

## Ferguson Votes To Increase Border Protection Funding

WASHINGTON — Rep. Mike Ferguson, R-N.J., joined a bipartisan majority in the House on Tuesday and voted for legislation targeting \$30.85 billion in homeland security programs, including hiring 1,000 new border patrol agents, funding for first responders and screening of high-risk cargo at ports.

The bill won House approval 424-1. The Senate is considering its version of the annual funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security.

"Although Congress has invested billions of dollars in strengthening our homeland security since the September 11 terrorist attacks, more needs to be done," Ferguson said after the vote. "This bill rightly targets funding to meet our nation's important security goals. While the legislation is not perfect, it does represent a continued commitment to those who work every day keeping our communities and our families safe."

The bill allocates \$3.6 billion for first responders, including grants to high threat areas, firefighters and emergency management. Since September 11, 2001, more than \$32 billion have been provided to the nation's first responders — including terrorism prevention and preparedness, general law enforcement, firefighter assistance, airport security, seaport security, and public health preparedness.

The House-approved bill includes \$19.4 billion for border protection. In addition to the 1,000 new border patrol agents, the legislation also finances the hiring of 150 new criminal immigration investigators and 200 new immigration enforcement agents.

Another \$61 million is included for border security technology such as unmanned aerial vehicles. The Homeland Security Department's programs for port security and rail security each would receive \$150

million. During debate on the underlying bill, Rep. Ferguson also voted for an amendment to increase funding by \$50 million for chemical plant security. The bill targets \$2.5 billion for passenger and baggage screening and an additional \$85 million to train airport security screeners.

Last week, the House passed legislation that would target more federal homeland security funding based on states' threat of terrorist attack — a move that would boost first-responder funding for at-risk states like New Jersey. That bill would change the distribution formula to prioritize security money based on threat of attack and vulnerability.

## Gaston Award Program Set For June at Westfield Library

WESTFIELD — The Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library will feature composer, orchestra leader, concert performer and producer of sound recordings, Francis Varrichio at the presentation of the Gaston Award on Saturday, June 4, at 1:30 in the conference room of the library.

Mr. Varrichio has performed at such memorable sites as Rutgers University, PNC Art Center, Princeton University and the Jacob Javitz Convention Center. Good Morning America and Cokie and Steve Roberts ABC Weekend on live TV, News Book Tour concert also featured this outstanding artist.

Besides Mr. Varrichio on guitar, the trio consists of Gerry Cappuccio on woodwinds who has played with Lionel Hampton, Benny Goodman and Sinatra for 10 years. He has written many books. Roy Cumming on bass, currently with an orchestra at Roberts Restaurant in New York City, and has



CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'...Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School DECA students enjoy the competition last month at the DECA International Career Development Conference in Anaheim, Calif.

## Elko Earns DECA Award At Nat'l Marketing Conference

SCOTCH PLAINS — Elizabeth Elko, a senior at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and president of the school's DECA Chapter, placed in the top 10 nationally at DECA's 2005 International Career Development Conference (ICDC), held in Anaheim, Calif. from April 27 to May 1.

In March, Ms. Elko won second place in the Food Marketing-Associate Level category at the New Jersey State DECA competition. This qualified her to compete as an individual in the national event. In Anaheim, nearly 200 students from the United States and other countries competed in the marketing category.

Ms. Elko also received an award for achieving a top score in the Food Marketing written examination. She was one of 18 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School students who competed in DECA's annual ICDC, working under the direction of DECA Advisor and Marketing instructor Joe Franzone.

Other DECA participants included Seniors Eric Ajuluchukwu, Brian Allen, Briana Berry, Dori D'Aloisio, Jackie DeJohn, Chris Doremus, Jeannette Franzone, Jay Hankin, Rob Lasher, Chris Mattern, Manish Pandya, Chris Ryskasen, Kyle Rzonca, Ben Vogel and Adam Yellen, and Juniors Katie Devlin and Katherine Paseka.

DECA is an international association of marketing students at both the high school and college level.

See it all on the web in color... [www.goleader.com](http://www.goleader.com)

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## Historical Society Sets 'Favorite Things' Sale

SCOTCH PLAINS — On Saturday, June 4, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Historical Society will hold its first fundraiser of the year, entitled "Some of My Favorite Things."

It will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Osborn Cannonball House Museum, located at 1840 Front Street in Scotch Plains. Funds raised will help maintain the circa 1760 museum. The Society is asking area resi-

dents to contribute items to the sale, such as pictures, jewelry, special books, a footstool or something else they think people may enjoy.

Donations may be dropped off on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon at the Cannonball House. To arrange for someone to pick up donations, please call (908) 233-5816 and leave a message. The rain date for the sale is Sunday, June 5, from noon to 4 p.m.

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