

throughout Sonoma County, created a study abroad program for SRJC students, and developed an educational telecommunications program at the college.

Throughout his career, Dean Olson has been an active participant in many professional associations, serving as Vice President of the California Agricultural Teachers Association, CATA, President of the North Coast CATA, founding Chairman of the State Advisory Committee on Vocational Agricultural Education, a member of the California Joint Policy Council on Higher Education in Agriculture, President of the California Agricultural Leadership Associates, and co-chair of the Northern California Advocates for Global Education. His involvement in his community has also extended to numerous non-profit organizations including the Sonoma County Farm Bureau, the Sonoma County 4-H Foundation, Chair of the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa Foundation, and Director of the Sonoma County Harvest Fair among others.

Over the years, Dean Olson has been recognized for his many accomplishments with such honors as the Friend of 4-H Award, the Rotarian of the Year Award for Northern California, the Friend of Sonoma County Agriculture Award and the Harold D. Bostock Lifetime of Service Rotary Award.

Madam Speaker, Dean Olson has had a long and distinguished career where he has been a model for his community and his profession. He plans to spend his retirement years with his wife, Elaine, and their 6 grandchildren pursuing their many hobbies. It is appropriate at this time that we honor Dean Olson for his many accomplishments and wish him well in his retirement.

#### CONGRATULATING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2008 CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION LEGACY AWARDS

#### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the recipients of the 2008 Chester County Community Foundation Legacy Awards.

The Foundation annually recognizes members of the community who embody its mission of making Chester County, Pennsylvania a vibrant place to live, work and raise a family.

The following awards will be presented to those who have exhibited exceptional charitable commitment and dedicated community involvement:

Carol Ware Gates, Ph.D. of Christiana will receive the Jordan Award for Lifelong Philanthropy; Peg Anderson of Coatesville will receive the Thanks For Caring Award for community involvement; Herr Foods of Nottingham will receive the Corporate Social Investment Award; John A. Featherman, III, Esq. of West Chester will receive the Door Opener Award for introducing prospective endowment fund donors to the Community Foundation; and the West Chester University Relay for Life Student Committee will receive the Youth Philanthropy Award.

The Community Foundation will honor the contributions these recipients have made to

the community during the Annual Meeting and Legacy Awards Ceremony, Tuesday, October 14, 2008, in Philips Auditorium on the campus of West Chester University.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting all of the recipients for these well-deserved awards and commending them for giving so much of themselves while serving others and building a better Chester County.

#### INTRODUCTION TO H.O.P.E.

#### HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of my bill, the H.O.P.E. resolution of 2008: Honoring Organizers for Promoting Equality.

In every community across our Nation, the contributions of community organizers are woven into the fabric of our history. They have worked to ignite movements such as the Underground Railroad, farm laborers' rights, civil rights, and women's suffrage. Today, community organizers in my own city of Chicago fight for improved housing, adult literacy initiatives, equal access to quality healthcare, and fair and just immigration laws.

As citizens of the United States—a country founded on the principles of freedom and justice—we should not discredit the serious and historic responsibilities of community organizers. I believe that there is no greater responsibility than standing up to injustice.

The men and women who followed in the footsteps of César Chávez and were committed to speak out for the voiceless, who saw the work of Jane Addams and decided to champion an unpopular cause, or who heard the words of Dr. Martin Luther King and chose to stand firm against the status quo—these men and women know where true power lies. In educating and encouraging others to reject injustice and to demand change, organizers create better communities and a better country for us all.

Madam Speaker, let me conclude with these words from Thomas Jefferson: "Enlighten the people, generally, and tyranny and oppressions of body and mind will vanish like spirits at the dawn of day." Community organizers play an integral role in empowering people of every faith, gender, race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation, and their efforts are worthy of more than a punch line.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

#### HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

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

Requesting Member: Congressman BRIAN BILBRAY.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638, Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

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, I secured \$2.4 million for the Infectious & Inflammatory Disease Center (IIDC) at the Burnham Institute for Medical Research, which 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.

#### TRIBUTE TO PETER AND BETSY LOWE FOR RECEIVING THE 2008 ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION AWARD

##### HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Mr. CRAMER. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to congratulate my friends, Mr. and Mrs. Peter L. Lowe, Sr. of Huntsville, Alabama, for receiving the 2008 Arthritis Foundation Humanitarian Award. This award is given annually to the person or persons in the Huntsville community who displays

exemplary community leadership. The Lowes are distinguished community advocates and civic volunteers who have given countless hours to numerous community and state-wide organizations and boards.

Peter and Betsy Lowe have led efforts to nurture the cultural development of our region. Together they serve as co-Chairs of the Huntsville Museum of Art's "Masterpiece in the Making" Capital Campaign which is currently raising \$11 million for improvements to the museum's existing facilities and an endowment for the museum's long-term financial stability. In addition to her service to the Huntsville Museum of Art, Betsy has volunteered as a board member at the Huntsville Hospital Foundation, the University of Alabama Huntsville Foundation, the Alabama Heritage Foundation and many other distinguished organizations.

Peter Lowe serves as the president of GW Jones & Sons Consulting Engineers, Inc., a highly regarded Huntsville company that specializes in real estate development, sales and appraisals. The Lowes are members of the First United Methodist Church of Huntsville and have three children and five grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, the leadership and dedication of Peter and Betsy should serve as a model for others to follow. On behalf of the people of North Alabama, I congratulate them for being named the 2008 Arthritis Foundation Humanitarian Award recipient.

#### FUGITIVE SAFE SURRENDER

##### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the efforts of the United States Marshals Service for its pioneering program to encourage hundreds and thousands of individuals wanted for non-violent felony or misdemeanor crimes to voluntarily surrender to the law in a faith-based or other neutral setting. The initiative was conceived and is administered by the Marshals Service in states that have particularly high numbers of fugitive warrants.

The goal of Fugitive Safe Surrender is to reduce the risk to law enforcement officers who pursue fugitives, to the neighborhoods and communities where they hide, and to the fugitives themselves. Authorized by Congress in July 2006, it is believed to be the first program of its kind in the Nation.

In Detroit, Michigan, where the majority of my constituents reside, Fugitive Safe Surrender took place in June 2008, under the leadership of Robert M. Grubbs, United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Michigan. Over the course of the four-day surrender period, more than 6,500 individuals with outstanding warrants took advantage of the opportunity to surrender to law enforcement and help pave the way for a more successful future for themselves and their families. The credit for this outstanding success goes to the many city workers, judges, prosecutors, attorneys, clerks, and community leaders who contributed their time, efforts and leadership to administering the program. I am proud to salute the leadership of Dr. Edgar Vann, pastor

of Second Ebenezer Church, who allowed the Marshals Service to use his beautiful facility and who devoted countless hours to mentoring government officials and fugitives during the process.

This brilliant initiative was conceived by Peter J. Elliott, United States Marshal for the Northern District of Ohio, after the death of Cleveland Police Officer Wayne Leon at the hands of a wanted fugitive. He believes that "desperate people commit desperate acts." Marshal Elliott has helped lead the program in ten cities and has been urged by mayors from across the country to implement the program in their cities. As the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, I applaud Marshal Elliott for his courage to 'think outside the box,' and his leadership in pairing law enforcement with communities in an amazingly successful effort to apprehend fugitives while giving thousands of individuals a second chance at life.

#### TRIBUTE TO POCAHONTAS AREA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

##### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in the Fourth Congressional District of Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Pocahontas Area Elementary School in Pocahontas, Iowa, for making the list of the 2008 No Child Left Behind, Blue Ribbon Schools.

The No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement. Pocahontas Area Elementary School scored in the top 10 percent in Iowa with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

I consider it a great honor to represent Pocahontas Area Elementary Principal Lynn Moody, the teachers, students, school board members, and administrations of Pocahontas Area Schools in the United States Congress. I wish Pocahontas Elementary continued academic excellence as they provide a positive impact on future generations to come.

#### HONORING THE BUCKS COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

##### HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bar Association of Bucks County for its 125 years of service and dedication to the legal professionals of Bucks County. In 1683, William Penn established the first courts in the county, holding an orphan's and common pleas court in Falls Township, Pennsylvania. Twenty five years later, in 1708, Bucks County appointed its first Deputy Attorney General. In 1812 the first "old" courthouse was built, followed by the second "old" courthouse in 1877. This second courthouse was demolished in 1960 to construct the courthouse we still use today.