

qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 102, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Chance has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Chance has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Chance Brown for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

NEW YORK NEEDS THE MONEY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, with Secretary Michael Chertoff's decision to cut Federal anti-terror funding for both New York and Washington, DC, I would like to introduce an editorial printed in the Daily News on June 7, 2006, that encourages the executive branch to put pressure on the Department of Homeland Security to rectify this decision. The editorial, titled Get N.Y. the money, Mr. President, discusses the extremely negative reception this decision has received.

Both former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani and former chairman of the 9/11 commission, Tom Kean, two of the most knowledgeable men on protecting our country from terrorism, claim that New York, as the premier target of terrorist attacks, needs to implement several anti-terror programs in order to completely protect itself. The intended programs included an effort to prepare the fire department to adeptly handle multiple attacks at once, to allocate funding to the NYPD counterterrorism bureau which interprets threats to the city, and to create systems that can detect radiation in the water and air.

In deciding how to best allocate homeland security funds, Secretary Chertoff used a complicated scoring system that resulted in the funding of information dissemination and consequently the rejection of funds required for protecting New York. This editorial endorses an effort to demonstrate the importance of protecting both New York and Washington, DC. The Daily News editors argue correctly that President Bush is the only person with the authority to do this.

The House Homeland Security Committee's chairman, PETER KING, joined by the entire New York delegation in the House and Senate has made spirited efforts to reverse the decision to reduce the allocation to New York. More money is needed for New York, and I certainly hope that the Department of Homeland Security recognizes this as soon as possible.

Therefore I submit for the RECORD an editorial from the June 7, 2006, issue of the Daily News for our consideration.

GET N.Y. THE MONEY, MR. PRESIDENT

No less an authority than Rudy Giuliani has rendered the ultimate verdict on the Department of Homeland Security's decision to slash New York City's federal anti-terror funding. Plainly and simply, Giuliani sees incompetence.

Similarly, Tom Kean, former chairman of the 9/11 commission, says the department turned thumbs down on paying for exemplary programs that "should be a model for the nation." Kean also questioned the wisdom of allowing Homeland Security to base its dollar allocations on the work of anonymous panels operating in secret.

When it comes to emergency preparedness, Giuliani and Kean are two of the smartest guys around. Having studied the war on terror up close, they are experts in the extraordinarily broad range of defenses that a city like New York, the world's No. 1 terror target, must mount if we are to have a chance at fending off disaster.

New Yorkers aren't as versed in the best ways to link emergency communications, or how to pick up radioactivity, or what to make of intelligence reports flowing from abroad—but New Yorkers do have finely tuned B.S. detectors. And so do all the late-night comics who are ridiculing Secretary Michael Chertoff's incompetence. Which starts with the rules his bureaucrats established for selecting anti-terror programs that were worthy of funding.

The regs favored buying things over paying for manpower and training, no matter how vital the manpower or training was. So, Chertoff smiles at paying for armored vests for cops, but he frowns at picking up the salaries of the officers who patrol in them. He's happy to buy haz-mat suits for firefighters, but he doesn't want to train firefighters to wear them.

The shortsighted, wrongheaded outrageousness of Chertoff's thinking screams forth when you run down just some of the ways the city had hoped to spend U.S. anti-terror money. There were plans to:

Prepare the Fire Department to face multiple chemical, biological or nuclear attacks.

Provide continuing emergency response training to firefighters and fire officers.

Devote funding to the NYPD counterterrorism bureau, which analyzes threats, and Operation Atlas, which puts as many as 1,000 anti-terror cops on the street daily.

Boost security for the Brooklyn, Manhattan, Williamsburg and Queensboro bridges.

Create a lower Manhattan security zone, complete with surveillance cameras.

Develop a broadband wireless communication system for public safety agencies across the metropolitan area.

Set up systems to detect radiation and bio-hazards in the air and water and gauge their movement in winds and currents.

Draft an isolation and quarantine program to be used in an epidemic outbreak.

Buy a boat to enable the FDNY to respond to a chemical, biological or radiation attack by water.

Using a half-baked scoring system as complex as the Tax Code, Chertoff's evaluators gave top marks to a program to disseminate emergency readiness information to the public, including pet owners, while flunking the NYPD counterterrorism center. Nothing could better sum up how disconnected from reality Homeland Security was.

Yet Chertoff is holding fast in refusing to put federal funding where it really belongs. That's in New York and Washington, which also suffered a 40% cut in aid. He needs to change his mind, or be made to change his mind, and all his nutty rules must go. Only one person has the power to compel such action: President Bush.

Rep. Pete King, chair of the House Homeland Security Committee, said yesterday that if Chertoff doesn't come up with more money for New York, he'll take the matter to Bush. That's good, but King shouldn't have to storm the Oval Office. Bush, who has refrained from canning Chertoff, should

order him to rectify his incompetence post-haste.

TRIBUTE TO THUNDER BAY QUILT GUILD

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this Flag Day to commend a group of my constituents who are, in their own unique way, honoring our troops and offering comfort to our war injured servicemen and servicewomen.

Most people have never heard of Atlanta, Michigan. However, just because the town is small in population, does not mean it is not big on patriotism. This was demonstrated most recently by the area's Thunder Bay Quilt Guild.

The Thunder Bay Quilt Guild is a group of area women who meet every Thursday to work on quilting projects. Sometimes the quilters work on their own individual projects, but often there is a special project these quilters eagerly undertake.

In the past, the Guild has assisted a variety of important charities. For instance, the Guild has sewn quilts for use in neonatal hospitals to keep children between birth and four years of age warm during their stay in the hospital.

While these dedicated quilters often do admirable work, most recently the Thunder Bay Quilt Guild paid tribute to our fighting men and women who have returned home from Iraq and Afghanistan and could use some basic comfort. Already, the Guild has prepared and shipped 60 "Hero Quilts" to Walter Reed Hospital where they are being distributed to troops who have returned from Iraq and Afghanistan with injuries.

Each quilt is sewn with a red, white and blue pattern and has affixed to it a simple message that reads, "This Hero's Quilt was made for you by members of the Thunder Bay Quilt Guild. It comes with our prayers for your recovery and our heartfelt thanks for your service to our country."

Approximately 60 women belong to the Guild and pitched in on this effort, delivering to our troops a simple reminder that, back home, they are remembered and recognized as heroes.

The impetus for this idea came from Cathy McIntee, another Michigan native who had friends in the Thunder Bay Quilt Guild. Ms. McIntee's son is currently serving in Iraq and Ms. McIntee designed the first "Hero Quilt." The members of the Thunder Bay Quilt Guild then rallied together in support of the cause and began sewing quilts for wounded heroes for delivery to Walter Reed.

Mr. Speaker, quilting enjoys a rich heritage in American history. As the activity has evolved over the years, quilting has become a way to bring people in a community together through quilting guilds or "quilting bees." Quilting is also a way to honor and preserve American history. Many of these organizations are extremely altruistic, generously donating their work to charities, the needy and others.

Clearly, the Thunder Bay Quilt Guild exemplifies that tradition. Their "Hero Quilts" are an impressive example of how even a small community, when inspired and united, can lend support to those who need it most.