

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.