

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with the House of Representatives two high priority projects included at my request in H.R. 5658, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (MI-08).

Bill Number: H.R. 5685.

Account: Other Procurement—Navy, Line: Aviation Support Equipment—Aviation Support Equipment—Aviation Life Support (P-1 Line 97).

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Peckham Industries.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2822 N. Martin Luther King Blvd., Lansing, MI 48906.

Description of Request: Provide \$8,000,000 to fund procurement of approximately 8,000 sets of the Multi Climate Protection System (MCPS) for U.S. Navy Aircrews. Approximately \$3.4 million will be spent on garment production, \$4.2 million on materials, and \$0.4 million on quality control/fielding. The total requirement for the U.S. Navy for MCPS is 25,000 systems. Between FY 2004 and FY 2007, the Navy and Congress have provided enough funding for fielding of only 25% of the required systems. In FY 2008, Congress allocated \$2 million for the program. In FY 2007 the House and Senate Armed Services Committees addressed the need for MCPS in their authorization bills. The House authorization text reads, "The committee strongly encourages the Department of the Navy to include the necessary funds for the MCPS in its future budget requests to meet MCPS requirements."

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (MI-08).

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Operations and Maintenance, (BA 01: Operating Forces).

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Peckham Industries.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2822 N. Martin Luther King Blvd., Lansing, MI 48906

Description of Request: Provide \$4,000,000 to fund procurement of approximately 35,000 sets of Cold Weather Layering System (CWLS) for the U.S. Marines. Approximately \$2 million will be spent on garment production, \$1.6 million on materials, \$0.4 million on quality control/fielding. In direct response to the U.S. Marine Corps' unique combat needs, a Polartec Power Dry Silkweight and Polartec Power Dry Grid with flame resistant properties for use in the CWLS is currently in development. Roadside bombs kill or wound more troops than any other weapon in Iraq, having killed more than 1,200 U.S. service members to date. The heat and flame produced by roadside bombs presents a significant burn threat, and the USMC has called for the use of flame resistant textiles to maintain safety in harsh combat conditions.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I submit the following: Requesting Member: Congressman C.W. BILL YOUNG.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Military Construction, Army National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Florida Army National Guard.

Address of Requesting Entity: 400 S. Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$20,907,000 for construction of Phase IV of the Regional Training Institute (RTI), Project Number 120191, located at Camp Blanding, Starke, Florida 32091. It is my understanding that the Florida Army National Guard (FLARNG) and Army National Guard readiness will be affected if the school cannot adequately accomplish its mission to educate and train soldiers. This final phase will finish construction of the remaining 65,000 square feet of billeting, all remaining infrastructure, supporting facilities, and all necessary work not completed in the prior phases to support and house students attending the courses at the training institute.

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my strong support for H. Res. 1134, supporting the goals and ideals of Mental Health Month. This legislation applauds the hard work of practitioners and national and community organizations in promoting mental health awareness, and supports improving the overall quality of life for those with mental illness. H. Res. 1134 also supports the findings of the President's Commission on Mental Health that the nation's failure to prioritize mental health is a national tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, mental health is no less important than physical health. In fact, as science is proving, mental health and physical health are intertwined in complex ways that are only beginning to be understood. The relationship between depression and heart disease is just one example of the inherent symbiosis of psychiatric and somatic illnesses.

Just as the heart is the organ upon which heart disease preys, the brain is the organ plagued by diseases of the mind. Likewise, death as a result of suicide is no less tragic than death secondary to a heart attack. Those suffering from severe psychiatric illness should not be held to a lesser standard of care than those suffering from physical illnesses.

Ensuring access to appropriate services is central to improving the quality of life for those with mental illness. The issue of mental health insurance parity, in my opinion, is a civil rights issue. Inequity of coverage with regard to mental health and substance abuse treatment benefits is tantamount to discrimination

against the mentally ill, and it reinforces the strategy of insurance companies to deny care rather than provide care.

The mental health community scored a victory for its patients earlier this year when the House voted to pass H.R. 1424, the "Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007."

It has taken courage on the part of Congressmen like my colleague PATRICK KENNEDY to stand up to special interests and "do the right thing" when it comes to ending discrimination against the mentally ill and standing up to health insurance companies. There is still work to be done before a mental health insurance parity bill is signed into law. Hopefully, the bill will soon be reconciled into a form which will benefit psychiatric patients and end discrimination against the mentally ill.

Mr. Speaker, let us applaud the tireless work and unending determination of those fighting to improve the lives of the mentally ill. Let us also be reminded that there is much work to be done before the stigma associated with mental illness is ended, and the lives of those suffering from mental illness are valued as much as those suffering from other medical illnesses.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman JACK KINGSTON (1-GA)

Bill Number: H.R. 5658

Account: MILCON, Navy

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay

Address of Requesting Entity: NSB Kings Bay, Kings Bay, GA, USA

Description of Request: Provide \$6.37 million to construct a 5,000 square feet Communication Addition to the Limited Area Reaction Force Facility in support of the National Weapons Security Program. This high security facility will serve as a command and control center, exercise and recreation spaces, and extended housing for United States Marines and Navy personnel while on duty. This project will provide required ballistic protection for security forces and vehicles as well as the monitoring of perimeter sensors.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman VERNON J. EHLERS

Bill Number: H.R. 5658

Account: Ap,A Aircraft Procurement, Army; 020 Utility Helicopter Mods

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Army National Guard Readiness Center

Address of Requesting Entity: 111 S. George Mason Drive, Arlington, VA, 22204