

Marine Corps Depots currently, with positive results. This funding will provide Army and Marine Corps Aviation Commands repair capability in theater, so forces will not have to wait for the time-consuming supply system to provide parts. To alleviate this delay, a portable rapid reconfigurable tooling system is being developed that can repair the specific tool onsite. Aircraft would be able to be put back into operational status faster, giving the Theater Commander more assets to deploy. Two systems were previously delivered to the Corpus Christi Army Depot and Cherry Point Marine Corps Depot for evaluation and testing to facilitate the repair of rotary and fixed wing aircraft, and funds in FY 09 would be used to provide additional systems to the military depots and to provide training for personnel.

\$2.2 million for a Semiconductor Optical Amplifier for Responsive Space MPOI from the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force account. The recipient of these funds will be OptiComp Company, a small business located in Zephyr Cove, Nevada (located at PO Box 10779, Zephyr Cove, NV 89448). The company's focus is the fabrication and production, solely for the Department of Defense, of optoelectronic laser and detector modules for use on avionic and space datacom platforms. These modules are used in a fabric to permit fault tolerant wideband switching between computers, sensors, and telecommunications links on the platforms. OCC has a full semiconductor clean room and fabrication facility and an extensive test and measurement facility to evaluate all devices prior to acceptance.

Within the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, I requested and the Committee approved a \$3 million earmark for the Cyber Conflict Research Consortium's Distributed Environment for Critical Infrastructure Decision-making Exercises (DECIDE), a large, national university consortium that includes the University of Nevada, Reno (located at 1664 N. Virginia Street, Reno, Nevada 89557). The consortia aims to help protect the nation from cyberattacks. DECIDE directly addresses the conclusions of a 2006 report from the President's National Science and Technological Council which stated the need to target Federal research and development investment in cyber security and information assurance needs. The Cyber Conflict Research Consortium anticipates the DECIDE Financial Services Model will be completed in 2009.

Within the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, I requested and the Committee approved an \$11.375 million earmark for the Nevada National Guard for the Elko Readiness Center (located at 1375 13th Street, Elko, NV 89801). Rapid growth in Nevada requires that a new Readiness Center facility in northeastern Nevada be constructed to meet the needs of the Nevada Army National Guard. The current Elko armory was built in 1961 and does not meet the security or operational requirements for the current mission. The state of Nevada is already providing funds to assist with design.

HONORING MICHAEL W. SMITH

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating Michael W. Smith on his rich 25-year career and innumerable contributions to contemporary Christian music. He will be recognized next Sunday, October 12, as the Nashville Choir hosts "A Light for the City 2008"—A 25th Anniversary Celebration of Michael W. Smith. With many special guests, including Rev. Franklin Graham, Max Lucado, Amy Grant, Bill and Gloria Gaither, Jordin Sparks, Wynonna, Ricky Skaggs, Melinda Doolittle, Phil Stacey and Michael Tait, the Nashville Choir will pay tribute to Michael W. Smith and thank him for his contributions to the Nashville community and indeed the entire globe.

Not only has Michael W. Smith garnered significant accolades as a recording artist and song writer, including 5 Platinum and 16 Gold certifications, over 15 million sold albums, and several GRAMMYs and GMA Dove Awards; he has moreover accomplished outstanding work as a citizen, humanitarian, and public servant. In addition to acting as a spokesperson for Compassion International and serving as vice chair of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, he has shown commitment to the local Nashville community especially through work with New River Fellowship church and the establishment of Rocketown, a safe and engaging concert venue, coffeehouse, and skate park. Husband to Debbie and father of five, Michael W. Smith has above all remained committed to family and his faith.

On behalf of all who have been inspired by his work, I ask my colleagues to join with the Nashville Choir, family, friends, fans, and colleagues in the music industry to recognize Michael W. Smith's legacy and his music which has touched countless lives.

HONORING JAMES VAN COTT OF  
SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize James Van Cott on the occasion of his retirement after 30 years as a California State Parks Peace Officer. James's leadership will be truly missed by his co-workers, the people of northern California, and the numerous State, Federal and local government agencies that relied on his immense knowledge of issues relating to our State parks.

Mr. Van Cott's long and distinguished career in public service has stretched through 4 decades and 5 State parks: Doheny State Beach, Lake Perris State Recreation Area, Mount Tamalpais State Park, Samuel P. Taylor State Park, and Bothe-Napa Valley State Park.

Over the course of his career, Mr. Van Cott has always sought to improve his skills and training and pass that knowledge onto others.

During his 8 years at Lake Perris, he was certified by the Department of Boating and Waterways as an Advanced Boating Officer and an Advanced Boating Accident Investigator. He provided over 12,000 hours of law enforcement training for lifeguards and field rangers. As a Defensive Tactics Instructor, James provided over 10,000 hours of instruction and training for field rangers in the Los Lagos, Marin, and Diablo Vista Districts.

Mr. Van Cott has been a valuable ambassador for the Parks Department, working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Cal-Fire, Marin Municipal Water District, Marin County Wild Animal Care, the California Highway Patrol and many other State and local agencies during his tenure. He has reached out to the community as well. While at Mt. Tamalpais, he organized, managed and directed the "Friends of California State Parks," the fifth largest volunteer program in the State.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize James Van Cott for his many years of service to the State of California, and to thank him for his many contributions on behalf of our State and his community. I join his wife, Carol, and his son Josh in wishing him the best as he enters this new phase of his life.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 161

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of American Legion Post 161 of Redmond, Washington, for its exemplary and steadfast support of the United States military and the Washington National Guard. When pressed into duty, the members of Post 161 responded and worked tirelessly to create an event on August 19 in Auburn, Washington, to honor the deployment of the 81st Heavy Combat Brigade of the Washington National Guard. The event proved to be a wonderful moment for all who attended.

Post 161, of which I am member, is located in the eighth district, the district I represent. The post is not unlike many veteran service organizations around the country where budgets are tight and funds are allocated only after careful consideration. However, in this case, the post dedicated the appropriate monies, without hesitation, in order to support a family barbecue with a festival-like atmosphere for deploying Guardsmen and Guardswomen. Hundreds of Guard families and Auburn residents came out to participate in the event and enjoy the send off activities. Additionally, the post generously allocated \$10,000 as seed money toward an emergency family fund that will help support Washington's military families while their loved ones are deployed.

Post 161's actions reflect its deep and great respect for military service members and their families and this is just the latest example of their continued commitment. It is my hope that American Legion Post 161's leadership is recognized and mimicked by Americans everywhere. My thanks and deep appreciation to the members of Post 161.