

HONORING YVONNE DESOUSA  
UPON RECEIPT OF THE GIRL  
SCOUT GOLD AWARD

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2009*

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a young woman in my district, Yvonne Desousa.

Yvonne will receive the Girl Scout Award on August 3, 2009. For her project, she put together sewing squares decorated by younger girl scouts for children at Huntington Hospital. I wish to commend Yvonne for her community service.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 3326) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 3326 the Fiscal Year 2010 Defense Appropriations Act. This bill makes important investments to keep the American people safe, strengthen our military, and support our troops.

This bill contains \$636.3 billion for the Department of Defense next year to provide funding for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, enhance recruitment, address critical equipment needs at home, and, perhaps most importantly, support our troops and their families who give so much in defense of our nation. As a Member of the House Budget Committee, I am pleased that H.R. 3326 is fiscally responsible, for the first time including funding for ongoing needs for the war in Iraq and Afghanistan in the regular budgeting process. The decision to hide funding for our engagement abroad in "emergency" spending led to financial mismanagement, and it ends this year. The bill also calls for additional contracting reform and other efficiencies, while ensuring sufficient support for our men and women in uniform.

As a veteran of the U.S. Army, and the representative of Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base, I am proud of our troops who serve our country so bravely. Whether in the Army, Air Force or Navy, the Coast Guard, or the Marines; whether in the National Guard or in the Reserves; each soldier deserves our full support and respect. This bill provides our troops with a 3.4 percent pay raise and recognizes the hardship of stop-loss deployment by providing an additional \$500 per month for involuntary extensions of active duty. It provides significant funding for readiness training and medical care, often overlooked aspects of our military support. Knowing that the mission at home for military families is often critical to the soldier's mission abroad, I am pleased that H.R. 3326 fully funds Family Support and Yel-

low Ribbon programs, as well as providing \$472 million for family advocacy initiatives.

Madam Chair, there is no more important function for Congress than to protect the American people. This bill ensures our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan have the funding and equipment they need, provides support for our troops at home, and improves the health of our entire military. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 3326.

HONORING BRITTANY LEAP'S  
FIGHT AGAINST NEURODEGEN-  
ERATION WITH BRAIN IRON AC-  
CUMULATION

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bravery and fortitude of a very special and courageous constituent of mine, Brittany Leap; and her mother, Sandy, and father, Richard. In February 2006, Brittany was diagnosed with a debilitating and degenerative disorder—Neurodegeneration with Brain Iron Accumulation, NBIA.

NBIA is a very rare and devastating neurological disorder that only gets worse over time—resulting in constant muscle cramping, an inability to control one's body, difficulty with speech, a loss of peripheral vision, and even blindness. No cure or specific means of treatment currently exists for NBIA, and scientists are still baffled by the factors that influence the disease.

Imagine waking up one morning having lost the ability to walk, or talk, or even eat. In Brittany's case, however, this is no dream. This is a very real challenge that Brittany faces every day of her life. To make matters worse, one of the few laboratories dedicated to researching her disease is at risk of having to close its doors because of a lack of funding; doors that upon closing will forfeit the hope of Brittany, her family, and the thousands of other people suffering from NBIA, that a cure may one day be realized.

Brittany is determined to continue fighting this disease and the potentially devastating consequences of what will happen if the research to develop a cure is suspended. She is unwavering in her pursuit to raise the funds necessary to keep hope alive, not only for her, but for everyone else with NBIA. Brittany has taken it upon herself, with the help of her loving parents—and so many others across this great Nation—to raise \$250,000 by year's end to keep the search for a cure alive.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Brittany and her family and all others with NBIA our heartfelt regards for their efforts to bring an end to this devastating illness, and I ask they give their support in any way possible to help Brittany in her efforts. I am inspired by Brittany's determination and I am honored to bring her story to the floor of this chamber.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 3326) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the 2010 Department of Defense Appropriations Act. This bill provides \$636.3 billion to fund the defense, military family support, humanitarian assistance and oversight priorities of the American people.

This bill provides the resources to implement President Obama's national security strategy, including the new approach he is taking with respect to Iraq and Afghanistan. The bill also provides funding to support the general quality-of-life needs of our troops and their families. Specifically, the measure provides a 3.4 percent pay increase for military personnel; \$8.3 million in additional funds to compensate personnel subject to "stop loss" requirements; and \$2.6 billion to support military families—including \$472 million for family advocacy programs that help children and families manage the many challenges of military service.

The bill also provides \$29.9 billion for the defense health program, including \$500 million for traumatic brain injury treatments and funds to treat Post-traumatic Stress Syndrome. And finally, the Defense Appropriations Act includes a number of provisions to improve oversight of defense contractors and \$110 million for international humanitarian assistance including foreign disaster and emergency relief assistance.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2009*

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on member requests, I am submitting the following information regarding the earmarks I received as part of the FY10 Defense Appropriations Bill:

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF FORTENBERRY

Bill Number: H.R. 3326, FY10 Defense Appropriations Bill

Account: RDT&E, Army/Medical Technology/Program Element #: 0602787A/Line Item #: 28

Project Name: Understanding Blast-Induced Brain Injury

Amount: \$3,000,000

Name and Address of Requesting Entity: University of Nebraska-Lincoln located at 302 Canfield Administrations Building, Lincoln, Nebraska 68583

Description: Most of the head and brain injuries occurring in current combat situations result from roadside explosions, but there is currently only limited understanding of blast-induced traumatic brain injury. This funding