

The devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake that occurred on May 12, 2008 has already resulted in the loss of over 51,000 lives. More than 29,000 people remain missing, and nearly 300,000 others have been reported as injured. The earthquake also destroyed 80 percent of the buildings in the area, killing thousands of children who were trapped in collapsing schools. Roughly 5 million of the survivors are now homeless.

When faced with such tragedy, we must never forget the ability of the human spirit to persevere. The inspirational stories of courage and survival that have come out of this disaster remind us to never lose faith, even in the most trying of times. I would like to especially commend all those who have come out in support of the victims. From international relief organizations to local community volunteers, people of all backgrounds have set their differences aside and come together to help those in need. In the past week alone, the regions of China most affected by the earthquake have received over \$2 billion in donations.

While some of this news is encouraging, it is clear that the people of the People's Republic of China have suffered greatly from this catastrophe. I truly wish them my heartfelt prayers as they work to rebuild their communities and move forward with their lives.

VAPTSO DIAGNOSES

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express the astonishment and indignation I felt upon learning of the actions of Dr. Norma Perez, staff psychologist at the Olin E. Teague Veterans' Center in Temple, TX.

For those who may not know, Dr. Perez sent an email referring to the increase in "compensation seeking veterans" and urged medical professionals to "refrain from giving a diagnosis of PTSD straight out" citing, among other reasons, the fact that veterans who have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder at the Temple facility have been appealing their compensation and pension judgments "based on our assessment."

Madam Speaker, I am appalled. I am appalled that a medical professional at the Department of Veterans Affairs would consider the cost of treatment as a factor in making a medical diagnosis. What is the cost of a veteran's well-being? At what point do we determine that certain medical diagnoses would be too expensive to treat? At what point do we determine that a service induced injury is one that a veteran does not deserve to be compensated for?

Madam Speaker, as President Lincoln reminded us in 1865, it is our duty as a nation to ensure that we "care for him who shall have borne the battle". We must accept our responsibility and ensure that our veterans have proper and complete medical care and diagnoses that are free of political considerations and are made in terms of their well-being.

As a proud former member of the United States Army I am incensed that such a decision was ever considered. I applaud Secretary

Peake for his repudiation of this affront to our Nation's veterans and call upon him to ensure that the culture of the Department of Veterans Affairs lives up to its stated goal of "excellence in patient care, veterans' benefits and customer satisfaction."

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL CERTIFICATE OF MERIT RECIPIENT MARCI HISE

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the successes and achievements of Marci Hise, who has received the Congressional Certificate of Merit award at Georgetown High School in Georgetown, Texas. Marci has shown exceptional leadership qualities through her involvement in numerous activities which makes her a great candidate for this award.

Marci is involved in cheerleading, powerlifting, Peer Assistance and Leadership, FCA, and Peer Buddies. She also spends time each week mentoring and encouraging two elementary school students. Marci is on the A-B honor role and puts 100 percent into her academics.

I congratulate Marci Hise for her achievements in school and in her community and am proud to represent such talented and dedicated people in the 31st District of Texas.

A TRIBUTE TO KENNETH RYAN

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today the many outstanding achievements of Kenneth Ryan, the outgoing president of the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club. Kenneth's leadership during the 2007-2008 Rotary year has contributed significantly to the Hi-Noon Rotary Club and the community of Carlsbad. During his tenure, the Hi-Noon Rotary Club awarded high school scholarships, and partnered with the Carlsbad evening Rotary clubs to sponsor the annual Oktoberfest fundraiser, a community-wide event which provides financial support to the Carlsbad Women's Resource Center, The Boys and Girls Club of Carlsbad and Community Youth Services. In addition, during Kenneth's presidency, we had the most successful golf tournament in the club's history. The funds were earmarked for high school scholarships and to assist families of wounded marines.

During his presidency, a number of other projects were completed. These projects included providing volunteers to help maintain public and private property, provide food and clothing for the homeless, and assist in the distribution of food, clothing and toys to needy Carlsbad families in conjunction with the Carlsbad Christmas Bureau. A Children's Christmas party and dinner for very needy elementary school students were also provided. In an effort to improve literacy, badly needed

bilingual dictionaries were provided and distributed to English- and Spanish-speaking elementary school students. In addition a book a week was contributed to a school library, and mentors were also provided for the "City Stuff" program. This program promoted an understanding of the workings of city government for young Carlsbad school children.

On the international front, Kenneth's leadership and his team of Rotarians joined with Habitat for Humanity to build a house for a needy family in Mexico. Through the Paul Harris Fellow Program, contributions were made to the Rotary Foundation, the purpose of which is to support international projects for the benefit of humanity, such as eradication of polio through out the world and to support the Micro-banking Project.

In addition, there were numerous other projects which he led to completion during his tenure, too numerous to mention.

I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the many fine achievements of Kenneth Ryan. Without question, his leadership and the fine work of the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club are worthy of recognition by the House today.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Leadership earmark standards, I am submitting the following earmark disclosures for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Bill Number: H.R. 5658—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: GWACS Defense, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 4500 South 129th East Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74163.

Description of Request: Provide an authorization earmark of \$8,500,000 for the Ground Warfare Acoustical Combat System of Netted Sensors. The entire project cost to complete is \$19,200,000, with anticipated funding of \$5,000,000 being raised privately by GWACS Defense, Inc. over the next two years. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Department of Defense, Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy account. The funding will be used by the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab to accelerate completion and purchase of a new small arms fire detection and location technology for force protection in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Westwood Corporation.

Address of Requesting Entity: 12402 E. 60th Street, Tulsa, OK 74146.

Description of Request: Provide an authorization earmark of \$1,500,000 for Power Conversion Equipment for High Density Power Generation Packages. The \$1,500,000 project will be funded as follows: Design: \$180,000; Purchased Parts, Fabrication and Assembly:

\$720,000; Functional Testing: \$120,000; On-site Testing Support; \$480,000. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Department of Defense, Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy account. The funding will be used to allow the electrical output of a new design generator with advanced shipboard architectures. Given that this request will be providing support to a federal agency, matching funds for this request is not required.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

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

Requesting Member: Congressman CHARLES W. DENT.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Operation and Maintenance, Army. Legal Name of Requesting Entity: ProModel Corporation.

Address of Requesting Entity: 7540 Windsor Drive, Allentown, PA 18195.

Description of Request: \$2,000,000 is included to accelerate the deployment and enhance the current capabilities of the ProModel *Army Force Generation Synchronization Tool (AST)*. This technology enables the Army to capture the Army Force Generation Model (ARFORGEN) process in software, providing decision makers the ability to rapidly create Courses of Action and predict the impact of their decisions on key metrics such as Dwell and Boots on Ground. The ability through automation to run "what ifs" to assess risk on readiness is recognized as a key priority for the Army and Joint Forces.

Requesting Member: Congressman CHARLES W. DENT.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDTE), Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Neuromonics, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2810 Emrick Boulevard, Bethlehem, PA 18020.

Description of Request: \$3,700,000 is included to support the Chronic Tinnitus Treatment Program—a breakthrough tinnitus treatment device (patented, FDA-cleared, and non-military clinically-tested) and program that is designed to interact, interrupt, and desensitize tinnitus disturbance for long-term benefit, especially in those suffering with chronic and severe tinnitus. The treatment program combines the use of acoustic stimulation with a structured program of counseling. The Army reports that tinnitus is among the top medical complaints of soldiers returning from OIF/OEF, particularly given the high incidence of Traumatic Brain Injury/mild Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI/mTBI). Until recently, no effective treatment program has existed to help individuals suffering with the effects of tinnitus. This funding will allow military researchers to implement the chronic tinnitus treatment program and develop important baseline data to determine the effectiveness, usefulness, and long-term benefit of the program for military servicemembers suffering with tinnitus.

Requesting Member: Congressman CHARLES W. DENT.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDTE), Air Force.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Morgan Advanced Ceramics, Inc.—Diamonex Products Division.

Address of Requesting Entity: 7331 William Avenue, Allentown, PA 18106.

Description of Request: \$1,000,000 is included to develop High Temperature, High Energy-Density Capacitors by Stacked or Multilayer CVD Processes which will scale up capacitor manufacturing capability. Capacitors are a pervasive technology in military and commercial applications. Millions are currently used in military systems and often fail due to increasing environmental temperatures and low reliability. Improved capacitor performance and smaller size have been the focus of research in diamond-like carbon (DLC) dielectrics by the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL). Morgan Advanced Ceramics has developed and tested proprietary dielectric, thin film coatings that have demonstrated the required dielectric properties. The technology utilizes semiconductor processing to produce multilayer capacitors that are 4 to 10 times smaller and lighter than the polymer-based capacitors currently in use by the military.

Requesting Member: Congressman CHARLES W. DENT.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDTE), Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Edmund Optics, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 601 Montgomery Avenue, Pennsburg, PA 18073.

Description of Request: \$2,900,000 is included to advance Precision Molding Manufacturing Technology for InfraRed Aspheric Optics. Infrared imaging technology is integrated in missile guidance, airborne reconnaissance, and situation awareness for soldiers, police, and firefighters. It presents the only viable solution for sight in total darkness, dense fog and smoke. This technology enables the armed forces to detect and identify threats, then engage and defeat the enemy at a safe distance. Production techniques for aspheric optics have limitations, as current solutions are either low-cost or high-performance but not both. Similarly, aspheres in thermal applications are produced using expensive machining techniques and costly raw materials. Molding, an alternative production technique, is the only feasible means to generate cost-effective precision infrared aspheric lenses. It is critical to shift infrared optics production from expensive machining to cost-effective precision molding.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

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

Requesting Member: Rep. JOHN M. SHIMKUS (IL-19).

Bill Number: HR 5658.

Account: US Air Force Unfunded Requirements List C-40D Procurement Line 58.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: US Air Force, 932nd Airlift Wing.

Address of Requesting Entity: Scott Air Force Base, IL 62225.

Description of Request: The \$88 million is included in the bill to procure new C40D aircraft stationed at Scott AFB, Illinois. This new aircraft will allow US Air Force to be able to support cargo, passenger, humanitarian, Homeland Defense, and emergency relief requirements of the 932nd Airlift Wing.

Matching funds: This is a full federally funded project for the US Air Force.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Requesting Member: Congressman K. MICHAEL CONAWAY.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Army, RDT&E.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Texas Tech University.

Address of Requesting Entity: 19th and University, Lubbock, Texas 79409.

Description of Request: Provide \$4,000,000 to Texas Tech University to research the use of Compact Pulsed Power as a scientific base for integrating electrical weapons systems onto all-electric combat vehicles. Compact Pulsed Power is the use of targeted electromagnetic radiation to disable electronic devices such as cell phones. Initial research indicates that compact pulsed power technology could be beneficial to the Department of Defense by being able to disable Improvised Explosive Devices used in Iraq and Afghanistan. Texas Tech has developed the technology but needs to field test it in order to deploy it with troops on the ground. An existing lightly armored vehicle such as a HMMWV will be modified to an all-electric platform with an integrated fuel cell and auxiliary battery pack. Two or three types of electric weapon systems (high power microwave (HPM) generator, hypervelocity rail gun, and/or high power laser) will be integrated into the platform. Individually each of these systems is quite complex and the combination of any two of these systems will increase the integration problem exponentially. The information gained from this research could be significant in furthering the nation's defense capabilities.

Requesting Member: Congressman K. MICHAEL CONAWAY.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Army, RDT&E.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Zebra Imaging.

Address of Requesting Entity: 9801 Metric Blvd., Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758.

Description of Request: Provide \$2,800,000 in funding to complete the final phase of a three-year development program to provide a field-deployable version of the Enhanced Holographic Imager (EHI) system. The holographic