

In recent days, there have been an increasing number of news reports of likely criminal activity involving the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN). ACORN claims to be the nation's largest community organization of low- and moderate-income families; however, the number of reports of ACORN's illegal and fraudulent activities continues to grow.

On September 9, 2009, CNN reported, "Arrest warrants were issued Wednesday for 11 Florida voter registration workers who are suspected of submitting false information on hundreds of voter registration cards, according to court documents...The workers were employed by ACORN to canvass neighborhoods in Florida and assist people in registering to vote ahead of the 2008 election...Authorities allege the workers submitted false information on the cards, which were to be submitted to the Miami-Dade Supervisor of Elections."

On September 10, 2009, Fox News reported, "ACORN officials videotaped telling a 'pimp and prostitute' how to lie to the IRS." The videotape documented ACORN officials in its Baltimore, Maryland, Brooklyn, New York, Washington, D.C. and San Bernardino, California, offices advising "the pimp" on how to get a housing loan, launder money, and falsify tax documents for a proposed brothel that would employ underage girls smuggled into the United States from a foreign country.

Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA), ranking member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, recently issued a report on the structure and operation of ACORN. According to the report, ACORN affiliates have received more than \$53 million in federal funds from 1994 to 2008.

The organization likely has received substantially more indirectly through states and localities that receive federal block grants.

Last week, I joined Minority Leader John Boehner and about 130 of my House Republican colleagues in writing to President Obama asking him to disclose and terminate all taxpayer funding of ACORN.

I also became one of 144 Republican cosponsors of Leader Boehner's bill, the Defund ACORN Act (H.R. 3571), which would prohibit any organization, including ACORN, that has been indicted for violations of state or federal election laws, or that employs an individual who has been indicted for violations of state or federal election laws, from accessing federal taxpayer dollars.

House Republicans were successful in our united effort. On Thursday, the House voted 345-75 to cut off all federal funding to ACORN.

Honor Flight South Alabama Makes Second Trip:

Last week, Honor Flight South Alabama made its second trip to Washington, D.C. This very

special organization took 94 men and women from the greatest generation to visit the National World War II Memorial.

Founded by the South Alabama Veterans Council, Honor Flight South Alabama flies heroes from Mobile, Baldwin, Washington, Clarke, Monroe, Covington, and Escambia counties to see their national memorial.

This past May, Honor Flight South Alabama made its inaugural flight taking 92 veterans to our nation's capitol. Former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, who in large part made the memorial possible, and I had the opportunity last week to welcome these men and women to their memorial. I was honored to once again be able to greet and personally thank each of these heroes.

Over six decades have passed since the end of World War II and, regrettably, it took nearly this long to complete work on the memorial that honors the spirit and sacrifice of the 16 million who served in the U.S. armed forces and the more than 400,000 who died.

Sadly, many veterans did not live long enough to hear their country say "thank you" yet, for those veterans still living, Honor Flight provides for many their first – and perhaps only – opportunity to see the National World War II Memorial, which honors their service and sacrifice.

We should all take a moment and pay tribute to their selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy.

May we never forget their valiant deeds and tremendous sacrifices. Special thanks to the organizers, volunteers, and donors, who helped make Honor Flight South Alabama's second flight a reality.

Alabama's Own Honored at Pentagon:

One of south Alabama's own, United States Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Mark Stratton, was honored at the Pentagon last week. The Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate Conference Room was dedicated in his honor.

Mark, a long-time resident of Foley, was killed this past Memorial Day in Afghanistan. He had served as commander of the Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team working on civil affairs initiatives with the Afghan population.

He was helping to build a road to provide access to an isolated mountain region of Kabul.

It was here where Mark was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated as his

convoy was passing.

Before he was deployed to Afghanistan, Mark was stationed at the Pentagon, where he served as an executive assistant for the deputy director for Asian politico-military affairs.

Mark Stratton was a dedicated member of the Air Force who made the ultimate sacrifice serving in the uniform of his country. It is fitting that this American hero be honored in this way.

My staff and I work for you. If we can ever be of service, do not hesitate to call my office toll free at 1-800-288-8721 or visit my website <http://bonner.house.gov>.