna with the Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest American combat medal; and

Whereas, Private Serna also received two French Croix de Guerre with Palm medals, the French Medaille Militaire, the French Commemorative Medal, the Italian Cross of Merit, the World War I Victory Medal, the Victory Medal with three campaign bars, the Saint Mihiel Medal, the Verdun Medal, and two Purple Hearts; and

Whereas, Discharged from the army in 1919, Marcelino Serna settled in El Paso, where he became a United States citizen, entered the civil service, and lived out his retirement years until his death in 1992; although he lived the most ordinary of lives after the war, Mr. Serna was, for a brief moment in time, an extraordinary hero whose remarkable feats of bravery under fire elevated him into the pantheon of American heroes; and

Whereas, In 1993, Texas Congressman Ronald D. Coleman introduced a measure in the 103rd Congress to waive certain statutory time limits on awarding the Medal of Honor and thus bestow on Marcelino Serna the proper recognition he so richly deserves; unfortunately, the measure did not receive a proper hearing, thereby denying the legacy of Mr. Serna its proper place in history; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to reopen consideration of this case to posthumously award the Medal of Honor to World War I hero Marcelino Serna; and, be it further

*Resolved*, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with

the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

HONORING JACKSON POLICE CHIEF  
RICK STAPLES

**HON. JOHN S. TANNER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 31, 2009*

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rick Staples, a long-time public servant who will retire as Chief of the Jackson Police Department on September 18. Under Chief Staples, the Jackson Police Department has dedicatedly served our community, and his leadership has proven to be an example for both veterans and new officers alike.

Rick Staples was born and raised in Madison County, which I am honored to represent in this Chamber. After graduating from Jackson High School in 1970, he attended college at Jackson State Community College before graduating from the prestigious Northwestern University Police Administration training program.

Following his graduation from the Northwestern University Police Administration training program, he attained the rank of lieutenant and worked his way up through the ranks until, on October 12, 1989, Rick was promoted to Chief of Police, a position he has held ever since.

During his tenure serving West Tennessee, our law enforcement professionals have seen sweeping changes, from the computerization of records to the complete restructuring of the department. Chief Staples has managed a staff of 253 employees, an annual budget of more than \$15 million and been responsible for providing police services to a population of more than 62,000 residents. He helped create the Gang Task Force and Violent Crimes Task Force as well as start the first Citizen's Police Academy in Tennessee.

Among Chief Staples' proudest accomplishments is the partnership developed between the police department and our community. In 1994, the city council called for a crime summit between the officers and the residents of Jackson. The result was the establishment of the Community Policing Program, which has allowed for the relationship between the officers and the community to continue to grow, something in which Chief Staples takes tremendous pride.

In addition to his service to the Jackson Police Department, Chief Staples has volunteered as a Critical Incident Debriefing for the Tennessee Public Safety Network as well as a personal security guard for celebrities at high-profile, local events such as the Cerebral Palsy Telethon and the Miss Tennessee Pageant.

Chief Staples' retirement is not an end to his service to the public. He has found a new challenge, accepting a position with a security firm located in Baghdad, Iraq. I trust that he will perform his new job with the same dedication, professionalism and perseverance as he has in his current position.

Madam Speaker, I have long been proud to call Ricky Staples my friend. I thank you and our colleagues for joining me in expressing

gratitude for his service protecting West Tennessee families, congratulating him on his retirement, and wishing him the best as he begins an exciting and important opportunity.

#### IN MEMORY OF JAY CRISCIONE

#### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on July 29th, South Carolina and Lexington County lost a long time friend and leader with the passing of Jay Criscione. Our community has been enhanced as world-class due to his vision on behalf of young people and our senior citizens.

Joey Holleman of The State newspaper in South Carolina has thoughtfully penned the following tribute to Mr. Criscione.

[From the State]

#### LEXINGTON RECREATION LEADER DIES

(By Joey Holleman)

Jay Criscione, who directed the Lexington County Recreation and Aging Commission through more than two decades of rapid growth, died Wednesday after a battle with cancer. He was 61.

Criscione started with the recreation agency in 1973, soon after he graduated from Clemson. He took over as executive director in 1986.

Criscione steered the agency toward projects that drew from large geographic areas—the four leisure centers, the Oak Grove and Pine Grove softball complexes, and a national-caliber tennis center. He reasoned that the softball and tennis projects would give the county double benefits. Local players could use the facilities, and local businesses would benefit from regional and national tournaments held at the venues.

“He was a pioneer in the softball craze of bringing in national tournaments,” said Jim Headley, director of the S.C. Recreation and Parks Association. “What he did with Oak Grove and then Pine Grove inspired Rock Hill, Florence and Aiken to enter the softball market. He saw sports tourism as an economic engine.”

Adept at working every financing angle, Criscione landed state grants that paid most of the construction cost for a horse arena in South Congaree and multiple senior centers. He also helped convince County Council to approve multimillion-dollar construction bonds.

“He had a vision for the county,” said Larry Mack, longtime chairman of the recreation commission. “He worked real hard to supply the needs of the people for recreation.”

In recent years, Criscione had been slowed by multiple bouts with various cancers. He is survived by his mother, Juanita R. Criscione of Chester, a daughter and son-in-law, Ramsey and Trent Goodman of Lexington, a sister, Paulette Criscione of Lexington, and two grandchildren.

#### UNITED STATES NUMBERED HIGHWAY SYSTEM

#### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, the United States Numbered Highway System—

from US 1 to US 830—was the first set of nationally recognized highways in the country. During the Great Depression, federal and state governments put people to work improving and extending the nation's roads and highways. The U.S. numbered highways carried the bulk of intercity vehicular traffic and people migrating west. These highways helped our country win the Second World War, allowing great flexibility in ferrying soldiers and materials across the nation, supplementing the nation's fixed rail system.

Communities all across America sprung up around these numbered highways, which came to serve as Main Streets in many of these towns. The system reached its apex in 1956, but with the creation of the Interstate System and subsequent growth of suburban communities, many of these once great highways have decayed. As a result, many of the U.S. numbered highways can be characterized as “orphan highways,” receiving little or no federal investment. These highways, however, continue to serve local areas with critical connectivity and economic links, and are often the heart of Main Street America.

To create an assistance program that is tailored to the redevelopment of community Main Streets which are or were part of the United States Numbered Highway System, I have introduced the Orphan Highway Restoration Act. This legislation creates a new program to provide Federal funds to assist states and local governments in their efforts to rehabilitate or repair the Main Street sections of the orphan highways running through their towns. The bill provides a needed boost to state and local transportation departments by committing important new resources to revitalize local economies and communities. It creates redevelopment opportunities that benefit local businesses and labor, improve safety on our roads, and creates jobs.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this important legislation and to reinvest in the communities that make America great.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

#### HON. MARY FALLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Ms. FALLIN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3288, the FY 2010 THUD Appropriations bill:

I, Congresswoman MARY FALLIN, requested and received \$1,000,000 for Bus Facility Renovation to The Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority located at 300 SW 7th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73109. This funding will be used for to repair and replace water cooling tower and correct drainage problems at historic Union Station. Improve the lighting and exhaust systems at the maintenance garage and upgrade the oil and lube room facilities.

CONGRATULATING MR. FRANK GOLDER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Frank Golder, of Bloomsburg, Columbia County, Pennsylvania, on the joyous occasion of his 100th birthday celebration that will occur on August 8.

Long a legendary figure in the fields of education and athletic development in northeastern and central Pennsylvania, Mr. Golder has distinguished himself as a mentor and a role model to generations of young Pennsylvanians who looked to him with respect and admiration.

After graduating from Bloomsburg High School in the 1920s where he developed his love for basketball and baseball, Mr. Golder went on to star in those sports from 1927 to 1931 during his years at then Bloomsburg Normal School, later Bloomsburg University.

He went on to become a teacher and an athletic coach at Hughesville High School during which he earned his master's degree from Columbia University.

His teams won two West Branch League titles at Hughesville.

Mr. Golder moved to Bloomsburg High School in 1937 where he was named head basketball coach. In 19 seasons in charge of the basketball program, his squads won 10 Susquehanna Valley League crowns and, during one three-year stretch, he won 40 consecutive league games. His team, The Panthers, also captured four District Four championships.

Mr. Golder was also responsible for establishing Little League Baseball in Bloomsburg in the late 1940s. He also started baseball at Bloomsburg High School where he coached that sport for seven years.

For 13 years, Mr. Golder was a member of the PIAA District Four Board of Directors and was chairman of that organization for three years.

After serving as principal of Bloomsburg High School for 14 years, he retired in 1975.

During his remarkable basketball coaching career, Mr. Golder endeared himself to hundreds of aspiring young athletes with his disciplined approach to the importance of learning the fundamentals of the sport and his reputation as a coach who inspired excellence through a calm, reasoned, approach.

The Bloomsburg Press Enterprise described him as an extraordinary gentleman and a fine coach when including him as one of the top local sports figures of the 20th century in 1999. He was inducted into the Bloomsburg University's Sports Hall of Fame in 1988.

Mr. Golder continues to reside in Bloomsburg with his wife, Myra. The couple has one daughter and two grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Golder on this wonderful occasion. For his entire life, Frank Golder has demonstrated the highest ideals for a role model and he encouraged his students to rise to excellence both on and off the field of competition. His contributions to generations of our