

evidence to establish a service-connected disability. Undoubtedly, many of our current veterans from past and our present international conflicts stand to benefit a great deal from this bill.

In addition, H.R. 1293, the Disabled Veterans Home Improvement and Structural Alteration Grant Increase Act of 2009, will increase the amount of authorized grants the Department of Veterans Affairs can pay for improvements and structural alterations for homes of veterans with service-connected disabilities of 50 percent or more. Accordingly, this bill will provide much needed assistance for veterans to make any necessary improvements they are otherwise unable to fix on their own. As many may suffer from service-connected physical disabilities impeding their normal life activities, this bill would authorize the VA to increase their financial assistance to veterans. This measure will greatly supplement the bill we passed last Congress, the Homes for Heroes Act, H.R. 3329. Where that bill expanded the supply of permanent housing for veterans, H.R. 1293 will provide the grants to make improvements for veterans' current homes.

Moreover, H.R. 2270, the Veterans Non-profit Research and Education Corporations (NREC) Enhancement Act of 2009 will amend federal provisions regarding the establishment at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities of nonprofit and research and education corporations (NRECs) to allow an NREC to facilitate the conduct of research or education, or both, at more than one VA medical center. This will greatly benefit the VA so that they can have readily available resources to help them confront challenges facing our veterans.

And H.R. 3155, the Caregiver Assistance and Resource Enhancement Act will provide federal assistance to individuals providing non-institutional extended care to disabled veterans. These valuable services include educational and teaching caring techniques; strategies and skills; nursing care, and mental and health services.

And finally, H.R. 1803, the Veterans Business Center Act of 2009 will amend the Small Business Act to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration (SBA) to establish within the SBA a Veterans Business Center program to provide entrepreneurial training and counseling to veterans. This will create yet another resource to benefit our returning veterans who may have trouble finding employment.

Madam Speaker, these are incredibly important bills, providing our veterans with the federal resources so they may have efficient access to much needed medical assistance, job, and housing support. As a strong advocate for veterans' rights, I am pleased to add my voice of support for all of these measures. Moreover, I will be working with my colleagues to make sure we continue to provide the necessary resources towards protecting our veterans' rights and ensuring fair and just access to their rightful benefits.

HONORING BRITTANY LEAP'S
FIGHT AGAINST
NEURODEGENERATION WITH
BRAIN IRON ACCUMULATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bravery and fortitude of a very special and courageous constituent of mine, Brittany Leap; and her mother, Sandy, and father, Richard. In February 2006, Brittany was diagnosed with a debilitating and degenerative disorder—Neurodegeneration with Brain Iron Accumulation (NBIA).

NBIA is a very rare and devastating neurological disorder that only gets worse over time—resulting in constant muscle cramping, an inability to control one's body, difficulty with speech, a loss of peripheral vision, and even blindness. No cure or specific means of treatment currently exists for NBIA, and scientists are still baffled by the factors that influence the disease.

Imagine waking up one morning having lost the ability to walk, or talk, or even eat. In Brittany's case, however, this is no dream. This is a very real challenge that Brittany faces every day of her life. To make matters worse, one of the few laboratories dedicated to researching her disease is at risk of having to close its doors because of a lack of funding; doors that upon closing will forfeit the hope of Brittany, her family, and the thousands of other people suffering from NBIA, that a cure may one day be realized.

Brittany is determined to continue fighting this disease and the potentially devastating consequences of what will happen if the research to develop a cure is suspended. She is unwavering in her pursuit to raise the funds necessary to keep hope alive, not only for her, but for everyone else with NBIA. Brittany has taken it upon herself, with the help of her loving parents—and so many others across this great nation—to raise \$250,000 by year's end to keep the search for a cure alive.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Brittany and her family and all others with NBIA our heartfelt regards for their efforts to bring an end to this devastating illness, and I ask they give their support in any way possible to help Brittany in her efforts. I am inspired by Brittany's determination and I am honored to bring her story to the floor of this Chamber.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I recently submitted a member request declaration for the record. In that declaration, I stated that my requests were in H.R. 2647. It should have read that these requests were in H.R. 3326 as noted below.

Requesting Member: Representative DOUG LAMBORN, CO-05

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: RDTE Navy, Line 27, PE 0603216N

Legal Name of the Requesting Entity: Global Near Space Services

Legal Address of the Requesting Entity: 8610 Explorer Dr, Ste 140, Colorado Springs, CO 80920

Description of the Request: Requesting \$6 million funding for the Lighter-Than-Air Stratospheric UAV for Persistent Communications Relay and Surveillance. This project will develop a lighter-than-air, unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) that will fly at 85,000 feet for three to four months, providing low cost, persistent surveillance, high bandwidth and over the horizon communications needed to effectively fight terrorism, achieve maritime domain awareness, protect critical infrastructures and secure national borders.

Requesting Member: Representative DOUG LAMBORN, CO-05

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: RDTE Air Force, Line 8, PE 0602201F

Legal Name of the Requesting Entity: Colorado Engineering, Inc

Legal Address of the Requesting Entity: 1310 United Heights, Suite 105 Colorado Springs, CO 80921

Description of the Request: Requesting \$3 million funding for the Unmanned Sense, Track, and Avoid Radar (USTAR) for low rate initial production of an advanced radar system for the Global Hawk unmanned aerial vehicle platform to detect and track large and small targets. USTAR will allow the UAV to identify potential collision risks and increase maneuvering capability in controlled airspace and improve operability in adverse weather conditions.

Requesting Member: Representative DOUG LAMBORN, CO-05

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: RDTE Defense-wide, Line 89, PE 0603898C

Legal Name of the Requesting Entity: Not Applicable

Legal Address of the Requesting Entity: Not Applicable

Description of the Request: Requesting \$500,000 funding for an Independent Advisory Group to review Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) Education and Training Needs and recommend a BMD education and training solution to include a recommendation of roles and responsibilities, organizational structure, and/or resources and facilities for integrated missile defense training.

NIHI TA HASSO, UNHAPPY
LABOR—A HISTORY OF THE
TIYAN AIRFIELD, GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, on July 21, 2009, our community on Guam marked the 65th anniversary of our liberation from enemy occupation. It was a day of commemoration and celebration as we recalled the sacrifices made for our freedom by our elders who survived this brutal occupation and of the servicemembers who landed on our beaches to liberate us from the oppression of the

enemy during war. My predecessor, General Ben Blaz, penned a narrative about the history of the Tiyan airfield on this occasion. Today, the Tiyan airfield is the site of the Antonio B. Won Pat Guam International Airport and General Blaz' narrative was printed in this year's Liberation Day Special Edition of the Pacific Daily News. I submit this narrative for print in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. It helps us connect the past with the present. It also helps us gain an appreciation for the history of the landscape that continues to serve today as an important transportation link for our island. This is one story of many through which we can understand and interpret the period of occupation, and the trials experienced and endured by the Chamorro people.

NIHI TA TASSO . . .

Time and tide have eroded and buried remnants of the barricades and trenches on the beaches of our island. The verdant jungle has reclaimed the old concentration camp sites over the past six and a half decades. Heavy foliage and buildings now camouflage pillboxes and fortifications anchored along expected landing sites to obstruct the advance of liberating forces.

In contrast, a modest landing strip, built at Tiyan under extreme duress and a pervasive sense of personal insecurity by the Chamorros during the occupation in World War II, has risen from the ashes of war, a la the legendary Phoenix. It continues to grow with each passing year and now accommodates millions of visitors and handles thousands of tons of food and cargo so vital to the island's economy. Remarkably, Tiyan is the Chamorro word for stomach and the airfield there serves as Guam's breadbasket. Visitors from Asia, North America, and elsewhere as well as local citizens routinely arrive and depart from the airport, seemingly oblivious to how dearly we paid, with blood and tears, to carve its foundation out of a jungle for the enemy.

The latte stones of antiquity enjoy a special place in our history. Considering the circumstances under which the original landing strip was built and its indispensability to the island's future, it has attained memorial stature at least among those who wielded the primitive tools to build it. It makes a worthy companion to the latte stone which, interestingly enough, was also used as foundation stone, among others, by our ancestors.

The airport today dwarfs what we achieved during the occupation but it was built with earth movers, bulldozers, backhoe, and steamrollers. If, during the occupation, we had known the wonders that modern technology could perform, we might have said that what was being asked of us was impossible. And, having decided that, we might never have completed the airstrip. We would never have been able to overcome the psychological barrier that we would have created between us and the job's completion. There would have been nothing that the Japanese could do to make us get the project done. It would not be that we would have worked more slowly. In the actual construction, our lack of enthusiasm translated to a snail's pace in any event. Rather, we would have been so daunted by our perception of the enormity of the task that we simply wouldn't have been able to do it. Our naiveté then worked to the Japanese's advantage. We got the job done simply because we didn't know that we couldn't!

As we were finishing the airstrip, it was not possible to simply dismiss it as something we were forced to do. Surprisingly, most of us looked at it with a kind of pride of proprietorship. It was ours. We made it—

not only the construction but survived the incredibly taxing ordeal. This was possible because of the older men in our forced labor groups who rose to lead us. There were many such men but I remember two of them in particular because they were my immediate leaders—Frank D. Perez and Nito Cristobal. We worked together, we prayed together and, on occasion, we laughed together. It was 1944 and I was 16.

Evidently, American reconnaissance planes noticed that the airstrip was nearing completion and it became a daily target for bombing. Seeing the American planes bomb the airstrip in daylight was a tonic beyond description even though we knew we had to repair the runway that same night guarded by soldiers angered similarly beyond description. One of the ironies of our forced labor was how it played against one of the most cherished of Chamorro traditions, *adalak*, whereby neighbors helped one another build houses or prepare fields for crops. We participated in *adalak* willingly and from our hearts in keeping with our custom and tradition. The closest English translation of the word is "happy labor." This was not so when we were digging caves, constructing barricades and felling the jungle to build an airstrip.

In an incredible twist of fate, on June 20, 1944, during the Battle of the Philippine Sea, the Japanese lost more than 400 planes in a resounding defeat in air combat which U.S. Naval aviators referred to as the Great Marianas Turkey Shoot. A month later, Guam was liberated by U.S. Marines, soldiers, sailors and airmen. Following the capture of the Tiyan airstrip, we watched with astonishment and great delight as U.S. Navy Seabees widened, extended, and surfaced the runway with remarkable efficiency in but a few days. Seeing U.S. planes land and take off from "our" airstrip to continue the war against Japan made grown men cry. And teenagers, too.

Poetic justice comes to mind.

IN MEMORY OF MANETTE SEADY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, from biblical times, each of us can recall images of strong women carrying heavy water jars—bringing the precious, essential liquid of life to family, to friends, to community. Water takes a special place in the Catholic Mass, recalling the holiest moments of Christian celebration. Jesus blessed the water and then blessed the people with that water. The women who carried water would gather at the well. Others would be drawn to conversation with them, and from their gatherings, community came to be built, gently and progressively, conversation, one by one. Ancient history rarely recorded women's words. We know now, it should have. We know their faithfulness at the well sustaining those they loved. All life needs water.

Manette in so many ways was a Biblical woman, in our time. She was faithful, a Christian of the Catholic variety, strong, vital, wise and—as we all know now, courageous—carrying her water jar with sparkling eyes, a broad smile, humor and generosity. She gave you an extra portion. Her wisdom, born of faith, hard work and ethnic and gender sensitivity was an endless fountain for those who could appreciate it.

She ministered to all who crossed her path. And importantly, she plowed her own path to seek those who others might not know. She did so unselfishly, with a rare spirit of self-giving. She worked hard, at every worthy task she undertook. She was a laboring woman who labored with love.

As a child at her father and mother's side, she would rise at 4 am to accompany her dad as he opened the family restaurant called Najaim's and then Manette's. She hated that early rise but she learned to fill water glasses of countless people of all ages and stations. No one was a stranger at the Seady fountain. She learned about community at a young age. She was comfortable with people, most especially from Delta. She never wanted to leave them. She reminisced last week about the beauty of Delbert Dunbar's gardens, the Democratic women's club, St. Casper's and Father Ed. When I asked her, "Manette, what especially did you want me to share with those who will gather to celebrate your life?" She replied: "Tell them how we worked to help the seniors." The idea for creating for our country The Senior Farmer's Market coupons was formed here, where it now serves 23,000 seniors in northwest Ohio, well as millions across our nation. She delivered communion to shut-ins, befriended individuals—Dorothy Biddle, Edwina Mattimore, Mary Turi, Nona Sue-Mack, Clarence Seifert—carrying her water jar. She influenced the younger generation, including members of our Congressional staff here today: Steve, Sue, Theresa and Karen among them.

Theresa has written:

It is just so hard to imagine life without our Manette . . . the Fulton County Fair (she loved the ribbon chips and getting tacos from J & A Taco Wagon from Defiance), having dinner at Byblo's and looking at Christmas lights (Manette asked Sue and me to be mystery judges for the Chamber's Christmas light contest) . . . none of that will be the same. She loved her community, her family, and had such a warm heart.

Now, I have met thousands upon thousands of people in my own life. But there has been only one Manette, my sister-friend, The "Blessed Woman of Delta with the Water Jar". There is much I did not know about her family. I was reminded yesterday, her father ran for the Mayor of Delta, Of course, Manette ran for the Fulton County Recorder. Each took representative government a step forward.

As a representative of our Congressional office in Fulton County, she stayed in touch with hundreds of people. She let us know what their concerns were. She took her duties very seriously. She practiced the route to events twice the day before. She planned every moment at every event. She left nothing to chance. She always worked hard, a laboring woman who provided her own sustenance, cared for her parents, working 28 years at Aunt Jane's Foods, and upon its closure, as an Administrative Assistant at the Fulton Mill Service.

In her beautiful memory, Manette Ann Zogby Seady, we ordered a U.S. flag flown over the Capitol for a loving, generous, hard-working daughter, niece, cousin, godmother, beloved friend, devout woman of the church, and patriotic citizen for all time. She made her passage with grace and coverage. At twilight on the day of her passage, her cousin recalls she saw a rainbow through the trees, but there had been no rain. Truly, Manette was a "Blessed Woman At the Well."