structure less than 10 LPD class ships would put the USMC at significant risk in meeting commitments for global presence and to the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). The $1.8 billion in FY 2009 funding is for LPD 26 as requested on the Navy's and Marine Corps' FY 2009 Unfunded Priority Lists.

Project Name: Deployed ASW Sustainment Training: P–3 Air Crew Tactical Team Trainer (PACT3).

Requesting Member: Representative THELMA DRAKE.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

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

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Alion Science & Technology—BMH Operations.

Address of Requesting Entity: 5365 Robin Hood Road, Norfolk, VA, USA.

Description of Request: Provide funding of $4,000,000 over the President's FY09 budget request to develop a PC-based simulation environment for the P–3 aircrew. The funding will increase forward deployed P–3 anti-submarine warfare (ASW) capabilities in direct response to warfighter requirements resulting in enhanced readiness for current and future contingencies.

Project Name: Analytics for Shipboard Monitoring Systems (ASMS).

Requesting Member: Representative THELMA DRAKE.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

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

Legal Name of Requesting Entities: Oceana Sensor Technologies and ESRG LLC.

Address of Requesting Entities: Oceana Sensor Technologies—1632 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA, USA: ESRG LLC—1209 Independence Boulevard, Virginia Beach, VA, USA.

Description of Request: Provide funding of $1,000,000 to integrate remote monitoring technologies with legacy ship systems. This Project will enable reduced manning and provide crucial ship-to-shore interaction for remote diagnostic decision technology to support ship operators globally.

Project Name: Automated Fiber Optic Manufacturing Initiative.

Requesting Member: Representative THELMA DRAKE.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

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

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: KITCO Fiber Optics.

Address of Requesting Entity: 5269 Cleveland Street, Virginia Beach, VA, USA.

Description of Request: Provide funding of $4,500,000 over the President's FY09 budget request to insert automated fiber optic technologies in small, portable, maintenance equipment that can be used by ship construction and ship's force personnel in the harsh shipboard environment. The funding will assist in deploying fiber optics as the primary communication system components for tactical shipboard applications on almost every current and future ship platform.

Project Name: Fire and Emergency Services Station.

Requesting Member: Representative THELMA DRAKE.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Military Construction, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Representative THELMA DRAKE.

Address of Requesting Entity: Naval Station Norfolk, VA, USA.

Description of Request: Accelerate funding of $10,360,000 for a Fire and Emergency Services station located at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

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

Requesting Member: Congressman BRIAN BILBRAY.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: RDT&E, Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Burnham Institute for Medical Research.

Address of Requesting Entity: 10901 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, CA 92037.

Description of Request: Recent world events have made abundantly clear the need for a deeper understanding of the molecular and cellular mechanisms employed by bacterial and viral pathogens that would facilitate the design of countermeasures to weaponized biological agents such as anthrax, ricin, smallpox virus, botulinum toxin or plague bacteria. Additionally, as evidenced by the ever-present threat of viral pandemics and the relentless rise of antibiotic-resistance, there is a clear and urgent need for the development of new families of therapeutic agents—antibiotics, vaccines, antitoxins and antivirals. Given the large and growing number of recalcitrant pathogens, the most useful new therapeutics are likely to have broad-spectrum efficacy; to target immutable elements of the pathogen or host; to be rapidly adaptable in the face of natural or engineered variants; and to be physically robust.

To assist the United States Army in protecting our soldiers against these growing threats, the Infectious & Inflammatory Disease Center (IIDC) at the Burnham Institute for Medical Research will build on its studies of diseases that result from a broad range of human pathogens. The work will define and characterize host responses to infection, including innate and adaptive immunity and inflammation, providing a molecular understanding of host-pathogen interactions. Over the next ten years, many antibiotics currently prescribed to treat bacterial infections will no longer be effective owing to microbial resistance. Drug-resistant strains of some pathogens, such as the bacteria that cause tuberculosis, and MRSA, have already appeared. Several deadly viral agents have also emerged, threatening both our soldiers in the battlefield as well as large civilian populations; and, except for some vaccines, few treatments for viral infections exist to date.

With regard to infectious diseases, a major goal of the IIDC is to discover, characterize and validate novel virulence factors and toxins from infectious agents, working closely with our bioinformatics group who annotate (attempt to assign function based on the DNA sequence) the rapidly expanding number of pathogen genome sequences. These combined studies facilitate the discovery of novel but conserved pathways that may be validated as targets for broad-spectrum antibiotics. Complementary strategies will be developed to produce drug-like compounds for further development, including High-Throughput Screening (HTS), 'in silico' screening, and the development and application of NMR-based fragment approaches (the Institute hosts "The San Diego Chemical Library Screening Center", one of 5 such centers nationwide). The IIDC will continue its well-funded studies of the most likely agents of bioterrorism, including anthrax (Bacillus anthracis), smallpox (Variola virus), and plague (Yersinia pestis); but it will also expand its focus to the study of emerging diseases such as SARS, West Nile and Dengue Viruses, as well as preparing countermeasures to treat a possible influenza pandemic—should avian flu strain H5N1 gain the ability to transmit directly from person to person.

A major new focus of the IIDC will be to understand and exploit host responses to infection. Human cells provide the never-ending backdrop in a contest between host-defense molecules and pathogen virulence factors that seek to subvert the host's innate and adaptive immune responses. Identifying the players and mechanisms of the natural host responses, many of which are common to a broad range of infections, may provide novel (host-targeted) leads for broad-spectrum therapeutics, the exciting possibility of naturally boosting innate immunity, as well as the discovery of novel adjuvants for vaccine design. Vaccine technology has developed little in the past 50 years. A high priority will therefore be the development of novel vaccine methodologies which employ robust single-chain antigen-adjuvant combinations that facilitate rapid production and modification in the face of engineered or mutant pathogens.

The IIDC is well positioned in that it already has much of the infrastructure in place to generate novel therapeutic leads; shortly, with the opening of our new facility in Orlando, FL we will have the additional capability of developing these leads through medicinal chemistry and pharmacology to phase I trials, the latter in collaboration with our clinical partners in Florida.

Additional funding made possible through this process to the IIDC will enable the expansion of our Center into a number of critical areas. Priorities include recruitment of new faculty members and their programs working in the fields of innate immunity, microbiology, and medicinal chemistry. Recruitment into these currently underrepresented areas within our Center will complement our existing expertise and further expedite the development of novel therapeutics.

Leveraged Funds—Based on the Burnham Institute for Medical Research's past successful record of leveraging seed funds, we estimate that $3 million for additional scientists through this request will result in $30 million in additional grant funding for the next 10 years at the BIMR.

Current/Future/Matching Funding—Private philanthropy for the San Diego, CA area has contributed to the current research work ongoing at Burnham's IIDC. Since BIMR scientists started focusing on the important area of research, the IIDC has secured nearly $40,000,000 in competitive federal grants from a number of sources including the DoD and the NIAID. BIMR researchers and their research are very well respected throughout these federal agencies. Researchers in the IIDC will continue to seek federal grants through the traditional competitive process this year through funding opportunities available from the DoD and the NIAID.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF MERIT STUDENTS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of 39 distinguished high school students from Michigan's Eighth District. I was proud to award the Congressional Medal of Merit to these students during a ceremony at Michigan's State Capitol on May 9, 2008.

These graduating seniors were nominated by their schools for the prestigious Congressional Medal of Merit. To be nominated, each student demonstrated exemplary citizenship and academic excellence throughout their high school careers.

These young men and women have demonstrated an outstanding sense of service to their peers, education and community. Honoring their achievements with the Congressional Medal of Merit is a privilege and I congratulate each of them along with their parents, family, teachers and community. Together, this group of students represents the best and brightest America has to offer: Amber Barber, Tyler Bengel, Kristin Boozer, Michael Brendel, Sarah Bush, Chris Case, Kaitlyn Charette, Christina Clarke, Bethany Davis, Nathan Feldpausch, Preston Frazier, Mariah Frey, Brittney Fuller, Kristy Gould, Effrem Grettenberger, Carolyn Hamilton, Robert Hindy, Jessica Holberg, Priya Karve, Jason Klepal, Kristin Kotarba, Audrey Kramer, Kiley Kyser, Kavina Marshall, Alexandra McGregor, Victoria Miller, Christine Norton, Guillermo Peralta, Ariana Pierce, Jacob Price, McKenzie Rowley, Thomas Sanday, Eric Stants, Marco Tori, Jacquelyn Verley, Christie Wilkins, Brennan Woell, Lo-Hua Yuan, Mitchell Zajac.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in honoring these exceptional students. May they know that this Nation is greatly appreciative of their service and dedication, and wishes them the best in all their future endeavors.

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL CERTIFICATE OF MERIT RECIPIENT SYDNEY MOORE

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 Sydney Moore, who has received the Congressional Certificate of Merit award at Westwood High School in Austin, Texas. Sydney has shown exceptional leadership qualities through her involvement in numerous activities which makes her a great candidate for this award.

Sydney is a wholesome, bright, and energetic young woman. She has shown strong leadership abilities at home, in clubs, and in sports. She has earned the trust of her peers by being elected to a variety of positions on and off of the field, including Student Council and Miracle League.

I congratulate Sydney Moore 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.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ELAINE BUNDESEN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of one of our notable local residents and a good friend, Elaine Bundesen. Elaine died last month at the age of 85 of complications from Parkinson's disease.

Originally from Washington State, Elaine grew up in Seattle and attended the University of Washington. After she graduated in 1945 with a degree in English, she headed for San Francisco, where she met and married Jim Bloom, a Navy pilot from my hometown of Petaluma.

After the war—World War II—Elaine lived in Guam with her husband as one of the first Navy dependents to be stationed there. Later, the couple moved to Petaluma, where Elaine was introduced to small-town life. Petaluma being the egg capital of the Nation, Elaine eventually got a job at Bundesen Bros. Hatchery, where she met her second husband, Paul Bundesen. Sadly, their life together ended when Paul was killed in a plane crash in 1967.

Elaine returned to school, and in 1974 received her master's degree in counseling at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park. She worked for more than 25 years in the university's office of admissions and records. During this time, she helped form the public lecture series ''Pandora's Box'' with a small group of women whose activities started the women's studies program at Sonoma State.

Elaine is survived by her three stepchildren, Margaret, David and Laura, and many nieces and nephews.

Madam Speaker, Elaine was a wonderful woman and a good friend who influenced many lives. She was a mentor to me and will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO AZERBAIJANIS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise as a member of the House Azerbaijan Caucus, to honor Azerbaijanis around the world, as they prepare to celebrate Republic Day on May 28. Republic Day commemorates Azerbaijan's declaration of its independence from the Russian Empire in 1918, becoming the first democratic secular republic in the Eastern hemisphere. Despite its short existence, 1918–1920, the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan had achieved considerable success in state building and creation of educational foundations for future generations. The Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan granted suffrage to women shortly after its creation, ahead of most Western democracies.

Despite all of its successes, the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan was not in a position to withstand the occupational forces of the then newly formed Soviet Russia. Consequently, Azerbaijan had temporarily lost its independence in 1920 and later was included into the U.S.S.R.

In 1990, Azerbaijan regained its independence from the U.S.S.R., ending 70 years of Soviet rule. Meantime, Azerbaijanis will never forget the tragic events of January 1990, forever known to all Azerbaijanis as Black January, as the Soviet army crushed peaceful demonstrations in the streets of the capital Baku. On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament adopted the Declaration on the Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and on October 18, 1991, the independence was approved by the Constitution.

Since its independence, the Republic of Azerbaijan has been an invaluable ally and is among the first nations, who offered unconditional support to the United States in the War Against Terror, providing its airspace and the use of its airports for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Today, Azerbaijani troops continue to serve with distinction in Afghanistan and in Iraq.

Azerbaijan is also a founding member of GUAM—Organization for Democracy and Economic Development, which includes Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova. Azerbaijan is a leading nation in regional economic cooperation through development of various international projects. Azerbaijan is also one of the key players in European energy security matters.

Madam Speaker and dear colleagues, please join me in thanking the people of Azerbaijan for their sincere friendship towards our country, and congratulate Azerbaijanis around the world on the 90th anniversary of Republic Day.

I also would like to thank and congratulate my Azerbaijani-American constituents, lead by Naimi and Naila Amiraliyev, for their tireless