

With regard to Congressional spending requests, proper disclosure of earmarks has come to the forefront of this debate. In an effort to encourage accountability and transparency, this bill will also require Members of the House to disclose earmark requests within 24 hours to the Clerk of the House of Representatives. The Clerk will then be tasked with publicly posting all earmark requests on the website designated for the Office of the Clerk in a uniform and searchable format.

As a reflection of my own principles in government spending, I have also included a provision to require certification that non-federal recipients will provide matching funds of at least 10 percent of the earmark request. Recipients of federal funds are more likely to spend their federal financial support efficiently and effectively if they too have a vested interest in the final project.

Lastly, H. Res. 100 will require that Members requesting earmarked funds certify that no family member is a beneficiary of the funding. This earmark reform measure will bring an end to deplorable family payouts.

Earmark abuse not only wastes taxpayer money, but it also erodes the credibility of this legislative body. It is time for Congress to regain the trust of the American people and bring integrity back to Capitol Hill through substantive earmark reform.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained yesterday evening. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 57, 58, and 59.

IN RECOGNITION OF SHELLEY O'NEILL STONEMAN

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding contributions and dedication of my Deputy Chief of Staff, Shelly O'Neill Stoneman, as she leaves my office to work in the Office of Legislative Affairs for President Barack Obama. Shelly served on my staff for more than 5 years, and during that time she advised me expertly on issues of defense and foreign policy. Shelly continuously demonstrated extraordinary intellect, grace under pressure, and the highest ethical and professional standards. Shelly's vast sphere of knowledge and her friendship will genuinely be missed in my office.

Shelly was born in Newport Beach, California, and later moved to Orlando, Florida where she attended Dr. Phillips High School. She attended Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. She has also earned a Master of Arts in National Security Studies from the United States Naval War College, as well as a Master of Arts in International Relations from the University of Oklahoma's Program in Europe.

Prior to joining my office, Shelly worked as an intern in the White House Office of Legislative Affairs in 1997 during the Clinton Administration. This is the same office which Shelly will now be joining as a staffer within the Obama Administration. In 1999, Shelly joined the United States Senate Governmental Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on International Security, Proliferation, and Federal Services under Senator DANIEL AKAKA (D-HI), and later worked as a research consultant for the Small Arms Survey, evaluating the arms export control systems of Central, Eastern, and Southeastern European countries. Her previous experience has served her well and helped make her an extraordinarily effective member of my staff, and I know those same capabilities will serve her well in the White House.

While serving long hours as the brilliant Deputy Chief of Staff for my office, Shelly directed my legislative agenda and staffed me on the House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, as well as the Subcommittee on Defense. In addition to her work within my office, Shelly founded the Democratic Legislative Directors Study Group, a wonderful support and networking system for Democratic senior staff on Capitol Hill.

Madam Speaker, over the past 5 years, my office has come to know Shelly O'Neill Stoneman well and we will remember her as a conscientious and dedicated colleague, a gifted writer, and a loyal friend to her fellow coworkers. Shelly is a passionate advocate for the protection of human rights and international aid, and has used her well-honed skills as a policy-maker to help ensure that these vital aspects of United States foreign policy are maintained. Throughout her tenure with my office, Shelly provided me with thoughtful and accurate counsel, which has allowed me to better serve the people of New Jersey's Ninth District. She is now, and forever, an honorary "Jersey Girl", and has my deep respect and appreciation for all of the contributions she has made to my office and the work she has done. While I will miss her dearly, I wish Shelly the very best and know that she has a bright future ahead of her. The White House is lucky to have her.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CONSUMER FAIRNESS ACT OF 2009

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of my bill, the Consumer Fairness Act of 2009. In the last decade, too many of our nation's consumers have been subjected to abusive payday lending and increasingly relied on high-cost credit cards and predatory mortgage loans. To make matters worse, a consumer's ability to fight back against predatory lenders or to challenge unfair credit card fees and rates has been severely constrained by consumer contracts that require binding, mandatory arbitration to settle disputes between the borrower and the lender. We cannot allow these unfair practices to compound our economic challenges.

Mandatory arbitration clauses undermine existing consumer protections. They prohibit class action lawsuits by requiring consumers to waive their right to access a court of law and by forcing them into an arbitration system that has been set up for the benefit and expediency of corporate America. In many cases, individual consumers are required to pay thousands of dollars in arbitration fees that they cannot afford before their case is even heard. If this strikes my colleagues as unfair, then I ask them to support my bill, the Consumer Fairness Act of 2009.

The Consumer Fairness Act of 2009 would prohibit binding arbitration clauses in any consumer contract by recognizing these clauses as an unfair and deceptive trade practice. This legislation will help to level the playing field in the fight against predatory lending practices by giving consumers access to the courts and to class action lawsuits in order to address these unfair practices in an environment free of bias. When our constituents suffer through the worst recession in decades, the very least we can do is to give them a fair environment to defend themselves against predatory practices.

TRIBUTE TO HAMILTON COUNTY, NEBRASKA

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Hamilton County, Nebraska, for being named Progressive Farmer's Best Place to Raise a Family.

Anyone who has ever visited Nebraska has seen first hand it is a wonderful place to raise a family. It looks like the message is getting out.

Founded in 1867 and named after the first Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, and anchored by the city of Aurora, this area of my district truly lives up to the moniker "The Good Life."

This designation wasn't an accident. Hamilton County is a strong community of people who care for each other, who help out during hard times, and who live up to the benchmarks set by our forefathers.

So, congratulations to the good people of Hamilton County for representing Nebraska and making us proud.

HONORING MARTIN DELANEY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Martin Delaney who passed away in his home in San Rafael, California, on January 23, 2009, of liver cancer. Mr. Delaney, who was 63, was a leader in AIDS activism, especially the movement to represent the needs of HIV patients in the drug approval process.

Although not HIV positive himself, Martin's experience with experimental treatments for his Hepatitis B infection and his dismay at the

devastating spread of AIDS (including the death of his partner), led him to found Project Inform in 1985. Based in San Francisco, Project Inform soon became the leading national advocacy organization focusing on ensuring that promising anti-retroviral medications reached patients quickly and expeditiously. He worked with government officials to develop accelerated approval for the drugs as well as to implement policies ensuring that those most seriously ill had access to treatments before approval.

Martin served as the director of Project Inform until 2008 and also led the Fair Pricing Coalition which negotiates affordable rates for HIV medications with the industry. He dedicated himself to educating and shaping public policy as well, working with everyone from AIDS patients to research scientists to government officials. He is credited with saving thousands of lives.

For his work, Martin was recently given the Director's Special Recognition Award from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, a division of the National Institutes of Health. The award was for "extraordinary contributions to framing the HIV research agenda," and the Institute's Director, Dr. Anthony S. Faud, M.D. stated that Martin "is a formidable activist and a dear friend. It is without hyperbole that I call Marty Delaney a public health hero."

Madam Speaker, Martin Delaney is truly a hero. He not only saved lives; he also forged a path with his heart, his head, and his conviction that he could take action to fight the suffering he witnessed. I join people all over this country in mourning his passing.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO A LEADER IN NEW YORK STATE POLITICS AND JOURNALISM: M. PAUL REDD

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fixture in New York State politics and journalism, M. Paul Redd—the strong-willed publisher of the country's only black-owned newspaper, the Westchester County Press. The weekly celebrated its 80th anniversary last year, just a few months prior to the passing of its longtime publisher and muse. Redd was an African American leader whose foray into journalism and politics made him a premier advocate for equality and fairness. With a seriousness of purpose, outpouring of passion, and great eloquence, he and his paper prodded politicians towards responsible, progressive stances and held them accountable to the people and communities they served. He traversed the world of media and public service, blurring the line that separates them and serving as vice chairman of the state Democratic Party for a number of years.

A voice—when as clear, cogent, and powerful as his was—cannot be silenced, even in death, as the following WVOX radio tribute titled "M. Paul Redd Dies Suddenly" makes clear. He will continue to reverberate and resound in the minds of those he touched, in the words of those he influenced, in the work we public servants have yet to do for our constituencies, our state, and our country.

M. PAUL REDD DIES SUDDENLY

One of Westchester's most prominent and durable African-American leaders has died.

Word came within the hour from the office of NYS Assemblyman George Latimer that M. Paul Redd died suddenly last night of a massive heart attack. He was in his mid-80's.

Paul Redd published the Westchester County Press which last month at Manhattanville College celebrated its 80th anniversary as the county's only black-owned newspaper.

Paul Redd purchased the weekly many years ago from the late Dr. Alger Adams. In addition to his publishing activities . . . M. Paul Redd was very active in New York State and Westchester politics serving as Vice Chairman of the State Democratic Party for many years. He was married to political activist Orial Redd and their daughter Paula Redd Zeeman is the County's Director of Human Resources.

He was also a fixture at many WVOX broadcasts. For almost 40 years, Mr. Redd attended this station's St. Patrick's Day salute broadcasts. (WVOX is dedicating this year's broadcast to Mr. Redd).

One of the features of his newspaper—the Westchester County Press—was the "Snoopy Allgood" column which tweaked politicians in a good natured, if occasionally pointed, way. Mr. Redd never revealed who actually wrote those Snoopy Allgood columns.

He was also a frequent guest on our radio and tv talk shows and discussion programs.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM O'SHAUGHNESSY

The legendary publisher Roy Howard used to say: "You can't have a great newspaper unless you have one man or woman who has something to say."

Paul Redd had a lot of things to say . . . and he said them passionately, clearly and with great eloquence.

His Westchester weekly had influence far beyond its circulation area . . . mostly because of that one man.

He went all the way back in this county to the time of Bill Luddy . . . Max Berking . . . Sam Fredman . . . Mario Cuomo . . . Al DelBello . . . Miriam Jackson . . . Andy O'Rourke . . . John Flynn . . . Edwin Gilbert Michaelian . . . Ossie Davis . . . Malcolm Wilson . . . Richard Ottinger . . . Joe Shannon . . . Napoleon Holmes . . . Milt Hoffmann . . . Paul Dennis . . . Whitney Young . . . Hugh Price . . . Guido Cribari . . . Nancy Q. Keefe . . . Ogden Reid . . . Vinnie Rippa . . . Tony Gioffre . . . Dennis Mehiel . . . Franklyn Richardson . . . Dr. Lester Cousin . . . Anthony J. Colavita . . . Bobby & Jack Kennedy . . . Ernie Davis . . . Ed Brady . . . Jack Javits . . . Vin Draddy . . . Bill Butcher . . . Fred Powers . . . Brother Jack Driscoll . . . Al Sulla . . . Tony Veteran . . . Francis X. O'Rourke . . . Wellington Mara . . . B.J. Harrington . . . William Congdon . . . Alvin Richard Ruskin . . . Angelo Martinelli . . . Bob Abplanalp . . . Kirby Scollon . . . Ed Hughes . . . Daniel Patrick Moynihan . . . Hugh Carey . . . and our magnificent neighbor Nelson Aldrich Rockefeller.

He amplified all their voices.

And we will miss his . . .

STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR MARIO M. CUOMO

I've just learned of Paul Redd's passing . . . and I am saddened by it.

Paul Redd had an awful lot of strength . . . and a whole lot of strong opinions. He had a strong voice, and a strong will that inspired him to use that voice . . . speaking the truth, and spreading it, as he saw it . . . about politics, about politicians . . . and even beyond, whether politicians liked it or not.

He was a proud owner of the only Black newspaper in the county . . . for . . . I think it was . . . eighty years.

And he spoke in that paper all he could on all these truths. And in doing it . . . the color of what he was saying was not black . . . it wasn't white . . . and it certainly wasn't yellow, as in "yellow journalism."

The color of what he was saying and writing and believing was red, white and blue . . . as American as it could be.

It really was as basic as red, white and blue . . . because what he was talking about . . . all the time . . . was equality and fairness . . . the same thing Lincoln talked about . . . and the same thing the Declaration of Independence talks about.

We're going to miss him.

IRAN CONTINUES SYSTEMATIC PERSECUTION OF BAHAI'S

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to my colleagues' attention some deeply disturbing news coming out of Tehran. Tehran's deputy prosecutor recently announced that the revolutionary court will hear the cases of seven members of the Baha'i faith accused of spying for Israel. The continued systematic persecution of the Baha'is by the tyrannical government of President Mahmud Ahmadinejad is unacceptable and must stop. I ask that a report from the Agence France Press be inserted into the RECORD, as well.

IRAN TO TRY BAHAI'S FOR SPYING FOR ISRAEL

TEHRAN (AFP)—Iran will soon try seven members of the banned Bahai religion on charges including "espionage for Israel," the ISNA news agency reported on Wednesday.

"The charges against seven defendants in the case of the illegal Bahai group were examined . . . and the case will be sent to the revolutionary court next week," deputy Tehran prosecutor Hassan Haddad was quoted as saying.

Haddad said the charges included "espionage for Israel, insulting religious sanctities and propaganda against the Islamic republic."

Iran and Israel are arch-enemies, and Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinejad has repeatedly called for the Jewish state to be wiped off the map.

In late January, judiciary spokesman Ali Reza Jamshidi said Iran had arrested six adherents of the Bahai faith on the same charges.

Earlier last month, the Fars news agency said the ex-secretary of Nobel laureate Shirin Ebadi's office was detained for links with an organisation of the Bahai faith, adding that the ex-staffer was a Bahai herself.

Haddad did not say if the seven being charged were the same as those arrested in January.

Followers of the Bahai faith, founded in Iran in 1863, are regarded as infidels and have suffered persecution both before and after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Bahai teachings emphasise the underlying unity of major religions, with history having produced a succession of divine messengers, each of which founded a religion suitable for the times.

Bahais consider Bahauallah, born in 1817, to be the last prophet sent by God. This is in direct conflict with Islam, the religion of the vast majority of Iranians, which considers Mohammed to be the last prophet.

In late 2008, Iran reported the hanging of a Bahai man for rape and adultery.