

CONGRATULATING THE PASCO  
COUNTY LIBRARIES FOR OUT-  
STANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 2008*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker. I rise to congratulate the Pasco County Library System for being awarded the 2008 Library of the Year by the Florida Library Association. I would also like to recognize the Pasco County Library Cooperative for being one of a select number of library systems across the country to receive the We the People "Created Equal" Bookshelf from the National Endowment of the Humanities.

As a former college teacher, I know that there is no greater gift you can give than the ability to read and learn. It is exciting to see that libraries in Pasco County will receive this selection of "Created Equals" themed classic books and that the Pasco County System has been named the best library in Florida. Recognition by your industry group is quite an accomplishment and something that every employee in the system should be proud to have earned this year.

With the grant of books from the National Endowment of the Humanities, Pasco County children and adults of all ages can now have their eyes opened to the limitless ideas and dreams that can be found through reading and lifelong learning. Studies have consistently shown that children exposed to reading at an early age will perform better in school and throughout life.

Madam Speaker. It is truly an honor to have such outstanding libraries and library administrators in my district. The Pasco County Library System and the Pasco County Library Cooperative are to be commended for their commitment to learning and reading, and congratulated for the honors they have received.

HONORING DR. JAMES THOMSON

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 2008*

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. James Thomson, a professor of anatomy in the University of Wisconsin's School of Medicine and Public Health, for the most recent accomplishments in his extraordinary scientific career.

Dr. Thomson is a world-renowned developmental biologist whose discoveries, in the words of Time Magazine, "have a potential that could be unlimited." Time recently named Dr. Thomson to its Top 100 list of the "World's Most Influential People." The honor is well deserved. A decade ago Dr. Thomson became the first person to isolate human embryonic stem cells and maintain them indefinitely in culture. As recognition for his discovery, he appeared on the cover of Time on August 20, 2001. Last year, in another breakthrough, Dr. Thomson developed a method for converting human skin cells to stem cells that appear to share similar properties to embryonic stem cells. At the same time, a professor at Japan's Kyoto University independently shared in the

breakthrough. Over the past decade, Dr. Thomson's work has opened new horizons in medicine and sparked new hopes for curing a vast spectrum of diseases.

Dr. Thomson's colleagues honored him last month by electing him a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences—one of America's most prestigious associations—which was founded in 1863 and charged by Abraham Lincoln with advising the country on scientific and technological issues. In this capacity he will continue to serve not only the scientific community, but the country as well.

This year, Dr. Thomson accepted an additional appointment as Director of Regenerative Biology at the Morgridge Institute for Research, the nonprofit side of the new Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery. He is the first member of the Morgridge Institute's multidisciplinary scientific leadership team and will continue his pioneering research at the Institute. In addition, Dr. Thomson is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Dr. Thomson's latest achievements are in a long line of accolades, which include his receipt of the 2003 Frank Annunzio Award from the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation, an independent Federal agency that gives the award to individuals who have improved the world through ingenuity and innovation. In 2005, Dr. Thomson was instrumental in the selection of the WiCell Research Institute—a private, nonprofit supporting organization of the University of Wisconsin-Madison—as the first National Stem Cell Bank. I was proud to join him in celebrating the announcement of that selection. As noted by the managing director of the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF), Dr. Carl Gulbrandsen, Dr. Thomson "is really the reason why UW-Madison is the center of the universe for stem cell research."

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Dr. James Thomson for his extraordinary achievements. With a long career ahead, I wish him years of continued success, and I invite the Congress to join me in applauding him for his enormous contributions to developmental biology, which will shape the world and alleviate human suffering in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE  
CRISISLINK HOTLINE

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 2008*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of dedicated individuals who volunteer their time to support CrisisLink's efforts to save lives and prevent tragedies in the 8th Congressional District and throughout the National Capital Region. Their efforts to prevent suicide are worthy of recognition.

Since 1969, CrisisLink volunteers have provided invaluable, free, confidential crisis intervention services to anyone who calls their hotline. CrisisLink has played a major role in educating the community on how to recognize signs of depression and respond to the threats

of suicide. Last year, CrisisLink volunteers donated a total of 17,000 hours of their time, answered 30,000 calls, and saved the National Capital Region approximately 4 million dollars in ambulance, police, emergency room, and treatment costs for attempted suicides.

In addition to CrisisLink's regional hotline, volunteers also service the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, NSPL—1-800-273-TALK—and 1-800-SUICIDE. For NSPL, the help of Crisis Link volunteers is crucial. Answering calls to prevent tragedies are performed by volunteers and staff at CrisisLink as well as other independent crisis centers across the country.

It is a sad fact that 56 percent of all deaths in the U.S. are due to suicide. In comparison, homicides make up only 30 percent of all deaths. While distressing, these numbers would surely be higher if not for CrisisLink's volunteers who help individuals in a time of crisis, promote stabilization, and provide resources to empower people to help themselves. With 20 percent of suicides attributed to veterans and active duty military, crisis centers are working closely with the Department of Veteran's Affairs through the NSPL to answer calls from our service members in order to save lives and prevent tragedies.

I am very grateful to CrisisLink's current and former volunteers for all they do to serve the residents of Virginia's 8th District and our region. They are available 7 days a week, 365 days a year to help people when it is most desperately needed and there is nowhere else to turn. These volunteers give their time so that others may have the gift of time—time to survive a crisis, time to heal, time to live. I laud the efforts of these dedicated volunteers and thank CrisisLink for providing such a vital service to our community.

LAMAR MEN'S BASKETBALL  
OUTSTANDING 2007-2008 SEASON

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 2008*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, during the 1970's and 80s the Lamar University Cardinals dominated Southland Conference basketball, at one point putting together 80 straight home wins, which is still the 7th longest home winning streak in NCAA history.

Lamar men's basketball continued this winning tradition with an outstanding 2007-2008 season. Led by first team all-conference performers Kenny Dawkins and Lamar Sanders, and All-Conference Honorable mention Darren Hopkins, Lamar Men's Basketball team and their coach Steve Roccoforte posted a 19-11 record. Earning its 12th conference title and first since the 1982-83 season. Coach Roccoforte guided the Cardinals to the title in only his second year at the helm, which ties him with legendary Lamar coach Billy Tubbs as fastest to conference championship in school history.

The effort and resilience shown by the Lamar Men's Basketball team and staff has been nothing short of tremendous. In a season that did not start as planned, the Cardinals never gave in. Lamar started the season with a disappointing 1-5 record; however, the self-confident Cardinals turned their season around. Coach Roccoforte said the turning

point in their season was a narrow two point loss to Big 12 conference power Texas Tech. With renewed confidence the Cardinals went on a tear winning 13 out of their next 14 games, propelling them to the regular season conference title.

On behalf of the entire Second Congressional District of Texas I would like to commend Lamar University Men's Basketball team hard fought season and congratulate them on a well deserved Conference Title.

And that's just the way it is.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

##### HON. JIM McCRERY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 2008*

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

Requesting Member: Congressman JIM McCRERY (LA-04).

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, FY2009 National Defense Authorization Act.

Account: Research and Development, Air Force.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Distributed Infinity, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1382 Quartz Mountain Drive, Larkspur, CO 80118.

Description of Request: This \$3M authorization authorizes appropriations for continued research and development of the Cybercraft initiative, a cyber security utility that will ensure secure communications between warfighters over computer networks. Research is presently underway on Cybercraft at the Air Force Research Laboratory, Rome NY. Project is supported by the Air Force Cyberspace Command (P), Barksdale Air Force Base, Bossier City, LA.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

##### HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 2008*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Bill Number: H.R. 5658: Army, RDT&E, Line 177, PE #0305208A (Distributed Common Ground/Surface Systems).

Legal name and address of entity receiving earmark: Battle Command Battle Lab, Mr. Jason Denno, Deputy Director, Fort Huachuca, AZ 85613.

Description of how the money will be spent and why the use of federal taxpayer funding is justified: The Constant Look system is a prototype biometric sensing capability developed for the U.S. Army to support MOUT (military operations in urbanized terrain). Its unique stand-off capability gives users an ability to support surveillance and special operations remotely. User comments from several demonstration tests included requests for enhancements to improve usability and extend the capability of the system in terms of what can be collected. The Constant Look Operational Support Environment (CLOSE) will provide that additional functionality by leveraging several proven off-the-shelf technologies—a stand-off digital col-

lection system and additional digital signal processing (DSP) to extract other types of biometric signatures.

The U.S. Army's ISR Battle Command Battle Lab at Fort Huachuca (BCBL-H)—responding to user requests—has developed and tested a stand-off biometric sensor system that allows traditional and special operations units to conduct surveillance and identify potential hostiles from a safe distance with a low probability of detection. To date, the majority of the effort on Constant Look has focused on the core collection system technology and the user interface has not kept pace with available commercial technology. CLOSE will remedy that by leveraging millions of dollars in commercial investment and integrating that investment into the Constant Look baseline.

CLOSE will provide CL users with a rapid capability to collect and model surveillance target facilities, including ingress and egress, from the same stand-off range as the CL collection system itself. Secondly, it will extend the DSP capability resident within the CL baseline to extract other types of Indications and Warning (I&W) data.

Description of matching funds: Not applicable.

Authorized Amount: \$4,000,000.

Project Name: Constant Look Operational Support Environment (CLOSE).

Funding Source: Army, RDT&E, Line 177, PE #0305208A (Distributed Common Ground/Surface Systems).

Detailed Financial Plan for Earmark: \$200,000, System Engineering; \$500,000, Immersive Camera System; \$900,000, Interior Tactical Blue Force Tracking, Sense-Thru-The-Wall Radar; \$1,500,000, Improvements; \$650,000, Biometric Databasing; \$250,000, Training, Testing, Delivery. Total: \$4,000,000.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

##### HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 2008*

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I am submitting the following earmark disclosure and certification information for two project authorization requests that I made and which were included within the text of H.R. 5658, the "Duncan Hunter Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009."

Requesting Member: Congressman KEVIN MCCARTHY.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Military Construction, Air Force.

Project Amount: \$6,000,000.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Edwards Air Force Base.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1 S. Rosamond Blvd., Edwards AFB, CA, USA.

Description of Request: This funding would complete construction of the main base runway at Edwards Air Force Base, CA. The funding will be used to complete paved shoulders on the runway and account for extra costs in the overall runway replacement project from items such as the stabilization of over 41,000 cubic yards of both unsuitable and unstable soil.

The main base runway, which supports almost every flight operation at Edwards Air

Force Base, as well as space shuttle landings when necessary, is over 50 years old and is rapidly degrading as a result of Alkali-Silica Reaction (ASR), a reaction between the cement and the aggregate that creates map cracking, scaling and spalling of the concrete. Emergency Foreign Object Damage (FOD) repairs have forced runway closures affecting 10 to 15 flights for each closure. No other runways at Edwards AFB can safely support the current and projected test operations without significant test mission delays, and temporary relocation of these missions is not feasible; however, many of the current and planned test missions can be supported by a temporary runway.

This project was programmed by the Air Force in 2003 for FY06, and was incrementally funded over 3 years (FY06, FY07 and FY08). After the project was programmed, the cost of construction materials escalated dramatically, eliminating all management reserve and resulting in a reduction in the planned scope of the project. Providing the final \$6,000,000 in FY09 will complete the project as originally scoped, avoid contractor demobilization and remobilization, and avoid reconstitution of the temporary runway to support this work, saving the government over \$4,000,000 in cost avoidance on the temporary runway alone.

Requesting Member: Congressman KEVIN MCCARTHY.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Research Development Test and Evaluation, Air Force.

Project Amount: \$3,000,000.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Aerojet-General Corporation.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 13222, Sacramento, CA 95813-6000, USA

Description of Request: This funding authorization will be used to return the Hydrocarbon Boost Technology Demonstrator program to its initial programmed funding level. This critical, next-generation liquid rocket engine development effort run by the Air Force Research Laboratory at Edwards Air Force Base will not only provide the highest performing hydrocarbon engines ever developed in the United States, but also will provide higher operability, lower costs and greater safety with higher reliability than any liquid booster engine ever made in the U.S. and perhaps the world. A match is not required for defense research projects, but I was informed that during the past eight years, Aerojet has invested approximately \$30 million in internal research and development funding on this technology and intends continued support in FY09.

#### FORMAL DECLARATION

##### HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 2008*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman HAROLD ROGERS.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: MILCON, Army National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Kentucky Department of Military Affairs.

Address of Requesting Entity: Boone National Guard Center, 100 Minuteman Parkway, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.