

Today, more than 47 million Americans, including 9 million children, lack health insurance. Last year, nearly two-thirds of U.S. adults struggled to pay medical bills, went without needed care because of costs, or were uninsured. Nearly 9 million people have lost their health insurance since 2000. This is unacceptable. In fact, in the richest nation in the world, it's absolutely shameful.

Countless Americans lay awake at night trying to figure out how they will pay mounting medical bills, whether they should go to the doctor for that recurring pain, or wondering if their health insurance will actually cover tests their doctor recommended. With soaring gas and food prices, working families across the United States are forced to make tough financial choices, often sacrificing needed health care and health insurance.

It is reality for Laura T. whose son Christopher was diagnosed with Burkitt's lymphoma in 2003. Though this family had insurance, the insurer refused to cover the treatments proven to help Christopher. No mother should ever have to fight with an insurance company for the life of her child, but that's exactly what this brave woman did. Laura fought these insurance companies and won. Because he received the appropriate treatments, Christopher is alive today. However, months of fighting for her child's life took a tremendous toll on her family. Laura and her three children lost their home. Her credit is ruined. Unfortunately, Laura and her family are not alone. Even more unfortunate is the fact that these families don't always win. Families across America are dealing with these situations every day.

While there are several issues that we disagree on, I am confident that we can all agree that no parent should have to fight for the medical treatment necessary for her child's survival. No family should have to forego needed health care because of money. Health care should not be a privilege to be reserved for the wealthy few. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come together and fix our Nation's broken health care system.

ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the AMT Relief Act of 2008 and urge my colleagues to do the same.

While I would prefer to eliminate the AMT entirely—and pay for it when we do—the fact of the matter is that failing to act on this legislation would subject over twenty-five million families—including nearly 335,000 in my congressional district—to an additional tax burden they were never intended to bear. Moreover, having recently visited with IRS Commissioner Shulman, there is no question that the IRS is better able to do its job and the taxpayers are best served when Congress completes its tax-related work in a timely fashion.

I am especially pleased that H.R. 7005 also includes legislation I introduced on a bipartisan basis with Congressmen RICHARD NEAL (D-MA), SAM JOHNSON (R-TX) and JIM RAMSTAD (R-MN) to correct the equally unin-

tended and all too frequently devastating treatment of incentive stock options under the Alternative Minimum tax. The AMT Credit Fairness and Relief Act will end the ISO AMT crisis once and for all by allowing affected taxpayers to claim the entirety of their unused credits over the next two years and abating all penalties and interest arising from this particularly egregious part of the code.

Madam Speaker, the AMT Relief Act of 2008 is vital middle class tax relief designed to correct several widely acknowledged defects in our tax law. I look forward to its passage and encourage its prompt consideration in the Senate so that it can be signed by the President without delay.

HONORING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF JED AND JOYCE ROBERTSON

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize two of my constituents, Jed and Joyce Robertson, who this Sunday will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Jed Robertson moved to Omaha in 1958 after attending trade school. Joyce followed him, and that same year they married and moved to Valley as newlyweds.

Jed and Joyce represent the hardworking stability of good Midwesterners. The same year they were married they hosted their first Thanksgiving dinner for their extended family. Jed and Joyce have continued that tradition by hosting Thanksgiving dinner every year since, and this November they will follow their 50th wedding anniversary with their 50th Thanksgiving dinner.

In their years together, Jed and Joyce raised two children, Kim and Kirk, and are blessed with four grandchildren: Meghan, Matt, Jeremy and JC.

Today I want to honor this great accomplishment that represents not only their love together but the values of Nebraska I'm proud to represent in Congress.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster, and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009.

1. Requesting Member: Congressman HOWARD COBLE.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation (RDTE), Air Force.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: RF Micro Devices (RFMD).

Address of Requesting Entity: 7628 Thorn-dike Road, Greensboro, NC 27409-9421.

Description of Request: Original request for additional funding of \$3 million for Air Force RDT&E account for Gallium Nitride, GaN, Microelectronics & Materials research and development. Gallium Nitride-based microelectronics is the next generation of semiconductor technology and is of critical importance to the development of many advanced defense systems. RFMD Aerospace and Defense Business Unit will be the recipient of the funding and use the funds to accelerate development and adoption of RFMD GaN technology. RFMD originally budgeted \$18 million over 3 years to complete this research project; RFMD will invest far more of its own money in Gallium Nitride-related research than it is seeking from the Federal Government—investing more than \$100 million on the research and development of Gallium Nitride technology, and is continuing to invest.

2. Requesting Member: Congressman HOWARD COBLE.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation (RDTE), Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: RF Micro Devices (RFMD).

Address of Requesting Entity: 7628 Thorn-dike Road, Greensboro, NC 27409-9421.

Description of Request: Original request for additional funding of \$3 million for Navy RDT&E account for Gallium Nitride, GaN, Microelectronics & Materials research and development. Gallium Nitride-based microelectronics is the next generation of semiconductor technology and is of critical importance to the development of many advanced defense systems. RFMD Aerospace and Defense Business Unit will be the recipient of the funding and use the funds to accelerate development and adoption of RFMD GaN technology. RFMD originally budgeted \$18 million over 3 years to complete this research project; RFMD will invest far more of its own money in Gallium Nitride-related research than it is seeking from the Federal Government—investing more than \$100 million on the research and development of Gallium Nitride technology, and is continuing to invest.

3. Requesting Member: Congressman HOWARD COBLE.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation (RDTE), Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 5440 Millstream Road, McLeansville, NC 27301.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$1,600,000 to support the Autonomous Anti-Submarine Vertical Beam Array developed by General Dynamics Information Systems, Inc. These funds will be used to develop a vertical acoustic array small enough to launch from a nuclear guided missile submarine, SSGN, that will operate for 3 months as an antisubmarine warfare, ASW, detection system and transmit data over a secure radio frequency data link. Specifically, \$514,000 is for design and development labor; \$185,000 is for materials; \$4,000 is for ODC and travel; \$55,000 is for the subcontract; \$726,000 is for manufacturing; and \$116,000 is for program management. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Navy's RDTE account.

4. Requesting Member: Congressman HOWARD COBLE.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation (RDTE), Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: PPG Industries, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 43245 Rosanna Drive, Allison Park, PA 15101.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$1,600,000 for Phase 2 of an Advanced Composite Armor for Force Protection project being conducted with the Army Research Lab (ARL). Approximately 70 percent of this funding is for advanced materials research, development and process optimization; 15 percent is for ballistic testing and 15 percent is for integration of these advanced materials into armor solutions. Work performed with ARL discovered novel, high performance polyurethane plastics which exhibit extraordinary weatherability and energy dissipation properties. Combined with new fiberglass technologies, these materials form the foundation of an advanced ballistic system. This composite solution can be further optimized to meet evolving threat levels and other application specific requirements. The research objectives will be to develop advanced composite ballistic panel solutions that incorporate these new technologies in three phases. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized mission of the Army Research Labs. This is the second of three years of funding that will be needed to complete the study.

5. Requesting Member: Congressman HOWARD COBLE.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Research Development Test & Evaluation (RDTE), Air Force.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The Timken Company.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1835 Dueber Avenue, Canton, OH 44706.

Description of Request: Provide \$1,600,000 for Timken's Hybrid Bearing project. Specifically, funds will be used to develop a high speed bearing for aerospace applications that will provide exceptional hot hardness, exceptional fatigue life, exceptional wear resistance, and exceptional fracture toughness. Defense applications would include the JSF main shaft bearing application, as well as other weapons platforms or devices requiring high speed bearings. Furthermore, this project will review various corrosion resistant steel, including CSS-42L, for use in the bearing, as well as the introduction of new ball and retainer materials in the final bearing design (such as silicon nitride balls, and a light weight carbon-carbon composite material for the retainer material). The hybrid bearing technology, which includes a variety of material and coating technologies, is being incorporated into the Joint Strike Fighter engine, and other platforms. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Air Force's RDTE account.

6. Requesting Member: Congressman HOWARD COBLE.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Research Development Test & Evaluation (RDTE), Navy (Marine Corps).

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Energizer Battery Manufacturing, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 25225 Detroit Road, Westlake OH 44145.

Description of Request: Provide \$2,500,000 for the continued development (Phase II) of a high-rate capability, air electrode for a zinc air

battery system. The objective is to increase the rate capability by an additional 65 percent so as to support the high power requirements for equipment used in military and commercial applications. The subject zinc-air battery will provide the same energy and power of the incumbent battery (lithium-sulfur dioxide) for about half the weight and in a 60 percent smaller package. Approximately \$1,575,000, or 63 percent, is for labor; and \$925,000, or 37 percent, is for materials and other allowable indirect costs.

On average, a U.S. soldier consumes the equivalent of 1 AA battery per hour in combat, and an infantry platoon, for a 3-day mission, will require approximately 2,500 batteries, weighing a total of almost 400 lbs. Carrying this added weight induces fatigue and ultimately limits their effectiveness and ability to carry out their missions. Thus, with our heavily armed and battery-laden troops increasingly confronting light and irregular forces, issues of battery weight and equipment reliability are more important than ever. The total project cost is expected to be approximately \$14,000,000. Energizer will provide the balance of this funding and will continue to devote tens of millions of private R&D dollars to support the continued development of this technology for high power military and commercial applications.

BREAST CANCER

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act, and I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important bill. In New Jersey, 132 of every 100,000 of our mothers, daughters, and grandmothers were diagnosed with breast cancer between 2000 and 2004. It is difficult to find a person who doesn't know someone who is affected by it.

Despite the prevailing medical standard of two to four days to recuperate and gain physical and emotional strength after breast cancer surgeries, "drive-by mastectomies" increasingly have become the norm. Women have been regularly faced with being sent home from the hospital a few hours after surgery by HMOs that refuse to pay for longer stays.

This bill would guarantee a minimum hospital stay of 48 hours for a woman having a mastectomy, and 24 hours for a woman undergoing a lymph node removal. Importantly, this bill will ensure that any decision to have a shorter hospital stay will be made by the patient and her doctor—not an insurance company more concerned with the bottom line than the health of the patient.

Forcing women to leave the hospital too soon after surgery is dangerous and demeaning. This bill will provide breast cancer patients undergoing one of the most physically and emotionally traumatic experiences of their lives, the care and dignity they deserve. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I hope the Senate acts quickly to get this bill to the President's desk.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE BUD CRAMER AND THE HONORABLE TERRY EVERETT ON THEIR RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request to include the accompanying article in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to supplement my remarks which were entered during the Special Order in honor of two Members of the Alabama delegation who are retiring.

[From the Dothan Magazine, March/April 2008]

MAN OF THE HOUSE—CONGRESSMAN TERRY EVERETT, DOTHAN'S VOICE IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EARNED RESPECT FROM ALL SIDES AS AN HONORABLE LEGISLATOR DURING HIS SIXTEEN YEARS IN WASHINGTON, DC. NOW HE'S COMING HOME

(By Ann Varnum)

Congressman Terry Everett recently shared a laugh with the audience at a luncheon for the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce. Back in 1992 when he started his campaign for Congress, the polls indicated that he only had four-percent name recognition throughout Southeast Alabama. That fact was made no less comforting by his lovely wife, Barbara, who was quick to point out that the poll had a plus or minus accuracy rating of four percent, so Terry's true name recognition actually fell within the margin of error.

Of course, that was sixteen years ago, and all of that has radically changed. Terry Everett has become one of the most respected congressmen on Capitol Hill. One of the reasons for this is his innate ability to reach across the aisle and make friends even though the opposite side most certainly had completely different viewpoints from his own. He has earned the greatest respect from Republicans and Democrats alike.

During his almost sixteen years in Congress to date, Representative Everett has been known as an honest legislator and true gentleman. Reading through transcripts of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces hearing from May of 2007, it is quite evident how much Congressman Everett is respected by his colleagues.

California Democrat Representative Ellen Tauscher, the chairwoman of the subcommittee, opened the legislative hearing by referring to Everett's prior service: "I'd like to begin by saying it has been an absolute pleasure crafting this mark with my friend, Mr. Everett . . . He has been both cooperative and straightforward. Thank you very sincerely, Mr. Everett."

In 2001, when Representative Joseph Moakley, a Democrat from Massachusetts, died, a special memorial was held in the House Chambers. Democrat Representative Richard Neal, also from Massachusetts, remarked that Moakley was "... an old school Democrat. But do you know who he liked to have dinner with? This is going to kill them in Alabama when they find this out, the voters down there—Sonny Callahan, Terry Everett—that was the group he assembled with after hours. He enjoyed their company socially and loved their stories about Alabama and how they had come to Washington."

There is no doubt that Everett had a gift of making friends out of even total political opponents. He never wavered from his ideals