

for. These cards use hidden fees so creative and outlandish that they would almost be funny if they weren't so awful, and the practice must stop.

The legislation before us today goes a long way toward solving this problem. It would require calling cards to clearly present what services they offer and any additional fees associated with the card. Most importantly, if someone buys a card that says it's good for 250 minutes, they will receive those 250 minutes. Consumers deserve to get what they paid for.

While I support H.R. 3402, I do want to express my concern with a couple of provisions in the bill, especially those that involve State standards and enforcement. Many States and the Federal Trade Commission, FTC, already have tools to address the many abuses related to the sale of prepaid calling cards. As we heard from the FTC Commissioner in our hearing, those States are at the forefront of cracking down on deceptive practices. Therefore, we need to be very careful about preempting States from setting or enforcing standards related to the cards.

I believe that the disclosure preemption provision in H.R. 3402 should set a floor, not a ceiling, and allow those States that want to enact stricter disclosure standards to do so. Illinois is on the forefront of policing calling cards, and our State law mandates strong disclosures that should not be preempted with weaker ones. I also hope that the FTC will solicit input from the States as they work to establish minimum standards.

Finally, I also believe that retailers should be held responsible for selling cards that do not meet the Federal and State standards. Illinois State law requires retailers to obtain a proof that the underlying carrier is certified, with the underlying carrier and all resellers responsible for ensuring that the required disclosures are made. This is not a burdensome step for retailers to ensure that the product they sell is in compliance with the law, and this is a commonsense provision that should be included in H.R. 3402 as well.

I look forward to working with Rep. ENGEL, my colleagues on Committee, and my friends on the Senate Commerce Committee to improve this bill and to see it enacted into law.

FILIPINO VETERANS EQUITY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the 18,000 surviving Filipino Veterans of World War II who have yet to receive the benefits and recognition for their service to this country that was promised to them many years ago.

As my colleagues know, Filipino soldiers were an essential part of United States military operations during World War II. These brave men fought alongside our American soldiers under the command of General Douglas MacArthur.

In return for their heroic efforts, our Government promised these Filipino soldiers that they would receive full veteran status and the ben-

efits awarded to their American compatriots in recognition of their sacrifices.

However, to date, over 60 years later, we have not kept this promise. This is shameful.

200,000 Filipinos fought alongside American soldiers in World War II. Today, only 18,000 of these Filipino veterans are still living. It is imperative that we act to provide these surviving veterans with the benefits we promised them and the respect that they deserve.

I will vote for H.R. 6897 because it begins to address this misguided policy by the U.S. Government by providing a one-time payment to surviving Filipino veterans—\$15,000 for U.S. citizens and \$9,000 for those veterans who have remained citizens of the Philippines.

However, the benefit provided in H.R. 6897 is only a small fraction of what we owe these veterans. I am disappointed that this legislation does not go as far as the Senate-passed provisions in S. 1315, which would give Filipino WWII veterans full veteran status and all the benefits that go along with that designation. Full veteran status is not only important because of the benefits received, but also because of the honor that the designation affords.

Nonetheless, I believe that it is important that the House pass this legislation which at long last will give formal congressional recognition to contributions and sacrifices of these soldiers.

Despite my belief that we should do more, I urge my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 6897. It is imperative that we pass this legislation as soon as possible to move the process forward with the goal of keeping our word to these brave soldiers.

DEMOCRACY RESTORATION ACT OF 2008

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Democracy Restoration Act of 2008. This legislation will serve to clarify and expand voting rights as well as assist former felons with their reintegration into our democracy.

The Sentencing Project reports that, since 1997, 19 States have amended felony disenfranchisement policies in an effort to reduce their restrictiveness and expand voter eligibility. These reforms have resulted in more than 760,000 citizens regaining their voting rights. Yet, despite these reforms, an estimated 5 million people will continue to be ineligible to vote in November's Presidential election, including nearly 4 million who reside in the 35 States that still prohibit some combination of persons on probation, parole, and/or people who have completed their sentence from voting.

I believe that such prohibitions on the right to vote undermine both the voting system and the fundamental rights of ex-offenders. In the past two election cycles, flawed voter purges have deprived legitimate voters of their rights. Moreover, in Ohio, an erroneous interpretation of State law by the Secretary of State deprived thousands of ex-felons of even the right to register. Only Federal law can conclusively resolve the ambiguities in this area plaguing our voting system.

Earlier this year, President Bush signed the Second Chance Act into law, signaling a greater awareness of the need to implement policies to aid the reintegration of our ex-felon community. This legislation is the next step in restoring the ex-felon community to full citizenship. Denying voting rights to ex-offenders denies them the opportunity to fully participate and contribute to their society. Disenfranchisement laws isolate and alienate ex-offenders and serve as one more obstacle in their attempt to successfully reintegrate into society.

The legislation is a narrowly crafted effort to expand voting rights for ex-felons while protecting State prerogatives to generally establish voting qualifications. The legislation would only apply to persons who have been released from prison, and it would only apply to Federal elections. As such, our bill is fully consistent with constitutional requirements established by the Supreme Court in a series of decisions upholding Federal voting rights laws.

In past Congresses, voting restoration legislation has been supported by a broad coalition of groups interested in voting and civil rights, including the NAACP, ACLU, the National Council of Churches (National and Washington Office), the National Urban League, the Human Rights Watch, and the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, among many others.

The practice of many States denying voting rights to former felons represents a vestige from a time when suffrage was denied to whole classes of our population based on race, gender, religion, national origin, and property. I believe that we fail not only ex-offenders by denying them the right to vote, but the rest of a society that has struggled throughout its history to be legitimate and inclusive.

Just like poll taxes and literacy tests prevented an entire class of citizens, namely African Americans, from integrating into society after centuries of slavery, felon disenfranchisement laws prevent ex-offenders from reintegrating into society after retribution. It is long past time that these restrictions be relegated to unenlightened history.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. 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 Fiscal Year 2009 Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act.

Requesting Member: Representative LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART (FL-21).

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Army, RDT&E.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Lehman Injury Research Center (Ryder Trauma Center).

Address of Requesting Entity: 1800 NW 10th Avenue, Miami, FL 33136.

Description of Request: The funding would be used for the Army Trauma Training Center (ATTC) at the Ryder Trauma Center situated

in the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Medical Center. The ATTC has functioned as the national training center for U.S. Army Forward Surgical Teams (FSTs) since 2001. Monthly, the ATTC conducts a 14-day training program for deploying FSTs in order to improve clinical skills and teamwork. The resources of the Ryder Trauma Center and the William Lehman Injury Research Center present a unique opportunity to develop and evaluate new and innovative diagnostic and treatment tools and point-of-care information systems to maximize the care of injured soldiers. The Ryder Trauma Center is developing diagnostics and devices to enhance the capability of first responders to effectively treat casualties as close to the geographic location and time of the injury as possible. Since January 2001, the Army Trauma Training Center, in conjunction with the Ryder Trauma Center, has trained over 25 forward surgical teams and more than 650 Army personnel in active duty and reserve components—two-thirds of all forward surgical teams in the U.S. Army—supporting over 75,000 combat troops.

BUDGET PLAN

Lehman Injury Research Center (Ryder Trauma Center) will likely receive \$5 million in CR/FY 2009 DOD.

SALARIES

Faculty, \$419,195.00; Staff, \$1,349,209.00.
Total Salaries (includes fringe benefits), \$1,769,194.00.

Telemedicine equipment, \$300,000.00.
Minor other equipment, \$70,000.00.
Software licenses, \$120,000.00.
Programming consultants, \$500,000.00.
Minor supplies, \$387,000.00.
Total equipment, \$1,377,000.00.
Grand total, \$3,146,194.00.
Indirect costs, \$853,806.00.
TATRC 20 percent, \$1,000,000.00.
Total Award, \$5,000,000.00.

Requesting Member: Representative LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART (FL-21).

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Army, RDT&E.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Heavy Fuel Burning Engines for UAVs (Locust USA, Inc.).

Address of Requesting Entity: 8312 NW 74th Avenue, Miami, FL 33166.

Description of Request: The funding will be used to accelerate development of very small engines (Microturbines) to meet present requirements at the Department of Defense. During the past 18 months Locust USA has made significant advancements in the design of the product, and bringing to test the smallest turbine engine (5 horsepower). A version of this engine was selected in September 2006 to power the Army's FCS (Future Combat System) Class I UAV. The DOD is currently in the process of purchasing nearly 500 MAVs (Micro Air Vehicles) for special missions; all are powered by a gasoline engine instead of the heavy fuel requirements that would be preferred under this project.

BUDGET PLAN

\$800,000 of the FY 09 funds are to be used to refine performance and durability of prototype heavy fuel propulsion systems in the 40 to 70 horsepower class.

\$1,200,000 will be used for the power range of 5 to 10 horsepower engines, to include the original heavy fuel system that was to power the MAV (Micro Air Vehicle).

Specifically, improvements in component efficiency which will lead to improvements in basic performance (horsepower, fuel consumption, and internal electrical power generation) as well as durability of bearings, improved castings of critical parts that operate at speeds as high as 230,000 RPM.

Requesting Member: Representative LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART (FL-21).

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Army, RDT&E.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Medium-Sized Unmanned Ground Vehicles Platform (Phoenix Worldwide Industries).

Address of Requesting Entity: 10780 SW 190th Street, Miami, FL 33351.

Description of Request: The funding will be used to develop and implement smaller, lightweight command platforms with reduced power requirements for biological, video and systematic sensors to be installed to function with medium-sized Unmanned Ground Vehicles. Phoenix Worldwide mobile command platforms would be fitted onto military vehicles. This effort would be overseen and directed by the Robotic and Joint Center for Unmanned Ground Vehicles at TARDEC, the attending agency.

Unmanned Ground Vehicles and Robotics are of high importance to our warfighters. The U.S. military is currently using numerous types and designs of these UGVs overseas. The U.S. military will continue to develop newer UGVs and mobile command platforms whose technologies will reduce exposure in hazardous situations and at the same time gather information and intelligence. For this reason, the U.S. Army created the Future Combat System directive to increase situational awareness while reducing human exposure for our ground troops.

BUDGET PLAN—BUDGET PROPOSAL, UNCLASSIFIED

Appropriation—Phoenix Worldwide Industries.

Platform: DoD or Military Spec. The design platform will be one that can be air lifted and/or driven.

Materials: Much of the technology that will be incorporated in the working prototype developed for the Mobile Command and Control Platform will be Commercial, off-the-shelf products (COTS).

We will use and intergrate current DoD or Military Spec sensors which will be listed as Government Furnished Equipment (GFE) as per instructions.

Platform Costs—structure reinforcing, balancing weight distribution, etc., electrical adaptations, shelter. \$150,000.00.

Vehicle Transportation, \$12,000.00.

Labor Costs—mechanical engineering, software engineering, design engineering, project management, trade labor. \$750,000.00.

COTS Material Cost, \$913,000.00.

GFE Adaptations, \$50,000.00.

Contract Costs—NASEA and TARDEC, \$125,000.00.

Schedule: 2009.

HONORING ERNEST CHARLES
JAMES TARTER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ernest Charles James

Tarter of Blue Springs, Missouri. Ernest is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1282, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ernest has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Ernest has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ernest Charles James Tarter for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING CODY JAMES FRIZZELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cody James Frizzell of Kansas City, Missouri. Cody is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1354, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cody has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Cody has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Cody James Frizzell for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING TYLER ANDREW GRAEF

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tyler Andrew Graef of Blue Springs, Missouri. Tyler is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1362, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tyler has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Tyler has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tyler Andrew Graef for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.