

There are so many people in my community who have lost their jobs and are facing extremely tough times. For taxpayer dollars to go towards bonuses for individuals who have played a key role in our economic downturn is simply unacceptable.

HONORING THE DAMAS DE
BLANCO (THE LADIES IN WHITE)

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Damas de Blanco (the Ladies in White) a peaceful pro-democracy group of women in Cuba dedicated to creating awareness of the political realities, human rights violations and lack of basic freedoms on the island.

Today marks the 6th anniversary of the Black Spring in Cuba, in which 75 human rights activists, independent journalists, librarians, economists and pro-democracy leaders were jailed for simply expressing their opposition to the lack of political freedoms on the island. All were unfairly sentenced to an average of 25 years in Castro's gulag and 55 still languish there today.

The Damas de Blanco consists of the wives, mothers, daughters, sisters and nieces of these 75 dissidents. The group came together soon after the crackdown. Each day, these courageous women protest the imprisonment of their loved ones, call for their immediate release and the release of all political prisoners in Cuba, and seek to draw international attention to the lack of basic freedoms on the island. They wear white to symbolize innocence and purity, attend mass each Sunday, and walk through the streets of Cuba in peaceful protest.

The group has been internationally recognized and in 2005 was awarded the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, alongside Reporters Without Borders and human rights lawyer Hauwa Ibrahim, by the European Parliament. Members of Damas de Blanco were banned from attending the award ceremony in France by the Cuban regime.

The Damas de Blanco are a voice for the hundreds of political prisoners in Cuba and those who live in the shadows of oppression. With unprecedented courage and bravery, they take to the streets each day and risk their own lives in order to draw attention to the harsh realities in Cuba. As we celebrate Women's History Month, I ask you to join me in honoring the Damas de Blanco, remembering the 75 jailed dissidents of the Black Spring in Cuba and all of Cuba's political prisoners, and standing in solidarity with the Cuban people.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
PANPAPHIAN ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICA ON THE OCCASION OF
ITS ANNUAL DINNER-DANCE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the PanPaphian Association of

America. Founded more than two decades ago by Hellenic Cypriot Americans of Paphian ancestry, it has carried out its vital educational, cultural, charitable, and humanitarian mission while promoting peace, unity, and understanding on Cyprus.

The Association is holding the 8th Annual Evagoras Pallikarides Award of Merit dinner-dance this month. The Evagoras Pallikarides Award is being presented to Panicos Papanicolaou. Born and raised in Nicosia, he came to the U.S. after serving in the Cypriot National Guard. He earned Bachelor of Science and Masters degrees at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), then obtained a research position there, developing technology for the cleanup of toxic soil. A principal of JF Contracting, a Brooklyn construction and engineering firm, he is affiliated with the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National Society of Professional Engineers, and the Civil Engineering Honor Society. The Supreme President of the Cyprus Federation of America, Vice President of the Cyprus Children's Fund, and an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, he also serves on the Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council, the Advisory Board of Queens College, and as a supporter of St. Basil's Academy, the Albert Dorman Honors College at NJIT, and the Harvard School of Public Health. Prior to becoming the Federation's Supreme President, he was Chairman of the Justice for Cyprus Committee. A recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, he was the 1995 Bronx Businessman of the Year. He is devoted to his wife, Nasia, and his daughters, Elizabeth and Elena.

The PanPaphian Association is awarding the Distinguished Fellow Cyprian Award to Elena Maroulleti. Born on Cyprus in Nicosia, she grew up in Famagusta before immigrating to the U.S., where she founded "The Vraka," a folk-dancing group that later became the Cypriot Emigrants Cultural Association. Under her leadership, it mounted live performances relating to Cypriot folklore, culture, theater, dance, and music. She is an accomplished journalist, having served on the main production team of ABC News for more than twenty years. After volunteering her time as a host of radio programs pertaining to Cyprus and Greece for five years, she founded AKTINA Productions, a non-profit cultural and educational organization dedicated to the promotion and preservation of the Hellenic cultural heritage through radio, television, live performances, and other media. It sponsors AKTINA FM, a bilingual radio show, and AKTINA TV, an English language show, which reach audiences of hundreds of thousands. Both programs focus on Hellenes' rich cultural heritage as well as news and current events in Cyprus, Greece, and America. In 2002, Ms. Maroulleti was awarded the "Women of Achievement Pace Setter Award" by the New York City Council Speaker Peter F. Vallone, Sr. She is the founder and President of the Ethnic Broadcasters Action Committee, which represents all ethnic broadcaster-produced programs on WNYE, New York City's publicly owned television station. She is happily married to Tom Stouras and devoted to Caroline Ioannou, her daughter from a previous marriage.

The Member of the Year Award will be given to Mr. Nicos Paphitis, who was born in Morfou, Cyprus. While serving as an officer in the Cyprian military police, he played profes-

sional soccer with the team Keravnos Strovolou. He came to the U.S. in 1983, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from the City University of New York, and returned to Cyprus to work for Laiki Bank until 1998, when he was returned to New York to become the Bank's chief representative. Currently a Business Development Manager with Piraeus Bank and a 2nd Vice-President of the Cyprus Federation, he is devoted to the Hellenic American community and institutions like Saint Demetrios School and the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, as well as his wife, Evie, and his children, Andreas and Marilena.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues rise to join me in paying tribute to the PanPaphian Association of America and its 2009 honorees.

CELEBRATING PROCTER & GAMBLE
MANUFACTURING COM-
PANY'S 40TH BIRTHDAY IN CEN-
TRAL LOUISIANA

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the Procter & Gamble Manufacturing Company in Pineville as it celebrates its 40th birthday in Central Louisiana.

In July 1969, Procter & Gamble Manufacturing Co. first began operations in the area on a 112 acre site about seven miles north of Alexandria/Pineville. Originally built to supply synthetic dry powder detergents, the Procter & Gamble Alexandria plant was just one of 12 plants in operation in the United States at the time.

Through the years, the Procter & Gamble Manufacturing Co. has consolidated their business down to two dry laundry sites, and is now shipping to more than half of the U.S. from the Louisiana location.

In 2005, the company announced the expansion of this particular plant site to manufacture both dry and liquid detergents, essentially doubling the size of the facility. This dynamic growth required an investment of over \$220 million and added more than 185 permanent employees.

Today the plant retains approximately 400 direct contract employees, in addition to an average of 1,200 indirect staff. The company credits these individuals as its greatest asset.

The Procter & Gamble Manufacturing Co. has an impressive track record of success in Central Louisiana. I am confident the remarkable progression of this plant will continue to provide great opportunities for the residents of this area.

It is with deep appreciation for this plant's many contributions to the 5th Congressional District that I commend the Procter & Gamble Manufacturing Co.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 40th birthday of the Procter & Gamble Manufacturing Co. in Pineville as it continues its faithful commitment to building not only a stronger Louisiana, but a stronger national economy.

LISTING OF CONGRESSIONAL
APPROPRIATIONS INITIATIVES**HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on Congressional appropriations initiatives, I am submitting the following information regarding projects that were included at my request in H.R. 1105, the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act:

**BAYCARE HEALTH SYSTEM ELECTRONIC
HEALTH RECORD INITIATIVE**

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration, Health Care-Related Facilities and Activities.

Legal name and address of requesting entity: BayCare Health System, 16331 Bay Vista Drive, Clearwater, FL 33760.

Description of request: \$523,000 is included in the bill for BayCare Health System to incorporate a hand held prescription drug order system into its ongoing electronic health record initiative. BayCare will develop a medication order entry project for physicians, which is a sub-component of a much larger Electronic Health Record initiative for BayCare Health System. The demonstration project involves the purchase of application software, installation and training as well as the purchase of handheld devices for the physician and other clinician users of the system. The project is a critical element of the overall Information Services plan for BayCare Health System. This particular patient care clinical information system will significantly assist in accomplishing improvements in the following areas: (1) Real time communication between physicians, hospitals and pharmacies regarding medication orders which will result in the improvements of prescription legibility, dispensing time and a reduction in drug errors; (2) A decrease in adverse events by improved electronic communication and the use of standard formularies; (3) An increase in the efficiency of operations by reducing the costs of consolidating redundant functions and reducing duplicate orders or inappropriate testing; (4) Knowledge at the point of care will improve the patient care experience. Previous funding for BayCare's electronic health record initiative is as follows: FY 2002—\$1,000,000, FY 2003—\$1,000,000, FY 2004—\$1,000,000, FY 2005—\$1,000,000, FY 2008—\$341,000.

**BAYFRONT MEDICAL CENTER OBSTETRICAL
SERVICES**

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration, Health Care-Related Facilities and Activities.

Legal name and address of requesting entity: Bayfront Medical Center, 701 Sixth Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

Description of request: \$571,000 is included in the bill for Bayfront Hospital to expand the availability of obstetrical services and its Level III neonatal intensive care unit, which will allow for the care of mothers and their babies under the same roof. In 2009, Bayfront Medical Center will open Bayfront Baby Place in the brand-new All Children's Hospital in downtown St. Petersburg. It will feature 13 private birthing suites, an eight-bed assessment area, 40-bed postpartum unit, 12-bed ante partum unit, four-room C-section suite with dedicated prep/recovery area and a nursery. Babies needing special care will be transferred to All Children's neonatal intensive care unit. New mothers will be in the same building as their sick babies, separated by a brief elevator ride. Bayfront Baby Place

will feature a dedicated entrance for birthing mothers and their families, as well as a skywalk connecting Baby Place with Bayfront's main hospital building. Bayfront delivers more than 3,400 babies annually. Some of those babies need special care after they are born. Currently, they are taken from the hospital's joint team of specialists, through a tunnel that connects the two hospital campuses, to specialized neonatal care at All Children's Hospital. Moving the birthing team and unit on the All Children's campus will put the patient at the middle of this process, enabling families to stay together throughout their time in the hospital. These are the first federal funds provided for this project. Bayfront Hospital will contribute \$8,000,000 toward the cost of this project.

**BLIND PASS ROAD RECONSTRUCTION, ST. PETE
BEACH**

Account: Federal Highway Administration. Legal name and address of requesting entity: City of St. Pete Beach, 155 Corey Avenue, St. Pete Beach, FL 33706.

Description of request: \$175,750 is included in the bill for the city of St. Pete Beach to reconstruct Blind Pass Road. This project will narrow the roadway to provide adequate vehicular access, while installing new sidewalks and bike lanes to greatly enhance the intermodal transportation options available. In addition, it is anticipated that enhanced lighting and landscaping will be installed, as well as various drainage improvement to the area. Blind Pass road is a half-mile segment that provides an alternate route to a state road. This is the first federal funding provided for this project. The city will provide \$400,000.

**CENTRAL AVENUE BUS RAPID TRANSIT
CORRIDOR ENHANCEMENTS**

Account: Federal Transit Administration, Bus and Bus Facilities.

Legal name and address of requesting entity: City of St. Petersburg, 175 Fifth Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

Description of request: \$475,000 is included in the bill for the city of St. Petersburg for the development of a Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit corridor along Central Avenue. The funding will be used for station development, streetscaping, signalization, surface street improvements, and pedestrian connectors. This is the first federal funding provided for this project. The city will provide \$100,000.

**CLEARWATER DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT
PROJECT**

Account: Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiative.

Legal name and address of requesting entity: City of Clearwater, 112 S. Osceola Avenue, Clearwater, FL 33756.

Description of request: \$237,500 is included in the bill for the City of Clearwater to implement projects that will revitalize downtown Clearwater. These funds will enable the city to undertake Phase 2 of the project and to transform Cleveland Street into a pedestrian friendly area with landscaped sidewalks and medians. The project also includes new benches, trash receptacles, and bike racks. The city will also implement waterfront upland improvements with seawall cap repairs, sidewalk widening, parking lot upgrades and landscaping. The city received \$300,000 in appropriations for this project in FY 2008.

EGMONT KEY STABILIZATION

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Investigations.

Legal name and address of requesting entity: Tampa Port Authority, P.O. Box 2192, Tampa, FL 33601.

Description of request: \$38,000 is included in the bill to continue work on a feasibility

study authorized by the Water Resources and Development Act of 2002 to protect this historic island, which is a National Wildlife Refuge and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Egmont Key is a 290 acre island located at the mouth of Tampa Bay that contains a unique collection of natural and cultural resources. The majority of the land is owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The U.S. Coast Guard and the Tampa Bay Pilots Association own smaller portions of the island. The island and the fortifications on that island have played an important role in the history of Tampa Bay. Tidal action from Tampa Bay waters is threatening the historic fort and gun emplacements located on the western shore. The purpose of the feasibility study is to determine a long-term strategy for protecting the beach and restoring the shoreline. Previous funding in the amount of \$916,900 has been provided for this project through FY 2008.

**FLORIDA CANCER CLINICAL TRIAL PATIENT/
PHYSICIAN INFORMATION AND EDUCATION
PROJECT**

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration, Health Care-Related Facilities and Activities.

Legal name and address of requesting entity: University of South Florida, College of Education, 4202 East Fowler Avenue, Tampa, FL 33620.

Description of request: \$190,000 is included in the bill for the Florida Cancer Clinical Trial Patient/Physician Information and Education Project sponsored by the University of South Florida. This program has developed continuing education and databases for the public on clinical trials for cancer treatments focusing on the nature of clinical trials and how patients might benefit, what criteria for participation, and contact information. It also has developed an interactive web based program that lists all current cancer clinical trials and allows patients to determine programs for which they might be eligible. Further, it allows patients to share this information with their physicians. Previous funding was provided for this project as follows: FY 2004—\$500,000, FY 2005—\$500,000, FY 2008—\$536,000.

**FLORIDA REGIONAL COMMUNITY POLICING
INSTITUTE AT ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE**

Account: Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Byrne Discretionary Grants.

Legal name and address of requesting entity: St. Petersburg College, 3200 34th St. South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711.

Description of request: \$400,000 is included in the bill to allow the Florida Regional Community Policing Institute at St. Petersburg College to continue providing, for the Department of Justice, low- and no-cost training and technical assistance to public safety professionals and the people of the communities they serve throughout the nation. This institute has assisted youth, volunteers, city and state employees, community colleges, social service agencies, and community leaders on public safety issues important to their communities. The Department of Justice has asked the institute to develop training materials in areas such as Human Trafficking, Gangs, School Violence, Methamphetamine Labs, Law Enforcement Suicide, Counter-Terrorism Awareness, Community Policing, Offender Re-Entry, Workplace and Domestic Violence, Diversity, Ethics, Problem Solving, and Citizens Police Academies. Over the past 10 years, the institute has delivered training to more than 75,000 participants representing 870 different agencies by customizing curriculum, developing web and CD courses, and providing on-