

environmental monitoring & remediation systems.

The ONAMI Safer Nanomaterials and Safer Nanomanufacturing Initiative cost share includes: state funding of approximately \$2.23 million for research activities; private funding of over \$2 million (cash and in-kind) from Hewlett-Packard, Invitrogen, FEI, and companies involved in related research efforts; and peer-reviewed federal awards and competitive awards from foundations, including the Keck Foundation, worth several million dollars.

HONORING STORK MEDICAL AND COMMUNITY BLOOD SERVICES

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, as the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces protect our freedom and liberty, it is my belief that the rest of us have a responsibility to show our support for their sacrifices in spirit and in deed. With this in mind, I acknowledge and thank Stork Medical and Community Blood Services in Columbus, GA, for their generous gift to our military.

Attempting to make cord blood stem cell storage affordable to all of our soldiers is praiseworthy. I share their hope, prayer and expectation that the cord blood stem cells saved from a soldier's newborn will one day serve to repair the wounds a soldier has sustained in battle. I know that these stem cells will immediately add a layer of protection for a soldier's family given their proven ability to fight leukemia, cancer and many other diseases. It is indeed ironic that a soldier's helpless newborn may offer the ultimate protection of a soldier's family. This innovative and selfless program designed by Stork Medical and enthusiastically supported by Community Blood Services is a wonderful example of private enterprise sharing the burden of our troops and not spending a single tax dollar.

This innovative program offers our wounded heroes the hope of future medical miracles that may one day restore what was taken from them by bullets and bombs. It also offers peace of mind for young families that an added layer of protection is now available. Stork Medical's program in Georgia's third Congressional District is a shining example of how soldier and civilian alike can stand shoulder to shoulder in defense of our country.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, In accordance with the earmark standards of the House of Representatives, I am submitting the following financial statements for each of my requested projects funded in H.R. 5658, the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2009.

Project Name: LPD-17.

Requesting Member: Representative THELMA DRAKE.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Department of the Navy.

Address of Requesting Entity: Multiple Locations.

Description of Request: To increase the President's Budget for the LPD by \$1,800,000,000. In 2007 Congressional testimony, USMC leaders testified that a force 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.

HEROES EARNINGS ASSISTANCE AND RELIEF TAX ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6081, the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax (HEART) Act and to commend Speaker PELOSI and Chairman RANGEL for their perseverance in getting this important bill to the President's desk.

H.R. 6081 includes vital tax provisions that help military families facing significant financial hardships due to extended deployments. According to a Department of Defense survey, 55 percent of married National Guardsmen and Reservists suffer a loss of income when they are called to active duty. The Heart Act helps to fix this problem by providing a tax credit of up to \$4,000 for small businesses that continue to pay National Guard and Reserve employees when they are called to serve.

This important bill makes permanent several IRS provisions that relieve economic hardships as a result of military service including the Earned Income Tax Credit for families of soldiers in combat. H.R. 6081 also allows more military families to be eligible for the economic stimulus rebates and makes it easier for veterans to become homeowners through low-interest loans.

The Heart Act is fully offset and will not increase our national debt. It pays for these tax breaks by closing an offshore loophole that allows government contractors, who receive millions or billions in taxpayers' dollars, to set up companies in foreign countries to avoid paying Social Security and Medicare taxes. For example, defense contractor KBR, has reportedly avoided paying over \$100 million in Social Security and Medicare taxes by creating