

IN RECOGNITION OF MAJ. MICHAEL S. AVEY FOR EXEMPLARY AND DEDICATED SERVICE IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an outstanding soldier and my good friend, Maj. Michael S. Avey, whose exemplary and dedicated service as a Congressional Liaison Officer in support of the United States House of Representatives stands as a testament to the honor and excellence of the United States Army.

A native of Redford, Michigan, Maj. Avey joined the United States Army House Liaison Division in January of 2008, following the completion of his one-year post as a Staff Action Officer with the United States Army Joint Staff. Maj. Avey's prior military experience also includes distinguished service in Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of Stabilization Force 8 and deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, during which he commanded the A/2-327th Infantry Regiment with distinction. In recognition of his distinguished service, Maj. Avey has received several military awards and decorations, including the Bronze Star Medal, two Army Meritorious Service Medals, the Ranger Tab, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

For the past year and a half, Maj. Avey has provided exemplary and indispensable service to Members of Congress and staff as a Congressional Liaison Officer for the United States Army. In addition to assisting our offices on all matters relating to United States Army practice and policy, Maj. Avey has played an instrumental role in the design, development, and execution of Congressional Delegations, through which Members of Congress are afforded the invaluable opportunity to conduct firsthand oversight of areas of legislative concern.

Since joining the Army House Liaison Division, Maj. Avey has served as my primary military liaison and escort officer on several Congressional Delegations, including site visits to Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, and the Gaza Strip. Accordingly, I have had ample opportunity to witness the excellence, professionalism, and pride with which Maj. Avey conducts his work and in particular, the extent of his admirable commitment to ensuring the safety and security of Members and staff. In addition, I have also had the great privilege to come to know Maj. Avey on a personal level and can genuinely say that his character never fails to reflect the loyalty, honor, and distinction that have come to define his service in the United States Army.

Madam Speaker, Maj. Michael S. Avey stands as the personification of the United States Army's motto, "Army Strong." On behalf of the entire United States House of Representatives, I would like to express my deepest and sincerest gratitude to Maj. Avey for his exemplary and dedicated service and wish him, his wife, Margaret, his son, Brendan, and his daughter, Kate, the best of luck on all of their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on June 16, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my vote for rollcall No. 350.

Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 350—YES—On Motion that the Committee Rise. Making Appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, June 16, 2009, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 350 because the leadership had informed me that there would be no additional votes that evening. Had I been informed of this procedural vote, I would have been present and voted "aye" on the Motion that the Committee Rise.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, "Pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding an earmark I obtained as part of H.R. 2892."

Requesting Member: Congressman RON PAUL

Bill Number: H.R. 2892

Account: FEMA, State and Local Programs/Emergency Operations Center

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Brazoria County Emergency Management

Description of Request: An earmark of \$100,000 to fund construction of an Emergency Operating Center in Brazoria County, Texas.

HONORING FR. FRANCIS
THEODORE PFEIFER

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Fr. Francis Theodore "Ted" Pfeifer, a public servant who has dedicated his life to serving others as a spiritual advisor and as an American missionary in Southern Mexico. Fr. Pfeifer has been a passionate advocate against the drug cartel in Mexico, a dedicated priest and kind friend to the San Antonio community.

Born in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, he moved to San Antonio, where he completed his theological and pastoral studies at the Oblate "De Mazenod Scholasticate," now the Oblate School of Theology. He served bravely for more than 23 years as an Oblate Missionary in the Mexican state of Oaxaca, tending to his pastoral duties as a missionary and assuming the additional duties of doctor, dentist, electrical journeyman, mechanic, construction foreman, expert in livestock, and most notably as a courageous leader against the drug cartel.

Fr. Pfeifer made history when he began preaching against the infiltration of the drug traders on the Southern Mexican villages in the early 1980's. His outspoken words from the pulpit against the drug cartel brought him face to face with death on numerous occasions. Once Fr. Pfeifer miraculously escaped with his life when bullets riddled the cab of his truck; rather than cowering at the death threats, he fearlessly persisted preaching against the cartel. He continued to fight the drug cartel with the Gospel and encouraged 15,000 locals in his vast parish to resist the threats, massacres and the alluring offers to use their farmland to grow the plants used for drugs.

The severity of the escalating drug cartel activity in the area prompted Fr. Pfeifer to reach out to my father, the late Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez. The Oblate's outreach to the U.S. government caught the attention of not just my father, but the then U.S. Speaker of the House Jim Wright and Congressman Albert Bustamante, who together played a pivotal role against the infiltration of the drug cartel in Mexico.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Fr. Pfeifer as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of his priestly ordination, a lifetime of bravery and the launch of his book "When the Wolves Came," a detailed chronicle of the rise of the illegal drug trade. He fought hard his entire life for the causes he believed in and never retreated at the sight of danger. Fr. Pfeifer's dedication to justice and the ongoing battle against the drug cartel are remarkable and I wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 349 and 350, I was inadvertently detained. I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 349 and "nay" on rollcall No. 350.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2847, Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010. The entity to receive