

honor our veterans. The following week, both Blue Angels Elementary School and Navy Point Elementary School in Pensacola will hold their annual Armed Forces Foundation national education initiative, "Operation Caring Classroom". During this event, the schools will be engaged in classroom activity the week of Veterans Day to learn about this holiday and reach out to military children nationwide. This year, 50 civilian elementary schools and 50 military elementary schools will participate in various activities during the week of Veterans Day to raise awareness and appreciation for our military families. The outpouring of support for these special events makes me proud to call Northwest Florida home.

Some of the events will help raise money to continue supporting our World War II Veterans. Both schools are raising money to sponsor multiple "Honor Flights". We just completed our fifth "Honor Flight" from the Emerald Coast on 21 October. We greeted 103 of our WWII Veterans as they stepped off the plane and watched many of them see their WWII Memorial for the first time. The charity pays for them to fly to Washington, DC and it's wonderful to see support for future trips.

Our veterans, servicemembers, and their families have sacrificed so much for our nation and deserve the highest level of respect. This nation owes you a debt of gratitude. Here on Capitol Hill, many of us felt it was time to organize a caucus with a focus on Military Families. On November 4, the Congressional Military Family Caucus will feature its inaugural event. The caucus will foster the interest of family members of the uniformed services by educating Congressional Members and staff on resources the military provides as well as discuss the barriers that a military family faces. The goal of the caucus is to address issues such as education, childcare, healthcare, spouse employment, and the effects of multiple deployments.

We all play an important part in recognizing military families, servicemembers, and veterans. I am humbled by the remarkable role each and every one of them play in the future of this Nation. The events held at Blue Angels Elementary School and Navy Point Elementary School in Pensacola serve as a model for the entire country. In the 1st Congressional District of Florida, a district that has more veterans than any other in the nation, the events also serve as a reminder of our gratitude and respect.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE LATE DORIS POWELL

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker,

Whereas, Doris Powell served honorably in the United States Armed Services; and

Whereas, Doris Powell bravely served on active duty during World War II; and

Whereas, she was a lifelong member of the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) Post #4713; and

Whereas, she served on the Morgan County School Board for 22 years; be it

Resolved that along with friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional Dis-

trict, I congratulate the late Doris Powell on her induction to the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

HONORING SECRETARY JOHN MCHUGH

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHET EDWARDS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our friend and colleague, John McHugh.

After a distinguished 16 year career in Congress, John now embarks on a new phase of his public service as Secretary of the United States Army. For many years, it has been my privilege to work with John as Co-Chair of the House Army Caucus. Together, we have worked to champion the needs of the United States Army in a time of great challenge for our country.

John McHugh's commitment to our service men and women and their families is second to none, and I have great confidence that he will serve them and our nation well as Army Secretary.

John has always earned the respect of his colleagues because he treated others with respect. He set a standard of public service that all of us would do well to follow. While this House is losing a valuable member, the country is gaining a principled advocate for those who wear the uniform.

I wish him all the best in the years ahead.

NATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 729, which expresses the sense of Congress that a day be designated to honor America's firefighters who have made enormous sacrifices through loss of life and limb in their service to protect our communities.

There are over 1 million firefighters in the U.S., and each time they respond to an emergency, they risk their own personal safety to help others. Each year, roughly 100 firefighters die in the line of duty.

The City of Houston has one of the largest fire departments in the country with almost 4,000 firefighters and about 100 fire stations. Since the modern-day Houston Fire Department was formed, over 60 firefighters have lost their lives in the line of duty. Two of these died this year alone.

It is therefore imperative that we take this moment to show our appreciation for the services they provide and the sacrifices that so many have made.

As a cosponsor of this resolution, I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 729, which calls for the President to formally commemorate these brave men and women by designating a National Firefighters Memorial Day.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information in regards to H.R. 2996, the Fiscal Year 2010 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

Project Name: City of East Prairie, Missouri Stormwater and Sewer Infrastructure

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Requesting Entity: City of East Prairie, Missouri

Address of Requesting Entity: 219 N. Washington St., East Prairie, Missouri 63845-1141

Description of Request: Provide an earmark in the amount of \$200,000 to rebuild East Prairie, Missouri's wastewater and storm water infrastructure. The existing 84-year-old water infrastructure is crumbling under the streets due to sinkholes which have plagued the community. The sinkholes are destroying box culverts, which is posing a threat to streets and houses in East Prairie. The money procured will pay for the construction of new stormwater sewers. A minimum of 45 percent of the total project cost will come directly from the City of East Prairie, Missouri.

HONORING CENTRE AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the students, faculty and staff of the Centre Avenue Elementary School and congratulate them for having received the prestigious Blue Ribbon School Award. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes schools that make significant progress in closing the achievement gap or whose students achieve at very high levels.

Centre Avenue Elementary School has been successful in meeting the highest standards of the New York State assessments, with test results consistently meeting the state's expectations by having a high number of students performing at maximum levels. Centre Avenue succeeds in providing an atmosphere where students foster a desire for lifelong learning and are motivated to reach their highest potential academically, creatively, socially, physically and emotionally.

Centre Avenue is committed to providing an educational environment where safety permeates. Students are encouraged to expand their social and emotional development with involvement in groups and participation in any of the numerous clubs offered. A supplemental aspect of their curriculum is to teach the students social responsibility. A school-wide Jump-A-Thon supported the American Heart Association, money was collected to assist Island Harvest in their quest to end hunger on Long Island, the Toys for Tots program helped disadvantaged families have a happier holiday, and the Food Drive helped restock the supplies at the Ronald McDonald House.