

wiring, fluorescent lighting fixtures, ceramic bathroom tile, HVAC system/distribution/controls and site utilities (electric, water, sanitary, fiber optic communication/data). The project demolishes building 18 (32 m2) and the truck fill stand facility 142 (400 GM).

Naval Station Mayport is a strategic base for the Navy. This project was programmed to receive funding in Fiscal Year 2012, but was identified by the base commander as the highest unfunded priority in Fiscal Year 2009.

Military Construction projects are always 100 percent funded by the U.S. Federal Government so there is no opportunity for matching funds.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW.

Bill Number: H.R. 2368—Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy.

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: OTO Melara North America.

Address of Receiving Entity: 1625 I St., NW, Washington, DC 20006.

Description of Request: I have secured \$1,600,000 in funding in H.R. 2368 in the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy account for 76mm Swarbuster Capability.

Swarbuster is a proposed developmental program to integrate the highly accurate fire control information from the MK 15 Close-In Weapons Systems with the high rate of fire, medium caliber, 76mm gun on FFG-7 Class ships.

The Surface Navy lacks an effective capability against High Speed Maneuverable Surface Targets (HSMST's). The Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) was designed with a mission module to combat this threat, but program difficulties will delay delivery of this capability for years. Successful Swarbuster test results will provide the Navy the opportunity to integrate a layered defense capability into its FFG-7 class ships, against air and surface threats.

Department of Defense projects are always 100 percent funded by the U.S. Federal Government so there is no opportunity for matching funds.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW.

Bill Number: H.R. 2368—Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense Wide.

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: L-3 Communications.

Address of Receiving Entity: 6207 Aviation Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32221.

Description of Request: I have secured \$1,600,000 in funding in H.R. 2368 in the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense Wide account for Low Cost Stabilized Turret project.

The goal of the Low Cost Stabilized Turret program is to develop a small (less than 15 lbs) Electro-Optical/Infrared, EO/IR, turret with High Resolution Video, Cooled Infrared Imagery and a Laser Range Finder with a capability to incorporate a Laser Target Designator. The primary purpose of the turret will be to provide an Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) capability for low cost, expendable UAV systems, consistent with the "Expendable" low cost concept.

Technologies incorporated will include a direct drive stabilization system utilizing a MEMS gyro to provide a stabilized imagery package; a cooled IR camera which will provide enhanced night imagery; high resolution, dual field of vision color video; laser range finder with capability to incorporate laser target designator; picture in picture video presentation for enhanced situational awareness; and real-time video relayed via satellite data link or line of sight link.

The Low Cost Stabilized Turret will provide a light weight, low cost solution for a flexible, efficient payload that is consistent with the warfighter's needs, yet in a cost range consistent with the concept of expendable systems.

Department of Defense projects are always 100 percent funded by the U.S. Federal Government so there is no opportunity for matching funds.

DEATHS IN CUSTODY REPORTING PROGRAM

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Congressman SCOTT from Virginia for his critical insight into this much needed legislation before us. H.R. 3971, the Death in Custody Reporting Program reauthorizes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, BJS, program, which is designed to report the deaths of prisoners and immigration detainees in local and State custody.

The Death in Custody Reporting Act is a critical oversight tool which allows State and local corrections officials and advocates to monitor in-custody suicides, homicides, drug and alcohol overdoses and other critical issues.

Due to the current lack of transparency and accountability, the public and advocacy groups have to rely on word-of-mouth and media accounts to find out about deaths of immigration detainees. According to the ACLU, at least 69 immigrants have died in custody since 2004. A significant number of these deaths occurred in Federal detention facilities.

I am pleased that the Senate amended this legislation to ensure that Federal detention center authorities also had to report under the same circumstances and the State detention centers; finally closing the loophole that allowed deaths of immigration detainees in Federal detention facilities to go unreported.

This program which began in 2000, is supposed to receive death records quarterly from each State's prison and juvenile justice systems and from nearly 18,000 State and local law enforcement agencies. The reports include the age, gender and race of the deceased, the criminal history of the deceased and the circumstances surrounding the death.

Sadly, according to a report by Human Rights Watch the U.S. criminal justice system fails to meet many international standards for the treatment of crime victims. Among other proposed measures in the report, HRW recommended that the United States ratify the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Colleagues, nearly 300,000 men, women, and children are detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, each year, the majority of whom have no criminal history whatsoever. Thousands arrived on our shores fleeing persecution and torture, only to be locked up like criminals in one of over 400 detention facilities around the country. We must not let go of our belief in the innate value of human life, or stray from our fundamental values while detaining immigrants or criminal offenders.

In 1995, after a one-year investigation by journalist Mike Masterson into prison conditions and the death rate of persons in custody, Ashberry Park Press of New Jersey, ran a series of award winning editorials which listed the following abuses resulting in death that were occurring in our jails and prisons: Racially motivated violence, overzealous police investigations, cover-ups and general law enforcement incompetence.

This prompted the Death In Custody Act of 2000 which required reporting of deaths of persons in custody. Since then, The Bureau of Justice Statistics has compiled a number of statistics. My colleague, Congressman BOBBY SCOTT at one point testified to the most astounding statistic—that since reporting deaths have been made mandatory, the latest report dated August 2005 shows a 64 percent decline in suicides and 93 percent decline in homicides for individuals in custody. He stated that these statistics suggest that the oversight measures play an important role in ensuring safety and security of prisoners in State facilities.

I agree with his finds and that is why I support H.R. 3971. We need continued oversight over the conduct of law enforcement in the arrest and imprisonment of citizens and immigrants.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics date shows that between 2001 and 2005, there were 15,308 State prisoner deaths, 5,935 local prisoner deaths and 43 juvenile deaths during incarceration. In my district alone, in the last decade, 106 deaths have occurred in Harris County jail, many because of inability to secure meds or to secure med care after an attack.

IMMIGRANTS IN JAILS

Survivors of torture, asylum-seekers, families with small children and individuals with serious mental health and medical conditions such as HIV/AIDS, are routinely locked up in jails or under jail-like conditions. Studies conducted by the bipartisan Commission on International Religious Freedom, New York University's Bellevue Program, and Physicians for Human Rights have demonstrated that, even in well-run jails, detention itself poses a serious threat to the psychological health of the detainees.

Without the right to appointed counsel and often detained in remote locations, detainees are unable to exercise fully what rights they do have. While I do not stand here and advocate allowing duly processed criminals to be released, or those breaking our immigration law to be simply be set loose, there are safer and more cost-effective alternatives to detention for most immigrants ICE currently detains.

CONCLUSION

Angela Davis, an activist who went from being on the most wanted list to a distinguished and tenured professor in California, said that "Jails and prisons are designed to

break human beings, to convert the population into specimens in a zoo—obedient to our keepers, but dangerous to each other.”

Is that our goal? Are jails and prisons rehabilitating or are they simply creating more dangerous criminals? We need to better understand what is happening in our society and take account for it. This legislation maintains a log—a report that will track deaths in custody. The more we know what is going on, the more responsible we must become. It is my belief that this is just the beginning of a criminal justice system that needs reform.

IN RECOGNITION OF HONOR
FLIGHT

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Honor Flight for their ongoing work to honor America's veterans. Honor Flight provides World War II veterans the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC, to visit and reflect at the World War II Memorial constructed in their honor. Funded by donations from businesses and individuals, the trip is absolutely free of charge and serves as an excellent tribute to veterans who sacrificed, some paying the ultimate price, in the name of freedom.

Started in 2005 by Earl Morse, Honor Flight has grown from a small operation, flying a dozen veterans at a time in small private planes, to a network of affiliates that spans 30 States and transports hundreds of veterans to Washington on commercial airliners to see their memorial.

On October 8, 2008, the local Honor Flight Affiliate in my hometown of La Crosse, Wisconsin, will be flying some 180 veterans, many of whom reside in my district, to Washington, DC, to visit the World War II memorial. I would like to personally thank Neil Duresky, Chuck Hanson, and Randy Eddy for all their hard work to make this dream a reality for Wisconsin veterans, who served their country so admirably and with such courage. Without Honor Flight, many veterans would never have the opportunity to travel to Washington to see the memorial that was constructed in their honor.

Given the enormity of the sacrifice made by those who have served and continue to serve our country with the highest degree of honor and bravery, there is nothing we can do to fully repay them for their efforts. Thanks to Honor Flight, however, we can offer them the chance to visit the memorial dedicated to their service.

It is my sincere hope that the actions of Honor Flight inspire others to pause and reflect upon the sacrifices made and effort expended by our men and women in uniform, who are the best in the world. I will continue to honor and pay tribute to those who serve our country for their sense of duty and extraordinary courage.

HONORING ROBERT AND DONNA
DEPRIEST

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I am honored to select Robert and Donna DePriest as the Fifth District of Tennessee's Angels in Adoption nominee this year.

Robert and Donna, and their children, Matthew and Melissa—all of Old Hickory, Tennessee—have devoted almost 15 years of their lives to the love, care, and support of numerous children from Tennessee's foster care system. I greatly admire their service to help provide a home to some of the neediest children in our society.

The DePriests stand out as foster parents because of their commitment to medically fragile children—many of whom had a very short life expectancy. The devotion and sacrifice this family has made to these special children has been truly above and beyond their call of duty. Due to the specific needs of these children, the family is often required to be specially trained in a variety of medical procedures. Though the level of care needed for these special children has frequently made it difficult for the DePriests to participate in family activities outside the home, they have still remained both willing and passionate about continuing to provide homes and care for many children in Tennessee.

The DePriest family has adopted four of the children that they cared for over the years. These children are Zachary, 12, Angel, 5, Heaven, 4, and Savannah, 2.

I appreciate all that the DePriest family has done, and thank them for their service. I hope that the DePriest family will continue to love and care for Tennessee's children for many years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO RICHARD LOPEZ

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this time to remember Richard Lopez, a long-time champion of those less fortunate in West Texas. Mr. Lopez passed away on June 8, 2008, at the age of 74.

Richard Lopez inherited his charitable spirit from his father, with whom he would travel long distances as a child to collect fruit and vegetables to deliver to their neighbors in need. He carried these lessons learned as a child forward and become known for his work as the executive director of the Guadalupe Economic Services Corporation and as the co-founder of the South Plains Food Bank.

Born in Edinburg, Texas, Mr. Lopez attended the University of Mississippi and married Rachel Bustillos on April 7th, 1982 in Lubbock, Texas. Following the destructive tornado that struck Lubbock in 1970, Mr. Lopez worked to help rebuild devastated parts of North Lubbock.

He was a tireless advocate for area migrant workers and of the less fortunate in Lubbock. He was widely known as the “Cesar Chavez

of West Texas” because of his compassion for others. A rare leader, Mr. Lopez never missed an opportunity to help people find affordable housing or to offer encouragement to farm laborers before they left to work on the harvest.

Mr. Lopez was dedicated to his community. In addition to more than 25 years of service with the Guadalupe Economic Services Corporation and the South Plains Food Bank, he was the founder of the Ad Hoc Committee for Farm Workers in West Texas and a founder of the Lubbock Indigent Health Consortium. He also received countless community service awards in recognition of his devotion to others.

Those from District 19, including myself, will miss Mr. Lopez's enthusiasm for life, dedication to the betterment of his community, and his great passion for helping those around him.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING CONGRES-
SIONAL MEMBER U.S. REP-
RESENTATIVE DAVE WELDON
(FL-15)

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a colleague and friend, U.S. Representative DAVE WELDON who has served this body and the people of Florida well over the last 14 years.

Congressman WELDON has made valuable contributions not only to the people of Florida's 15th Congressional District, but also to the U.S. House of Representatives and the American public at large, who will continue to realize his long-standing efforts and contributions into the future.

As most in this body know, Dr. DAVE WELDON, M.D., F.A.C.P. of Melbourne, Florida, is a practicing physician and Army veteran. His background and expertise have been called upon on numerous occasions to strengthen this nation's space program, healthcare policy, energy resources, foreign affairs, and veterans' programs among others.

Dr. WELDON was the first medical doctor to have served in Congress from the State of Florida, and continues to treat patients at a Veterans' clinic in his congressional district on a volunteer basis. Rep. WELDON served on the House Appropriations Committee, and in that capacity was a member on various subcommittees, including the Science, State, Justice and Commerce Subcommittee, which has funding oversight of several key executive branch agencies including NASA. In the 110th Congress, he served on the Labor, Health, and Human Services, as well as the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittees.

I have had the privilege to work closely with Dr. WELDON regarding many issues affecting Florida, as his congressional district borders my own in central Florida. In areas such as the space program and NASA, he has become a leader and will be long-recognized. I also worked hand-in-hand with him during several tumultuous hurricanes, in which he gave so generously of his efforts to benefit and rebuild for the people of our state.

His leadership in the House included serving as Vice Chairman of the Science Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, for 8