

Description of Request: I have secured \$570,000 to enable the city's Streets & Engineering Department to develop and implement the City's 5-year Capital Improvement Program. The City of Hialeah has a rapidly aging infrastructure with some areas facing more than 50 years since any work has been done in repairs/reconstruction. Areas have been chosen throughout the city, based on roadway need, drainage concerns, areas that have not been reconstructed for over three decades and fill-in for sections that are still needed.

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Federal Highway Administration, TCSP account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Sweetwater, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 500 SW 109th Avenue, Sweetwater, FL 33174

Description of Request: I have secured \$475,000 to repair, resurface and mill city sidewalks and streets. Many of the city's sidewalks and streets have not been serviced in over 20 years due to the lack of funding for improvements and maintenance. These damaged sidewalks and streets compromise citizen safety (several are unsafe for walking and bicycling); cause damage to property (i.e., cars, bicycles); and give the city an undesirable aesthetic appearance. Sweetwater does have approximately \$300,000 in matching funds for sidewalk and street-related projects.

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Federal Transit Administration, Buses and Bus Facilities account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Miami-Dade County, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 111 NW 1st Street, Suite 1032, Miami, FL 33128

Description of Request: I have secured \$475,000 to purchase additional buses for Miami-Dade County. Federal bus and bus-related funds will enhance current levels of service to meet the growing transportation demand—increasing bus routes and improving service frequencies. The purchase of additional buses will have an important collective impact on Miami-Dade County's ability to decrease congestion and promote intermodal linkages for passengers throughout the South Florida region.

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Federal Transit Administration, Buses and Bus Facilities account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Pembroke Pines, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 10100 Pines Boulevard, Pembroke Pines, FL 33026

Description of Request: I have secured \$475,000 to purchase three buses for the City of Pembroke Pines senior center for transporting the elderly population. This program will help to alleviate congestion on already crowded city streets and ensure additional safety of the elderly population who frequent the senior center.

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Federal Highway Administration, TCSP account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Doral, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 8300 NW 53rd Street, Suite 100, Doral, FL 33166

Description of Request: I have secured \$237,500 for property acquisition, design, permitting, and construction of roadway gaps and intersections identified to be in need of capacity improvements. This will help to alleviate roadway sections that are failing due to large traffic volumes. In addition, there are several roadway gaps where development has expanded the grid pattern of the City roadways surrounding small parcels that have not been developed. The completion of these small sections of roadway would complete the City's grid pattern and provide additional options for increasing traffic to avoid already congested intersections.

Requesting Member: Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

Bill Number: FY 2009 Omnibus

Account: Department of Housing and Urban Development, EDI account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Miami Springs, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 201 Westward Drive, Miami Springs, FL 33166

Description of Request: I have secured \$237,500 to replace the municipal gymnasium in Miami Springs, Florida. The new community center will be a focal point of Miami Springs, providing functions including theater, elderly continuing education and gymnasium functions.

OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to a cost-of-living increase for Members of Congress. We are currently faced with difficult economic times and an expanding federal deficit. Our economy is in a recession, unemployment figures are on the rise, home values are falling, and our national debt exceeds \$10 trillion. Congress must not insulate itself from the crises at hand and I believe it is past time for Congress to be responsible. The most immediate action we can take is to cancel the automatic pay increase system currently in place for Members of Congress.

To address this issue, I recently cosponsored H.R. 156 in this 111th Congress, legislation that would prevent Members from receiving an automatic cost of living adjustment in the future. The 27th Amendment to the Constitution restricts the current Congress from altering its pay for 2009. I am disappointed that H.R. 156 was not brought to the House floor for a vote to address this important issue. Rather, this issue was lumped into a controversial 1100-plus page omnibus bill for political purposes. By not allowing an independent yes-or-no vote on this provision, we simply reinforce the impression that many important legislative measures are structured to be political gamesmanship. If Congress is to vote itself a pay raise, it should be done in sunlight in the full view of the American public, not through a quiet procedural motion hidden in the shadows. The people of Virginia deserve accountability and transparency from their elected officials.

I oppose the automatic cost-of-living increase for Members of Congress. Each of us should be on the record with our constituents as to whether we believe an increase to our own salaries is justified. In this time of increased economic hardship, I am going on the record in firm opposition to this pay increase. Since I was not allowed to vote yes or no, this forum has become my only recourse. Until the procedural barriers are removed, we will not have the transparent process that Americans deserve from their government. I will continue to fight for fiscal responsibility at all levels of government spending.

ANNA BELLE CLEMENT O'BRIEN
PRESENTED WITH 2009 HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I could not think of a more fitting person to receive the Frank G. Clement 2009 Humanitarian Leadership Award. Miss Anna Belle, a well known political figure in Tennessee, has long been an advocate for Tennessee's children and working families living in the Upper Cumberland region.

Anna Belle Clement O'Brien was reared and schooled in the values and lessons of life west of Nashville in Dickson, Tennessee, before embarking on a path that led her through the Office of Price Administration, the Governor's office, the Tennessee House of Representatives and the Tennessee Senate.

Known for her great storytelling abilities, wonderful sense of humor, quick wit, warm smile, it's hard not to be comfortable around Miss Anna Belle. Over the years I have learned much about what molded her into the role model and leader she has been.

Armed with a great memory, you will quickly learn through Miss Anna Belle's stories that she was raised in an environment where service to your neighbor is not only spoken, but actually done. The majority of us lucky enough to serve the public believe in the power of a good and responsive government. Miss Anna Belle articulates those beliefs well by saying, "Politics is a beautiful word to me. . . . I truly believe politics make handicap children walk and the mentally ill have a better life. Politics builds roads and makes education available for all."

Those words couldn't ring more true. Miss Anna Belle, the first woman to ever serve as a committee chair, brought common sense and a tireless work ethic to the job and a love of the people she served.

I read an interview she gave once in a local newspaper where she said, "I love this area we moved to over 40 years ago. No thought was given by either of us to run for public office before we moved here. It wasn't planned this way, but it has been a most exciting life. I am grateful to the people in the community for allowing me to serve for all those years." Well, Miss Anna Belle, I along with the countless Tennesseans you have helped over the years, thank you for your tireless leadership in working to make sure future generations have a better quality of life. Congratulations for being recognized for your hard work. It is well earned and most deserved.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN SECURITY AND PROSPERITY ENHANCEMENT ACT"

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Afghanistan-Pakistan Security and Prosperity Enhancement Act. The legislation is aimed at protecting our national security and that of our allies in the fight against Al-Qaeda and the Taliban. I am pleased to be joined by Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. BURTON, Mr. SMITH (WA), Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. WELCH and Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Senator CANTWELL has introduced the companion measure in the Senate.

This bill authorizes the President of the United States to designate Reconstruction Opportunity Zones, ROZs, in Afghanistan and in certain areas of Pakistan. Qualified businesses operating in those zones will gain duty-free access to U.S. markets for designated products, thereby providing significant employment opportunities where few currently exist. A ROZ program could go a long way toward bolstering economic development in this critical region of the world where extremists have tried to exploit the lack of economic opportunities to gain recruits for their radical agenda.

The 9/11 attacks against the United States resulted from Al-Qaeda exploiting a safe haven in Taliban controlled Afghanistan. We cannot allow this to happen again. These extremists pose a threat to the people of Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States.

I commend President Obama for his focus on the threat that this region poses to our national security. I am pleased that the President and Secretary Clinton have appointed a seasoned negotiator, Ambassador Holbrooke, as the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

U.S. and NATO forces are essential to confronting the threat. However, the President has recognized that the threat cannot be neutralized by military force alone. We need a comprehensive strategy to deal with these countries. Such a plan must include programs to expand the economic opportunities of the people in this region.

Towards that end, hopefully Congress will revisit the foreign assistance bill that was introduced by Senators BIDEN and LUGAR in the last Congress. The Reconstruction and Opportunity Zone bill that we are introducing today is another vital tool to bolster these economies. In my recent trip to Afghanistan and Pakistan, the importance of this ROZ bill was specifically raised by Presidents Zardari and Karzai. I urge the House to pass this bill quickly to assist these countries in achieving economic sustainability.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint commit-

tees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 6

9:30 a.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the employment situation for February 2009.

SD-106

MARCH 9

2:30 p.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine preventing worker exploitation, focusing on protecting individuals with disabilities and other vulnerable populations.

SD-430

5 p.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Ronald Kirk, of Texas, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador.

SD-215

MARCH 10

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine current and future threats to the national security of the United States; with the possibility of a closed session to follow in SH-219.

SH-216

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine budget for veterans programs for fiscal year 2010.

SR-418

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine proposed legislation to provide for the conduct of an in-depth analysis of the impact of energy development and production on the water resources of the United States.

SD-366

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the President's fiscal year 2010 health care proposals.

SD-215

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine rebuilding economic security, focusing on empowering workers to restore the middle class.

SD-106

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine patent reform in the 111th Congress, focusing on legislation and recent court decisions.

SD-226

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine the impact of potential climate remediation policies on carbon-intensive United States industries and creating climate-friendly economic and trade policies, focusing on how the financial crisis impacts the implementation of climate-friendly policies within the United States and among trading partners.

SR-428A

10:30 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine enhancing investor protection and the regulation of securities markets.

SD-538

2:30 p.m.

Budget

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2010.

SD-608

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the next generation of national service.

SD-430

MARCH 11

10 a.m.

Budget

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of Energy.

SD-608

Judiciary

Constitution Subcommittee

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties to examine S.J. Res. 7 and H.J. Res. 21, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to the election of Senators.

SH-216

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine violent Islamist extremism, focusing on al-Shabaab recruitment in American.

SD-342

Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine voter registration, focusing on assessing current problems.

SR-301

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization, focusing on NextGen and the benefits of modernization.

SR-253

MARCH 12

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine proposed legislation regarding siting of electricity transmission lines, including increased federal siting authority and regional transmission planning.

SD-366

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings to examine legislative presentations of veterans' service organizations.

SD-106