

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DR. RENÉE GROSS AND
MR. STUART FEINBLATT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, on Sunday, March 15, 2009, the Highland Park Conservative Temple and Center will present the coveted Chaver Award for exemplary community service to Dr. Renée Gross and Mr. Stuart Feinblatt. This is a well deserved honor, and I am proud to join in paying tribute to Dr. Renée Gross and Mr. Stuart Feinblatt for their tireless service to their temple and community.

Dr. Gross and Mr. Feinblatt are both irreplaceable assets to their community who have cared for and protected those in my district. Dr. Gross is a valued senior partner with the Obstetrical and Gynecological Group and has delivered an estimated 2,500 babies throughout her career. Mr. Feinblatt is a partner at the prestigious Sills Cummis & Gross law firm in Newark, New Jersey where he is the firm's exclusive litigator on healthcare and medical issues.

Dr. Gross and Mr. Feinblatt have actively served the Highland Park Conservative Temple together for over twenty years. Mr. Feinblatt is completing his sixth year as a member of the Temple's Board of Trustees, while Dr. Gross is a member of the morning minyan and attends the Rabbi's weekly class. They have both been involved as Vice Chairs on the Livnot Campaign, which is working to rebuild parts of the temple damaged by a fire. Their timeless dedication to their Temple is admirable.

Outside of the congregation, Dr. Gross and Mr. Feinblatt are active members of the community. Mr. Feinblatt is the former President of the Board of Trustees of the Solomon Schechter Day School of Raritan Valley. He is also on the Dean's Advisory Council for the Dean of the Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences. Both Dr. Gross and Mr. Feinblatt are active in the Jewish Federation and are members of the Vanguard Committee, as well. Although these two individuals live busy lives, they have consistently dedicated time to strengthening their community.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Dr. Renée Gross and Mr. Stuart Feinblatt for their distinguished service to their fellow citizens. Their accomplishments will continue to benefit and inspire my constituents.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2009

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, February 26, 2009, I missed rollcall vote

90 on H. Res. 183, expressing condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims of the crash of Continental Connection Flight 3407. If present, I would have voted "aye."

A TRIBUTE TO MS. HOLLY
WALKER

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Holly Walker for her service to the students at Elizabethtown High School in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. She has taught as a special education teacher for the last 9 years and was recently recognized as the 2008–2009 ExCEL Award recipient for her school district.

Ms. Walker's teaching philosophy is simple—everyone can learn and everyone counts. She is an outstanding educator who shows genuine concern for special needs students. Ms. Walker expects more of the students than they ever thought they could accomplish. Her patience and flexibility enable them to succeed and build confidence.

Ms. Walker deeply cares for her students beyond the classroom. She takes food baskets to their homes at Christmas, drives them to decorate the homecoming float, and goes to school dances with them so they will not feel alone. Her students are her extended family.

When asked why Ms. Walker deserved this award, one of her students wrote, "She never gives up on her students. She makes us feel like family. I spend five hours a day in the classroom with Ms. Walker and wouldn't want to be anywhere else."

Ms. Walker's passion for making a difference in the lives of her students is an example for all Kentuckians to follow. I thank Ms. Walker for her commitment to the students in Elizabethtown.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2009

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of HR 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009:

Requesting Member: Rep. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: Small Business Administration

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Beth Medrash Govoha

Address of Requesting Entity: 617 6th Street, Lakewood, NJ 08701

Description of Request: Beth Medrash Govoha Cedarbridge Corporate Office Park

and Small Business Incubator in Lakewood, NJ was listed as receiving \$232,750 in the Small Business Administration account in Division D of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009. This small business incubator will be able to house up to 1.5 million square feet of office and laboratory space and is projected to attract small businesses as well as large corporate entities and create over a thousand new jobs. The funding will be used for architectural services, engineering, and construction of the first building, along with project administration, development and future planning for the remainder of the parcel. Cedarbridge is also receiving state and township funding for this project.

OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1105, the "Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009". I would like to thank my colleague Chairman OBEY and Ranking Member LEWIS for introducing this important legislation. I would especially like to thank the respective subcommittee chairs and ranking members who I worked closely with in obtaining the funds necessary to help the citizens of the 18th Congressional District of Texas. These funds were vital in helping the Houston area. I want to especially thank:

ALAN MOLLOHAN Chairman and FRANK R. WOLF Ranking member of the subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies.

PETER J. VISCLOSKEY Chairman and RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN Ranking member of the subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

DAVID E. PRICE Chairman and HAROLD ROGERS Ranking member of the subcommittee on Homeland Security.

DAVID OBEY Chairman and TODD TIAHRT of the subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies.

TEXAS NEEDS

Critical times call for critical measures. Over the last 13 months, our economy has lost a total of 3.6 million jobs—and continuing job losses in the next few months are predicted. The national unemployment rate is at 7.6 percent, with the great state of Texas seeing an unemployment rate of 6.0 percent and my district of Houston seeing only a little better rate at 5.5 percent.

Our schoolhouses are badly in need of repair and modernization in order to flourish and be competitive in the global marketplace. Our healthcare system needs to be upgraded to allow for more Americans to receive coverage

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

without going bankrupt. Our workforce needs to be retooled to keep up with innovative and new technologies; and our transportation systems need to be expanded. These are only a fraction of the many needs facing Texas and our Nation today.

In my district, I have held recent meetings with the Houston Mayor, school districts, universities, churches, homeowners, and the Houston METRO. They each have expressed their need for full funding to alleviate foreclosure issues, hurricane relief funding, construction issues, technology divides, and law enforcement strengthening.

Recently, President Obama mentioned the Houston's need for greater transportation and infrastructure improvements. I thoroughly agree, which is why I have been working with them for over 20 years to complete construction of the Northeast and South RAIL lines. METRO has indicated that it only requires \$183 million to complete this rail line.

Houstonians need this infrastructure to relieve congestion and provide adequate public transportation, and an investment that will mean jobs for our constituents through the transportation sector in our communities. Creating this critical infrastructure in Houston will allow Houstonians to work and will provide a tremendous boost to community development and mobility.

OMNIBUS DETAILS

Last year, this body passed only one of the twelve appropriations bills, the Military Construction-VA bill. The Senate Appropriations Committee approved nine of the twelve bills.

This Omnibus represents a measure worked out by both chambers—functionally resembling a conference report—and significantly increases funding levels compared to FY 2008 levels that were extended through March 6 by the enacted resolution, PL 110-329.

HR 1105 appropriates \$410 billion, \$31 billion, 8%, more than current funding, in discretionary funding, which represents the largest percentage increase for discretionary spending in regular appropriations in decades. It also contains \$637.5 billion in mandatory spending for entitlement programs, for a grand total appropriation of \$1.048 trillion in FY 2009. The bill covers appropriations for departments and agencies that would have been funded by the nine regular FY 2009 appropriations bills that were not enacted last year. These departments are currently funded under a continuing resolution that expires on March 6.

For our constituents who believe that we here in Congress do not understand their financial woes and their caps on raises and bonuses, let it be made clear that not only do we understand but we hold ourselves to the same standard. The recommended rule for the bill automatically incorporates a provision into the measure that blocks any cost-of-living increase in the salaries of members of Congress in 2010.

This bill provides the following amounts:

Agriculture—\$108 billion for the Agriculture Department, \$17.6 billion, 16%, more than provided in FY 2008. It includes \$87.8 billion, 81%, in mandatory spending and \$20.5 billion in discretionary funding. The total includes \$54 billion for food stamps, \$14 billion, 26%, more than current levels, as well as \$2 billion for the Food and Drug Administration, \$335 million, 16%, more than the current level, and 15% more for rural development programs.

Commerce-Justice-Science—\$57.9 billion, 10%, more than the current level, for the Com-

merce and Justice Departments, and science agencies. It includes a 16% increase in funds to assist state and local law enforcement agencies.

Energy & Water—\$33.8 billion for the Energy Department, Interior Department, Army Corps of Engineers, and related programs—\$2.3 billion, 7%, more than the current level. It provides 12% more than current funding for energy assistance and alternative energy research, but 18% less for nuclear energy and 9% less for "clean coal" projects.

Financial Services—\$44.6 billion, \$58 million more than the current level, for the Treasury Department, the federal judiciary, the District of Columbia, the Executive Office of the President, and various independent agencies.

Interior-Environment—\$27.6 billion for Interior Department, Agriculture Department, Indian Health Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and related programs—\$1 billion, 4%, more than the current level.

Labor-HHS-Education—\$625.7 billion, of which \$152.3 billion is discretionary funding and \$473.4 billion is mandatory spending, for the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, HHS, and Education. The discretionary total is \$7.4 billion, 5%, more than the current level, and includes \$30.3 billion for the National Institutes of Health, 3% more than current funding, \$15.8 billion for education for disadvantaged children programs, 2% more than the current level; 7% more for Education Department programs; and 4% more for the Centers for Disease Control.

Legislative Branch—\$4.4 billion for the legislative branch, \$432 million, 11%, more than the current level. This appropriation includes \$1.3 billion for the House and \$895 million for the Senate.

State-Foreign Operations—\$36.8 billion in foreign aid, State Department operations and export assistance, \$3.8 billion, 12%, more than the current level. The bill provides 14% more for international organizations, but 43% less for the Bush administration's program to aid developing nations that meet certain political and economic standards.

Transportation-HUD—\$108.7 billion in budgetary resources for the Transportation Department, the Housing and Urban Development, HUD, Department, and five related agencies. This total includes \$55 billion in discretionary appropriations, \$6.2 billion, 13%, more than current funding.

Homeland Security—\$100 million for the U.S. Secret Service, including \$61 million for Secret Service protective missions. Of that amount, \$25 million would be for the first-year costs to hire 150 additional special agents to meet increased presidential and vice presidential protection requirements. The measure also extends the authorization of three programs through Sept. 30, 2009 the Basic Pilot, E-Verify, program, the EB-5 Visa program, and the National Flood Insurance Program. In addition, it extends the authorization of the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism until March 1, 2010.

CONCLUSION

As the representative for the 18th congressional district of Texas, I am very pleased that this Omnibus bill will aid people in my district that desperately need it. We have rail lines that need to be expanded, schools that are in dire need of construction, hospitals that cannot help the sick because of capacity issues, and

areas still reeling from Hurricane's Katrina, Rita, and Ike.

The assistance my district will receive is outstanding. I plan to continue to work with Chairman OBEY and the Appropriations Committee staff to ensure that necessary funding goes straight to the city and county agencies, companies, schools, and nonprofits that need it to better assist the people of Houston.

I trust that the money in this omnibus along with monies from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will begin to bring not only relief but life to our economy.

HONORING THE LIFE AND
ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE HONOR-
ABLE ANDREW DEGRAFFEN-
REIDT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of my dear friend, The Honorable Andrew DeGraffenreidt. Andrew died last week, at age 80, in a West Palm Beach hospital, his health having deteriorated since breaking his hip socket in October. My thoughts and prayers are with his family at this most difficult time, and I hope that they may take some comfort in knowing that Andrew had a profound impact on those in our community and made significant contributions to the lives of so many Floridians.

Andrew was born in Kansas City, Missouri and reared in Hollandale, Mississippi. From an early age he showed the remarkable intellect that would serve him so well in the years to come, earning a Bachelor of Science degree from Tougaloo College, Mississippi, where he also met his wife, Eddie Pearl. Andrew went on to earn a Master of Science degree in Zoology from Pennsylvania State University in State College, Pennsylvania.

Andrew put his education to work immediately, starting work as a teacher at Dillard High School in Fort Lauderdale, before moving to Everglades Junior High, where he headed the science department, retiring in 1982. Additionally, he was the teacher for several programs for the Broward County School's ITV Center, including a program that focused on the contributions of minorities to the development of the United States. Andrew was a magnificent mentor to so many that he taught and had a profound impact on the lives of his students.

Madam Speaker, Andrew had also had a distinguished career in publicly-elected office, and it is perhaps through this career that he had the greatest influence. Andrew was the first African American elected to the Fort Lauderdale City Commission, serving three terms from 1973-1979. He achieved this office before the city created political districts in 1988, and remains the only African American to have won this office when it was contested city-wide. Andrew was also the first African-American Superintendent of Parks for the city, and served on the boards of Broward County's Urban League and United Way.

Andrew was a tremendous public servant. He was a champion of the city's neglected minority neighborhoods, working to establish a