

six sets of tracks that now cross Lakeshore Drive. The two sets of warning gates could be eliminated as all access to the crossings would be removed. The potential for a train/vehicle collision would be totally eliminated. The cost of the project will be split 80% Federal, 10% Village of North Fond du Lac, and 10% Wisconsin Central. This project has been requested along with Senator HERB KOHL (WI).

Account: Division I—Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies—Economic Development Initiatives

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Military Veterans Museum Foundation, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 501 City Center, Oshkosh, WI 54901

Description of Request: The \$142,500 appropriation will go toward constructing a 45,000 square foot state of the art educational facility onto the existing "Fields of Honor" Military Veterans Museum in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. It would be located on a 10 acre tract a half mile south of the Experimental Aircraft Association grounds (Wittman Regional Airport) overlooking Highway 41. It will contain displays of artifacts and memorabilia ranging from the Revolutionary War to the present; a multi-faceted Educational Center including a library, art gallery, 80 seat theater, an audio/visual center; administrative offices; and banquet rooms. It will also provide a unique gathering place for veterans and school groups, and become a showcase attraction for the area economy. A 5% match is required by the Military Veterans Museum Foundation, Inc. in order to receive the allocated money.

Account: Division I—Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies—FTA/Buses and Bus Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Address of Requesting Entity: 4802 Sheboygan Ave., Madison, WI 53702

Description of Request: The \$269,800 appropriation will be used for renovation of the Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Transit System's administrative/maintenance facility, shop equipment, maintenance vehicles, rehabilitation of its bus terminal, and yard equipment and maintenance.

IN RECOGNITION OF RISON HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2009*

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rison High School in Rison, Arkansas, for having been selected as one of the top high schools in America by U.S. News and World Report.

U.S. News and World Report honored Rison High School with its Silver Medal, one of only four schools in Arkansas to receive such recognition. In order to qualify for this honor, a high school must have a challenging college-ready curriculum, performed well on standardized tests, and provide support and programs that best serve students from all backgrounds, according to the report.

I am personally proud of Rison High School for working to achieve excellence in the classroom and helping to ensure their students have the means they need to succeed in this

21st century global marketplace. A stellar education requires not only good educators and administrators, but also support from the surrounding community. The Rison community, with its top-notch educators, active parents and involved local leadership, deserve much-needed praise for their unified efforts in providing Rison High School students with a world-class education, and I am pleased that U.S. News and World Report took notice.

Once again, I would like to congratulate Rison High School on this significant accomplishment and hope they will continue to strive for excellence in the years to come.

COACH LARRY HOLLEY

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize the outstanding leadership of Coach Larry Holley on the occasion of his induction into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame on February 7, 2009.

Larry Holley has been the head men's basketball coach at William Jewell College since the 1979–80 school year. He is truly among America's elite coaches, having won more than 750 games during his career and having received 14 Coach of the Year Awards. Coach Holley is ranked #3 among all NAIA coaches and #8 among active four-year college coaches. We are truly lucky to have him as a coach in Northwest Missouri.

True to his dedication, Coach Holley is a 1967 William Jewell graduate. He lettered in three different sports, was President of his fraternity, Lambda Chi Alpha, and was always a leader in his academics, school activities and his entire community in general.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Coach Larry Holley for his dedicated service to William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri. Larry's commitment to his team, the school and our community provide a strong example of the kind of leader we should all work to be. I know Larry's colleagues, family and friends join with me in thanking him for his commitment to others and wishing him congratulations on his induction to the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame and best wishes on many more years of happiness and success.

CONF. REPORT ON H.R. 1

SPEECH OF

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 13, 2009*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Stimulus bill we're voting on today is supposed to stimulate business and create jobs. However, one provision of the bill will do just the opposite. Title II of the Conference Report on H.R. 1, under the Office of Justice Programs, State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance, provides \$2 billion in Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG). This funding is frequently used by local government agencies to fund pretrial

release for criminal defendants. The problem is that it's at taxpayer expense.

When a defendant is given a pre-trial release bond or personal recognizance bond, he is released on his own recognizance. For example, a bond may be set at \$10,000, and the defendant is released on his promise to return based on his "word" alone. If the defendant does not return, the sheriff has to go find him. The taxpayers are usually out \$10,000 because judgments are seldom obtained from defendants for failure to appear.

On the other hand, when a surety bond is used, the court enters into a contractual agreement with a bonding company. The defendant also makes an agreement with the bonding company, and pays the company 10%. Then the defendant is released with the understanding that the bonding company will pay the court \$10,000 if the defendant does not show up. Plus the bonding company is obligated to go and look for the defendant if the defendant does not appear in court. This form of free enterprise takes taxpayers off the financial hook.

Mr. Speaker, by allowing taxpayer money to go to pretrial release, the free enterprise system is greatly hindered. Instead of providing jobs, jobs are taken away from the private sector—namely the bonding and insurance community.

As a former judge, I found that defendants released on pretrial bonds seldom reappeared in court. With surety bonds, however, they were much more likely to show up because they had a vested financial interest in appearing. Plus, the bondsman looks for defendants who fail to appear.

During my 22 years as a criminal court judge, I saw how if left alone, the free enterprise system guarantees the best result. By allowing private enterprise to take part in the process, people are held accountable, and taxpayers are protected.

Mr. Speaker, this so-called "Stimulus" bill will not stimulate the economy with jobs. It will only further stifle the free enterprise system, take jobs, and will leave taxpayers with the bill. This is just one of many examples of flaws in this bill.

THE PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2009*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, tonight the President plans to address the American people in his first State of the Union. I can only hope that the President won't say what we're expecting: that the key to solvency is to lose a war and raise taxes. Congress just passed the Democrat's trillion dollar plus stimulus plan, with hundreds of billions of dollars in spending for special interest groups. Later this week we will consider the 2009 Appropriations Omnibus, which will include an 8% increase over last year's spending.

We will hear some good ideas that embrace the fiscally responsible bi-partisan change the president was elected on. I hope the Democrat leadership doesn't turn it into taxing and spending as usual. Madam Speaker, we all know that the way to a balanced budget is

through across-the-board spending cuts. The way to stimulate an economy is through tax breaks, not increases. I urge the President to start there.

#### SEATBELTS FOR INCREASED BUS SAFETY

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2009*

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, most of us are aware of the bus accidents that have been occurring around the country. Two years ago there was a fatal bus accident involving the Westbrook High School girls' soccer team in Beaumont, Texas. Just this year, there was an accident in Sherman, Texas, which involved several Vietnamese community members. Similar incidents occurred in Liberty, Missouri, Arlington, Virginia, New York City, and New Orleans, to name a few.

These tragic bus accidents demonstrate that school bus safety reform is an urgent issue. While school buses are among the safest mode of transportation, these re-occurring accidents are unacceptable. School buses need to be safer.

The widespread bus crashes have sparked a comeback in the idea of seatbelts in buses. Seatbelts raise the issue of whether they would increase bus safety.

According to the Texas Department of Transportation, Texas safety belt use has topped 90%, this being the third year in a row. The majority of people in Texas are wearing their seatbelts in cars and trucks. But few to no passengers are wearing their seatbelts in school buses! Currently, there is no federal mandate on seatbelts in buses.

Every state, except New Hampshire, requires by law that car and truck drivers and passengers wear seatbelts. This is because seatbelts work—they increase a passenger's chance of survival in a crash. In short, seatbelts save lives.

If laws require passengers of cars and trucks to wear seatbelts, why are there no requirements for buses to even include seatbelts? In many states there are variations of "Click it or Ticket" policies that threaten motorists who don't wear seatbelts, yet no such laws apply to the buses that carry our children and community members on a daily basis.

Certainly, buses are made very different from cars and trucks. For one, buses can carry many more passengers than any car. Some of these differences might lead one to believe that there should not be a mandate on seatbelts in buses. These differences have not stopped bus drivers from being required to wear seatbelts. So why not for school bus passengers as well?

Some claim that seatbelts may not be properly worn by passengers or cause injury. If anything, it shows that seatbelts should be made better. However, to completely disregard seatbelts as a safety precaution is absurd.

The answer appears to be that of common sense. While seatbelts are in no way a quick fix and there are many questions surrounding seatbelts in buses, they should be looked into as one of the very many necessary measures taken to ensure school bus safety.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2009*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican guidelines on earmarks, I submit the following statement for the record regarding H.R. 1105, the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act.

Requesting Member: The Hon. FRANK R. WOLF.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105.

Provision: State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance, Byrne Justice Assistance Grant.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force.

Address of Requesting Entity: One Park Center Court, Manassas Park, VA 20111.

Description of Request: In response to increasing gang activity in northern Virginia, a multi jurisdictional law enforcement task force was established in 2003 to more effectively respond to gang activity. As a result of the task force's efforts, criminal gang activity has declined by more than 50 percent. In order to sustain and maintain these impressive results, the task force requested \$2.5 million in funding, which is included in H.R. 1105.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105.

Provision: State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance, Byrne Justice Assistance Grant.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Northwest Virginia Regional Gang Task Force.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 49, Berryville, VA 22611.

Description of Request: In response to increasing gang activity in the Shenandoah Valley, this task force was established to coordinate and share information with their counterparts at the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the entire northern Virginia region is a hotbed of gang activity. In order to better fight gang activity in this area, the task force requested \$750,000 in funding, which is included in H.R. 1105.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105.

Provision: Capital Investment Grants.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1 Aviation Circle, Washington, D.C. 20001.

Description of Request: H.R. 1105 provides \$29.1 million to be used for extending the Metrorail system through Tysons Corner to Washington Dulles International Airport. Northern Virginia continues to be one of the country's fastest growing areas, but with that has come the distinction of being the second worst traffic congested region in America. Congressional funding to bring a much needed mass transit system linking the West Falls Church Metro station to Washington Dulles International Airport was first approved in FY 1999.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2009*

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast the recorded votes for rollcall Nos. 72,

73, and 74. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 601: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass; H.R. 44: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass; and H.R. 911: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass.

RECOGNIZING ALCALDESSA ELIZABETH KEMP OF SONOMA, CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2009*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, LYNN WOOLSEY, to recognize Elizabeth Kemp, who has been named the City of Sonoma's 2009 Alcaldessa, or Honorary Mayor.

The title, "Alcalde" or "Alcaldessa" when referring to a woman, is the Spanish word for "Mayor." During the Spanish colonial period in California, the Alcalde was the primary civil authority. In modern times in the City of Sonoma, it is an honorary title and the contemporary Alcalde or Alcaldessa presides over ceremonial events for the city.

Alcaldes and Alcaldessas are nominated by the community and are representative of individuals with a long record of volunteer work. Ms. Kemp is no exception to this rule.

Ms. Kemp attributes her community activism to her early years in London during WW II. That experience led her to be aware of the needs of others and to an understanding that anyone's circumstances can change in a matter of minutes. She emigrated from England when she was 21 and has lived in Sonoma since 1969.

In 2000, Ms. Kemp recognized that many migrant workers had no place to live and were sleeping under bridges. She helped to organize one temporary camp, then joined with Vineyard Workers Services to create two more camps that are open during harvest. She currently serves as President of the Board of Directors of Vineyard Workers Services.

Ms. Kemp initiated the Brown Bagger program in 2004. The program prepares and distributes more than 180 nutritious lunches each week to the homeless and others who are unable to purchase food. This past summer, Ms. Kemp organized a group of volunteers to provide bag lunches to students who normally receive free lunches at school when school is in session and to their younger siblings. As a member of the Board of Directors of Sonoma Overnight Support, Ms. Kemp has also been involved in the development of the first permanent homeless shelter in Sonoma.

And, lest we think her interests are only parochial, Ms. Kemp is an active member of Friends of Turkana, a local group that raises funds for two medical missions in East Africa.

Madam Speaker, Elizabeth Kemp is a beloved and vitally important member of the community and it is appropriate that we acknowledge her today as Sonoma's Alcaldessa for 2009.