

assure that our daughters have the opportunity to truly become whatever they wish to be. I am proud to recognize the accomplishments of these women and we are all honored by their efforts.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "LABELING EDUCATION AND NUTRITION ACT OF 2009"

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2009

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague Rep. FRED UPTON to introduce the "Labeling Education and Nutrition Act of 2009".

I am introducing this legislation so we can move toward providing consumers with key nutritional information they seek while hopefully providing restaurants with a workable framework to deliver this information to their customers. This legislation is a bipartisan effort to address nutritional labeling in this Congress. Senators CARPER and MURKOWSKI will introduce the companion bill in the coming days. With the introduction of the LEAN Act in both chambers, I believe we have an opportunity to have a constructive national conversation about uniform nutrition labeling requirements and standards.

Since 1994, the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act (NLEA) has required food manufacturers to provide nutrition information on nearly all packaged foods. However, the NLEA exempts restaurants. Due to this exemption, states, cities and counties have acted to provide nutritional information to consumers. This has led to at least 20 states introducing varying degrees of labeling requirement legislation in 2009.

From New York City to the state of California, more and more cities, counties, and states are passing differing laws mandating that chain restaurants put calories and other nutritional information on menus and menu boards. The result of this increasing state activity is a patchwork of regulation that can be confusing to the consumer and is burdensome to restaurant chains.

The LEAN Act requires restaurants and grocery stores that serve prepared foods and have 20 or more locations to disclose calories for each menu item so that consumers can access this information before making a meal choice. Under this bill, calories will be posted directly on the menu, menu board or in one of the approved alternative ways, such as a menu insert or a sign directly next to the menu board.

As we see in our own lives and daily eating habits, consumers increasingly choose to eat in restaurants. According to a 2009 Forecast report by the National Restaurant Association, Americans are looking for healthier options when they dine out. In my home state of Utah, restaurant jobs represent about 8% of the employment. American adults buy a meal or a snack from a restaurant 5 times per week on average and spend 48% of their food budget on food away from home, almost \$1078 per person annually. Unfortunately, we have also seen the toll diseases such as obesity and diabetes have taken on society. By providing nutritional information, individuals with special

dietary needs will be able to make the right nutritional decisions for them regarding caloric intake or sodium levels.

I appreciate the interest and leadership my colleagues have demonstrated on this issue in the past. I believe this legislation represents a compromise effort that will allow consumers to make informed decisions while also providing for greater individual responsibility in dietary choices. Finally, I hope my colleagues will work with me on this piece of legislation and I look forward to working in a bipartisan way to build upon this legislative proposal.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2009

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Requesting Member: Congressman VERNON J. EHLERS

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration—Health Facilities and Services
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Saint Mary's Health Care

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 Jefferson Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Description of Request: Provide \$143,000 for an electronic medical records initiative for the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Physicians will have real-time access to electronic records before, during, and after the ICU stay. The result will be increased patient safety and reduced errors. The technology improves care by supporting real-time access to cross-disciplinary patient results and evidenced-based information for clinical decisions. Funding will support labor, hardware and software costs.

TRIBUTE TO JULIA RANSOHOFF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2009

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding young student, researcher, and scientist, Julia Ransohoff. A senior at Menlo-Atherton High School in my Congressional District, Julia was recently named an Intel Science Talent Search Finalist. She is one of only 40 finalists given this prestigious award out of over 1,600 students who entered the competition.

Julia was recently recognized by the Society for Science and the Public for her groundbreaking research entitled "The Gender Divide: Does Donor Gender Matter for Mesenchymal Stem Cell Transplantation?" She completed this project as a student investigator at the Robbins Laboratory of Cardiothoracic Transplantation at the Stanford School of Medicine.

While working at the Stanford Institutes of Medicine Summer Research (SIMR) Program, Julia received the Jessica Lynn Saal Fellowship, which is awarded for exemplary perform-

ance and achievement in the summer program.

Not only is this young woman an accomplished scientist and researcher, she is a philanthropist and community activist. Julia is a leader in promoting peer health education. Along with her sister, Katie Ransohoff, Julia created an online peer education program for teens to prevent bullying and promote healthy relationships. She also works to encourage teen literacy through the global reading and writing initiative, Teenlit. Julia is a founder of the "Running for a Reason Club" at her high school, which raises money for end of life care for children.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring an extraordinary young American who represents the spirit of innovation and ingenuity that has guided our country for so many generations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2009

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to state how I would have voted on March 6, 2009. With the expectation the Senate would pass the omnibus appropriations bill, and it would not be necessary to pass a continuing resolution on Friday, I returned home to Houston on Thursday night to attend meetings in our district.

On Rollcall vote No. 107, to approve the journal, I would have voted "Yea."

On Rollcall vote No. 108, on the motion to recommit on H.J. Res. 38, I would have voted "Aye."

On Rollcall vote No. 109, on the final passage of H.J. Res. 38, I would have voted "Aye."

IN RECOGNITION OF JEFF COOPER:
GULF WAR VETERAN, FATHER,
HERO

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2009

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sgt. Jeff Cooper (Ret.), a North Carolina resident and a U.S. Army Veteran.

The Cooper family was recently chosen by the ABC television show Extreme Makeover: Home Edition, as the recipients of a new home. They have been living in a deteriorating double-wide trailer that is not only uncomfortable, but also is not suitable for the disabled members of their family. With the help of Edenton Builders, Inc. and thousands of volunteers from northeastern North Carolina, their home will be rebuilt in just one week. On March 13th, when the Cooper family returns home to Jamesville, North Carolina, from their vacation here in Washington, D.C., they will be welcomed into their new home.

Madam Speaker, Sgt. Cooper (Ret.) is someone who truly deserves this honor. He has earned several medals of honor for his service as an Army Combat Medic in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. I remember

that when my father, Congressman Walter B. Jones, Sr., passed away, Sgt. Cooper (Ret.) paid him the great respect of placing one of the medals he had earned on my father's casket. I will always remember this meaningful gesture and kind display of appreciation for my father's service.

Unfortunately, Sgt. Cooper's (Ret.) service on behalf of our nation left him with symptoms of Gulf War Syndrome; he suffers from multiple sclerosis as well as serious immune disorders. Due to these illnesses, he is now confined to a wheelchair. Since he returned from combat, Cooper has been a tireless advocate for his fellow veterans. He has lobbied the North Carolina General Assembly for a special license plate honoring Gulf War veterans and has become an outspoken supporter of rights for the disabled.

Sgt. Cooper (Ret.) deserves to be commended not only for his service to our nation and his fellow veterans, but also for the acts of heroism he has demonstrated within his own family. When his young son Aaron was run over by a garbage truck two years ago, he used his medic skills to save his son's life, though Aaron still lost most of his right arm and has undergone several surgeries since. Cooper has served as a role model to his children, as his daughter Windy has followed her father's example by signing up for medical lab technician training with the Army National Guard.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to offer my congratulations to the family of Sgt. Jeff Cooper (Ret.), a special person whose service to his nation and fellow veterans has made him well-deserving of this new home and special honor.

ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE ALEXANDRIA TRANSIT COM-
PANY'S (ATC) OPERATION OF
THE CITY'S DASH BUS SYSTEM

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker I rise today to recognize the 25th Anniversary of the Alexandria Transit Company's (ATC) Operation of the City's DASH Bus System. DASH stands for Driving Alexandrians Safely Home.

Back during the early 1980s, Alexandria Mayor Charles "Chuck" Beatley had a vision

of a local bus system that would serve the transit needs of the Alexandria community and provide high quality transit service for its residents, workers, and visitors.

Mayor Beatley could have done no better than to name Mr. William B. "Bill" Hurd as the first chairman of the Alexandria Transit Company. In Mr. Hurd, Mayor Beatley found not only a person who shared his vision of a new transit service, but also a supremely competent administrator who worked tirelessly for the next 22 years to create and sustain the DASH service. During his tenure as chairman, he delivered safe and reliable service with clean buses and friendly, courteous drivers.

Today, ATC is recognized nationally and throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia for the service it provides and has won many outstanding achievement awards over the years, including the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) System Safety Award for five consecutive years, the APTA Public Transportation System Outstanding Achievement Award, the Governor's Transportation Safety Award, the APTA first place AdWheels Marketing Award for innovative and creative marketing efforts for four years, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT) Outstanding Urban Public Transportation System Award, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT) Innovative Program Award for six years, and the Virginia Transit Association (VTA) Outstanding Public Transportation Marketing Award for the "Dash About" service and "DASHing Around Alexandria" campaign. ATC was also recognized three years in a row by the Alexandria community as one of the top five city services for quality.

Today DASH continues to provide clean, safe, affordable and reliable service every day to thousands of commuters, city residents, and visitors, but it has also grown to meet the needs of a growing city and the changing times. Over the past 25 years ridership has grown by more than 330 percent. Annual ridership has eclipsed four million. Fourteen thousand people ride DASH everyday and 10,000 ride on weekends. Service has grown from 582,000 service miles in the first full year of service in 1985 to more than 1.5 million service miles today.

Alexandria has many amenities as a charming, livable community; its historic homes and gardens, its street side restaurants and shops, the Potomac waterfront and its engaged, civic-minded citizenry. DASH contributes to Alexan-

dria's high quality of life by preserving the city's livability, mitigating traffic, improving circulation and mobility throughout the City, and providing easier access to local businesses, retail and employment centers, residential developments, and the regional Metrorail and the Virginia Railway Express commuter rail systems.

And as we begin to focus on the environmental challenges of air pollution and global warming, DASH has a key roll to play in promoting a less carbon intense alternative to the automobile. To demonstrate its commitment to a greener, eco-friendly city, the new DASH building under construction will be a LEED Certified Silver building.

I salute ATC and DASH for twenty-five years of superb service. I also salute its employees and the Board of Directors, for their contributions and efforts to improve public transportation service throughout the City, for their achievements that have been recognized both nationally and by the Commonwealth of Virginia, and in providing the highest quality of service to Alexandria.

I wish them a successful future.

HONORING DEREK JAMES
STRICKLAND

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Derek James Strickland a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Derek has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Derek has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Derek James Strickland for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.