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H. CON. RES. 286

Congratulating Fort Detrick on 60 years of service to the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2003

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Congratulating Fort Detrick on 60 years of service to the United States.

Whereas April 10, 2003, was the 60th Anniversary of the founding of Fort Detrick;

Whereas throughout Fort Detrick's 60-year history, the army post has contributed scientific breakthroughs and medical solutions for the Armed Forces and the nation;

Whereas Fort Detrick is a focal point for America's biomedical scientific leadership and has contributed extensively to protecting and improving public health in the United States;

Whereas Fort Detrick has been home to preeminent researchers in bacteriology, microbiology, clinical and preventative medicine, biochemistry, neurology, botany, virology, and genomics;

Whereas the research program at Fort Detrick pioneered the laboratory facility designs, equipment, and procedures that are used for infectious disease research in laboratories worldwide;

Whereas Fort Detrick has improved public health throughout the world through the creation of botulinum antibodies, which have been used to treat both infant and adult victims of botulism;

Whereas the Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis vaccines, which were created at Fort Detrick, have been used to control human and animal outbreaks of Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis, and the Rift Valley Fever vaccines, which were also created at Fort Detrick, have been used to protect people in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and other countries who are at high risk of Rift Valley Fever;

Whereas, on January 27, 1969, the Office of the Surgeon General of the Army established the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (hereinafter in this resolution referred to as "USAMRIID"), which is located at Fort Detrick;

Whereas when outbreaks of hantaviral disease began in the southwestern United States in 1993, USAMRIID was called upon to consult by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and by various state health departments;

Whereas when the Ebola virus was first carried to the shores of the United States in late 1989 by a primate colony found in Reston, Virginia, it was USAMRIID that diagnosed and contained the outbreak;

Whereas USAMRIID also played a key role in the identification of and response to the initial outbreak of West Nile virus in New York;

Whereas USAMRIID continues the life-saving work of the institute by collaborating with the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health on the development of diagnostics and the evaluation of antiviral drugs for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome;

Whereas USAMRIID created a vaccine against Hemorrhagic Fever in the 1980s, which has possibly saved thousands of lives in Argentina, including the lives of agricultural workers at risk for exposure to this hemorrhagic fever virus;

Whereas USAMRIID is the only federal laboratory to operate with a continuous 24-hour per day capability since 9/11, and the support of the institute was integral to the re-opening of Congressional office buildings and other facilities after 9/11;

Whereas leading vaccine candidates for anthrax, plague, tularemia, and botulinum neurotoxins were all originally developed at USAMRIID;

Whereas the leading possible countermeasures for at least 5 of the current top 6 biological threats that are on the Centers for Disease Control “A” List have come from the basic research program at USAMRIID;

Whereas the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health at Fort Detrick and USAMRIID have established a partnership to collaborate and accelerate biodefense research that will protect all Americans against the threat of biological and chemical attacks by terrorists;

Whereas, in 1974, the United States Army Medical Material Agency relocated to Fort Detrick and currently, the United States Navy, Air Force, and Army conduct med-

ical logistics planning and management at Fort Detrick in support of global military operations;

Whereas the Foreign Disease-Weed Science Research Unit of the Agricultural Research Service of the Department of Agriculture has conducted high-priority research in the Plant Pathogen Containment Facility at Ft. Detrick for over 30 years, which has provided the agricultural community with basic epidemiological information and rapid diagnostic assays for exotic threatening and emerging crop diseases, such as Karnal bunt of wheat, soybean rust, potato late blight, and plum pox virus;

Whereas the 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion at Fort Detrick had a mission of reconnaissance and security in support of a Marine Air/Ground Task Force and received the Meritorious Unit Citation for its service during Operation Desert Storm;

Whereas the 1108th Signal Brigade at Fort Detrick provides important strategic communication support to the White House and the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and

Whereas the National Cancer Institute-Frederick at Fort Detrick is an internationally recognized center for scientific excellence in the prevention, detection, and treatment of cancer and AIDS: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2 *concurring), That the Congress—*
- 3 (1) congratulates Fort Detrick on 60 years of
- 4 service to the United States;
- 5 (2) commends all those at Fort Detrick who
- 6 have labored so diligently to defend the United
- 7 States against biological and chemical attack; and

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