

thousands of civil servants who are eligible under CSRS that may be impacted by the inequity in this law.

My legislative proposal will restore full credit for part-time work performed before 1986, eliminate the adverse effect of part-time service performed late in an employee's career, and provide a simplified annuity computation in cases involving part-time service. Though it is important to eliminate the inequity for future retirees, it is perhaps more important to tear down the artificial barrier to part-time service at the end of an employee's career.

Madam Speaker, I believe that this proposal will correct a long-standing obstacle to part-time service and may help agencies retain qualified federal employees nearing retirement for part-time service.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MR. AND MRS. LARSON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. John Philip Larson on the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary. Phil and Joyce Larson were married 50 years ago on March 21, 1959 in Kingsburg, California. They raised two children and have three grandchildren.

Phil Larson was born on September 5, 1933 in San Francisco, California. His parents moved to the Central Valley where he was raised in the beautiful Fresno County countryside near the town of Kerman, California. Phil graduated a proud Kerman High School Lion in 1951. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1953 and was deployed to Korea on December 22, 1953. In 1956, he was honorably discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps and remained in the U.S.M.C. Reserves until 1961. After serving his country, Phil returned to the family farm. While continuing to farm with his father, he joined the Wilbur-Ellis Company in 1963, and after 38 years he retired in 2000. In 2001, Phil won the seat for District 1 Fresno County Board of Supervisors. Now serving his second term, he is a very influential leader for San Joaquin Valley agriculture. Phil is a true and exemplary public servant to his constituents and the Central Valley.

Joyce Larson was born on May 16, 1935 in the "Raisin Capital of the World," Selma, California. She grew up in the nearby town of Parlier. Joyce graduated a proud Selma Bear in June 1953. She attended California State University, Fresno and graduated in 1957 with a Bachelor's Degree in Home Economics. She taught Home Economics in Fresno at Roosevelt High School between the years of 1957 and 1962 and then taught another year at McLane High School. After raising her children she spent 13 years at Tranquility High School as a Special Education teacher. Joyce also received her Master's Degree in Special Education from Fresno Pacific University in 1994. She retired in 2000.

Phil and Joyce met through their church, which has been a foundation for their love and family. Phil proposed to Joyce in August of 1958 and they were joined in marriage on March 21, 1959. They have lived and raised their children near Kerman, California for the

past 50 years. They were instrumental in the founding of the Kerman Covenant Church in 1970. The highlight of their marriage has been their two children, Timothy John and Lisa Renae, who have blessed them with three grandchildren, Lindsey Goodell, Tanner Torrano and Haylee Torrano.

Nothing has been more important than their sense of family and putting God first in their marriage. The love and respect Phil and Joyce have shared has been a tremendous example to everyone who has known them. They are highly esteemed in the communities where they have lived and served, helping many in need.

Congratulations again to Phil and Joyce Larson. Their story is reflective of the American Dream, working hard and playing by the rules to create better lives for themselves and their children. As a result, they have made their community, their church, and the Central Valley a better place to live for future generations.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM R. KEITH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. I rise today in remembrance of William Raymond Keith, who passed away on January 30, 2009. Bill was born in Jackson, MI on October 24, 1929 to Ruth Arlene Young and Raymond Joseph Keith. Bill graduated from Detroit's Wilbur High School in 1948 and the University of Michigan's School of Banking in 1963.

Bill served in the U.S. Army in Germany in 1950–51, singing vocals with the 82nd Army Band. Employed by Manufacturers National Bank for 19 years, he worked his way up from messenger to branch manager and bank officer. Bill was well respected and admired for his 22 years serving in the Michigan House of Representatives. He chaired the House Education, Colleges & Universities, and Banking and Finance Committees. He was a champion for public education, always fighting to enhance learning opportunities for children. His long years of service took him to many international locations including China, Japan, Korea, France and Germany. The German President awarded him the Officer's Cross of Merit (the highest honor that can be given to a non-German citizen). Bill has received numerous awards for his work in public service. In 1991, he was inducted into the Michigan Education Hall of Fame. During his retirement, he volunteered as a docent at the Michigan Capitol Building, enjoying sharing that beautiful treasure with schoolchildren from around the state.

Bill also loved music and singing. Starting in high school when he sang with the Don Large Chorus on WJR, performing with big bands in the Detroit area, and more recently singing with his wife Phyllis in their church choir, at nursing homes, senior residences and local events, Bill loved to revive classic songs of the 40's and 50's. Many people over the years were touched by his music. Bill had an amazing sense of humor, and was always waiting to greet you with a new joke. Most of all, he treasured his family, including his wife, kids, grand-kids and his dogs. He was a kind,

generous and gentle man with a great strength of character and wisdom.

Bill is survived by his loving wife, Phyllis Keith, and his six children: Brian W. Keith of Lansing, MI; David R. Keith of DeLand, FL; April M. Keith of Lake Orion, MI; Betty Keith Pomerantz of Newbury Park, CA; Robyn S. Hubbard of Grand Rapids, MI; and Ryan E. Zaiser of Bloomingdale, GA. He is also survived by 10 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating the life of William Raymond Keith—an accomplished legislator, great leader and endearing family man.

HONORING TONY BROWN

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of Tony Brown as he receives the 2009 Cecil Scaife Visionary Award at the Musicians Hall of Fame in Nashville.

Simply stated, Tony Brown is a legend in the Nashville music business. As the driving force behind MCA Nashville, Tony has been instrumental in the success of country music superstars from George Strait and Reba McEntire to Wynonna Judd, Trisha Yearwood, Vince Gill and Brooks & Dunn. Tony Brown's efforts have helped artists such as these create what is in essence a soundtrack for America.

But the overwhelming success of these artists is only part of Tony Brown's legacy. He is equally respected for his efforts to broaden the definition of what country music can be by signing and nurturing artists who defy easy categorization. He helped create space in the music business for people like Steve Earle, Lyle Lovett, Rodney Crowell, Kelly Willis and other artists who challenge the boundaries of country music.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Tony Brown as he receives this distinguished award. Please join me in congratulating Tony for his efforts to ensure that Nashville, Tennessee will always be one of the musical and cultural treasures of our country.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the February 2008 New Republican Earmark Standards Guidance, I submit the following in regards to the Fiscal Year 2009 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act found in H.R. 1105, the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act:

Department of Education (DOE)—Arkansas City Public Schools: H.R. 1105, the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act contains \$120,000 for Arkansas City Public Schools, Arkansas City, KS for the purchase of equipment in the Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE) Account. The entity to receive

funding for this project is Arkansas City Schools, Unified School District 470, at 2545 Greenway, Arkansas City, KS 67005.

This funding will help the schools reach their Five-Year Strategic Plan objective of developing career technology. It will provide additional computers and support hardware, including printers and storage devices, and facilitate a workplace environment to help students develop technology-based job skills concurrent with classroom learning objectives.

No matching funds are required for this Department of Education project.

Department of Education (DOE)—Coffeyville Public Schools: H.R. 1105, the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act contains \$167,000 for Coffeyville School District, Coffeyville, KS for purchase of equipment in the Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE) Account. The entity to receive funding for this project is Coffeyville School District at 615 Ellis, Coffeyville, KS 67337.

Coffeyville, KS was hit by severe flooding in July 2007, which has significantly impacted the finances of the region. This funding would assist USD 445 in providing access to technology for students who would otherwise be financially unable to do so.

No matching funds are required for this Department of Education project.

Department of Education (DOE)—Independence Public Schools: H.R. 1105, the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act contains \$238,000 for Independence Public Schools, Independence, KS for purchase of equipment in the Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE) Account. The entity to receive funding for this project is Independence Unified School District 446, at PO Drawer 487, 517 N 10th, Independence, KS 67301.

This funding will assist USD 446 in providing additional technology for language arts and mathematics teachers to use in their classrooms, and to train the teachers in the use of new and existing technology.

No matching funds are required for this Department of Education project.

Department of Education (DOE)—Valley Center Public Schools: H.R. 1105, the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act contains \$442,000 for Valley Center Public Schools, Independence, KS for curriculum development, to include the purchase of technology and equipment in the Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE) Account. The entity to receive funding for this project is Valley Center Public Schools at 132 S Park Ave., Valley Center, KS 67147.

This funding will assist USD 262 in developing on the job training and staff development, purchasing technological tools and resources for classroom use, and curriculum to use the technology in the classroom.

No matching funds are required for this Department of Education project.

Department of Education (DOE)—Coffeyville Public Schools: H.R. 1105, the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act contains \$213,000 for Winfield Public Schools, Winfield, KS for curriculum development, to include the purchase of technology and equipment in the Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE) Account. The entity to receive funding for this project is Winfield, Kansas, Public Schools, Unified School District 465 at 1407 Wheat Road, Winfield, KS 67156.

This funding will help facilitate a greater understanding of technology through training for

middle and high school teachers, and allow for greater integration of technology in the classroom through curriculum development.

No matching funds are required for this Department of Education project.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)—Sedgwick County, KS: H.R. 1105, the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act contains \$428,000 for Sedgwick County Government, Wichita, KS for prenatal education and outreach programs, in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Account. The entity to receive funding for this project is Sedgwick County (KS) Government at 525 N. Main, Suite 243, Wichita, KS 67203.

The Sedgwick County Healthy Babies program utilizes evidence-based practices and innovative community-driven interventions (outreach, health education, case management, utilization of prenatal/postnatal care) to improve the quality of and access to health care for women and infants at both service and system levels. This funding will allow Sedgwick County Healthy Babies to continue its critical outreach programs.

No matching funds are required for this Department of Health and Human Services project.

In accordance with the February 2008 New Republican Earmark Standards Guidance, I submit the following in regards to the Fiscal Year 2009 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act found in H.R. 1105, the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act:

Department of Agriculture—National Agriculture Biosecurity Center, Kansas: H.R. 1105, the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act contains \$259,000 for the National Agriculture Biosecurity Center, Kansas, in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Salaries and Expenses account. The entity to receive funding for this project is The Kansas State University, located at 110 Anderson Hall, Manhattan, Kansas 66506.

The funding would be used to implement international linkages for food animal and food crop disease surveillance, to expand animal health diagnostic screening capabilities in Kansas and the region, and to further develop a GIS-tracking system for pathogen monitoring.

No matching funds are required for this Department of Agriculture project.

Department of Agriculture—Grain Sorghum, Kansas, Texas: H.R. 1105, the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act contains \$515,000 for Grain Sorghum, Kansas and Texas, in the Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service's Special Research Grants Account. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Kansas State University, located at 110 Anderson Hall, Manhattan, Kansas 66506.

The funding would be used to expand existing research and education programs, particularly in genetic improvement and sorghum utilization.

No matching funds are required for this Department of Agriculture project.

Department of Agriculture—Water Conservation, Kansas: H.R. 1105, the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act contains \$69,000 for Water Conservation, Kansas in the Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service's Special Research Grants Account. The entity to receive funding for this

project is the Kansas State University, located at 110 Anderson Hall, Manhattan, Kansas 66506.

The funding would be used to study ways to stop and reverse the depletion of the Ogallala Aquifer in Kansas.

No matching funds are required for this Department of Agriculture project.

Department of Agriculture—Wheat Genetic Research, Kansas: H.R. 1105, the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act contains \$240,000 for Wheat Genetic Research, Kansas, in the Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service's Special Research Grants Account. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Kansas State University, located at 110 Anderson Hall, Manhattan, Kansas 66506.

The funding would be used to collect, conserve, and distribute wheat genetic and genomic resources; develop improved germ plasm; develop genetic stocks; develop genomic resources; and support training and outreach.

No matching funds are required for this Department of Agriculture project.

In accordance with the February 2008 New Republican Earmark Standards Guidance, I submit the following in regards to the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act found in H.R. 1105.

Water system improvements, City of Derby, Kansas: The Department of the Interior, Environment and Other Related Agencies Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations Act found in H.R. 1105 contains \$1,000,000 for the City of Derby, Water and Wastewater System Improvements. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Derby, 611 N. Mulberry, Derby, Kansas, 67037-3533.

The funds will be used to upgrade its municipal wastewater treatment plant in 2009. The Derby Wastewater Treatment Plant presently treats about 1.8 to 2.0 million gallons of wastewater per day. The sludge-handling portion of the treatment process is near its designed capacity, and the treatment plant master plan calls for adding sludge handling capacity. Design goals are to reduce staff hours necessary for the sludge handling process, improve efficiency and reliability, increase flexibility in plant operation, and reduce odors, while maintaining compliance to all regulatory requirements. The City of Derby will also use the funds to help extend the municipal sewer system in the Spring Creek watershed area in 2009.

The City of Derby will provide matching funds as required.

Law Enforcement Technology, City of Wichita, Kansas: The Fiscal Year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Act found in H.R. 1105 contains \$1,675,000 for the Southern Kansas Multi-Jurisdictional SWAT. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Wellington, 110 East 10th Street, Wellington, KS 67152.

The funds will be used to procure a Pictometry Visual Intelligence Tool. Pictometry allows federal, state and local agencies to have a common tool to jointly manage emergencies. It captures every square foot of an area from as many as twelve directions. This system captures images that consist of orthogonal (straight down) images like ordinary aerial imaging and images that are oblique (taken from angles) so that features can be easily seen in their entirety. These images reveal the

front, back, and sides of objects of interest rather than just their tops. Within seconds, a law enforcement officer can literally view and analyze any house, building, intersection, fire hydrant, tree or any feature in the county from their laptop, workstation, or mobile device. Southern Kansas encompasses a large area of responsibility, and the police and sheriff's departments are low on manpower and equipment. Federal, state, and local agencies will have a common tool to jointly manage emergencies. The Southern Kansas Multi-Jurisdictional SWAT will administer the program for the four selected counties from the 4th Congressional District. The included counties are Cowley, Greenwood, Montgomery and Sumner.

No matching funds are required for this Department of Justice project.

In accordance with the February 2008 New Republican Earmark Standards Guidance, I submit the following in regards to the Fiscal Year 2009 Energy and Water Appropriations Act found in H.R. 1105, the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act:

Department of Interior—Wichita Project, Equus Beds Division: H.R. 1105, the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act contains \$1,500,000 for the Wichita Project—Equus Beds Division in the Bureau of Reclamation Water and Related Resources Account. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Wichita, located at City Hall, 455 North Main, Wichita, KS 67202.

The funding would be used for funding the design on Phase II of the Equus Beds Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. The project involves taking excess flood water from the Little Arkansas River (called above base flow) and depositing that water into the underground aquifer through water supply wells. This project was authorized in 2006 (P.L. 109–299).

This project is authorized for 25% federal matching and will be matched by the city.

Department of Interior—El Dorado Lake, KS: H.R. 1105, the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act contains \$619,000 for El Dorado Lake, Kansas, in the Army Corps of Engineers' Operation and Maintenance Account. The entity to receive funding for this project is the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District located at 1645 S. 101 East Ave., Tulsa, OK 74128.

The additional funds will be used to replace tainter gate stems, dam gate trash racks, seal concrete surfaces, and paint bridge steel. The additional funds will also be used to undertake repairs to project recreation areas that were damaged during the record floods of 2007.

No matching funds are required for this Army Corps of Engineers project.

In accordance with the February 2008 New Republican Earmark Standards Guidance, I submit the following in regards to the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act found in H.R. 1105:

I–235/US 54 and I–235/Central Ave Interchange, KS: The Department of Transportation Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations Act found in H.R. 1105 contains \$380,000 for funding for reconstruction of two interchanges on I–235, Wichita, Kansas. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Wichita, located at City Hall, 455 North Main, Wichita, KS 67202.

This project will provide for preliminary engineering and right-of-way costs for the recon-

struction of the Kellogg (US–54) and Central interchanges on I–235 in western Wichita. The project also involves PE for the reconstruction of the facility to expand it to 6 lanes between the interchanges, a distance of 1.5 miles. The project on I–235 is in the area of Wichita that is experiencing significant population and commercial growth.

The City of Wichita will provide matching funds as required.

Redesign and Reconstruction of I–235 and Kellogg Interchange, Wichita, KS: The Department of Transportation Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations Act found in H.R. 1105 contains \$950,000 for the redesign and reconstruction of the interchange at I–235 and Kellogg in Wichita, Kansas. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Wichita, located at City Hall, 455 North Main, Wichita, KS 67202.

The funding used to redesign and make the necessary improvements to this interchange will improve the safety of those citizens traveling through the area and improve the traffic flow. The connection to highway I–235 from Kellogg or U.S. 54 is one of the most dangerous in the county. A shared entering and exiting merge lane onto Kellogg congests traffic as a result of its short length. The steep cover leaf curves to access and exit I–235 require a significant reduction in speed and prove to be especially treacherous when roads are wet, icy or snow-packed.

The City of Wichita will provide matching funds as required.

Advanced Materials Performance Research, National Institute for Aviation Research, Wichita State University, Wichita, KS: The Department of Transportation Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations Act found in H.R. 1105 contains \$2,375,000 for facilities and equipment at the National Institute for Aviation Research at Wichita State University. The entity to receive funding for this project is Wichita State University, located at 1845 Fairmount St, Wichita, Kansas 67260.

The funding will be used to purchase new equipment, hire technical personnel, and conduct research in the areas of metallic and composite structures, crash worthiness, and aging aircraft effects. It will expand and enhance ongoing FAA research regarding flight safety at NIAR.

No matching funds are required for this Federal Aviation Administration project.

21st Street North Railroad Overpass (Broadway to I–135), Wichita, KS: The Department of Transportation Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations Act found in H.R. 1105 contains \$380,000 for the 21st Street Railroad Overpass, Wichita, Kansas. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Wichita, located at City Hall, 455 North Main, Wichita, KS 67202.

Funding to create an elevated roadway overpass along 21st Street North from Broadway to I–135 in order to eliminate the lengthy vehicular traffic delays and vehicle entrapment issues associated with multiple at-grade rail crossings located along this segment of a busy east-west arterial city street. This project also connects the 21st Street Redevelopment District to the freeway system in Wichita.

The City of Wichita will provide matching funds as required.

Noise Abatement Along K96, I–235 and Meridian Avenue, Wichita, KS: The Department of Transportation Fiscal Year 2009 Appropria-

tions Act found in H.R. 1105 contains \$237,500 for the Noise Abatement K96, on I–235 project, in Wichita, Kansas. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Wichita, located at City Hall, 455 North Main, Wichita, KS 67202.

The funding will be used to erect noise barriers that will lessen the adverse impact of excessive highway traffic noise in the Sherwood Glen and Meridian Gardens neighborhoods.

This project has \$1.6 million in local matching funds.

National Institute for Aviation Research (NAIR) at Wichita State University, KS: The Department of Transportation Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations Act found in H.R. 1105 contains \$950,000 for research at the National Institute for Aviation Research at Wichita State University. The entity to receive funding for this project is Wichita State University, located at 1845 Fairmount St, Wichita, Kansas 67260.

This funding will support research, technical personnel, facilities and equipment to investigate the implementation of child restraint systems for pre-school age children traveling in public transportation systems at Wichita State's National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR) facility.

No matching funds are required for this Federal Aviation Administration project.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of HR 1105, the Omnibus spending bill for Fiscal Year 2009.

Requesting Member: Congressman FRED UPTON

1. Dredging of St. Joseph Harbor
Department: Army Corps of Engineers
Account: Operations & Maintenance
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Berrien County, Michigan

Address of Requesting Entity: Berrien County Administration Center 701 Main St., St. Joseph, MI 49085

Description of Request: This request is for securing funds for dredging both the inner and outer harbor of St. Joseph, Michigan. The inner harbor is a key port for raw materials such as limestone, sand and gravel for state highways. Road and building construction projects in the area receive a majority of their aggregate materials through the three commercial docks located in this harbor. Additionally, it is a major hub for recreational boaters, with over 1,600 boat slips. This project has been authorized through many WRDA acts, is vital to the economic viability of Southwest Michigan, and has the support of the entire community. This project is consistent with the mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and has been authorized through multiple WRDA Acts. Maintaining commerce in St. Joseph Harbor is vital to the economic well-being of Southwest Michigan.

Amount: \$793,000

Financial Breakdown: The entirety of this funding will go towards Dredging to 21 feet in