

Requesting Member: Congressman GREGG HARPER

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Project Name: VePro—Health Usage Monitoring and Vehicle Prognostics

Project Amount: \$2,880,000

Account: Army, Combat Vehicle and Automotive Advanced Technology

Recipient and Address: nCode International, 200 Research Blvd., Starkville, MS 39759

Description of Request: Better understanding of operational usage severity is critical for vehicle designs to reliably meet needs at minimum cost and weight. VePro will save billions of dollars spent annually on maintaining U.S. Army equipment, improve readiness and reduce danger to soldiers from unexpected vehicle failures. The next stage is to evolve these into scalable, robust cost effective pre-production Vehicle Health Management Systems (VHMS)—technology configuration, manufacturing, assembly and testing for pre-production systems.

Requesting Member: Congressman GREGG HARPER

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Project Name: F-15C AESA Classified Demo

Project Amount: \$8,000,000

Account: Air Force, F-15E Squadrons

Recipient and Address: Raytheon, Forest Consolidated Manufacturing Center, 19859 Highway 80, Forest, MS 39074

Description of Request: Funding will be used for the final year of a 3-year development effort to demonstrate APG-63(V)3 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) classified capability with a Radar Common Data Link (RCDL). ANG and USAF F-15s are the backbone of forces assigned to perform a significant portion of the Nation's Homeland Defense mission, protecting the United States from attack by an airborne threat. FY10 funding will complete the third and final phase of the 3-year RCDL demonstration program.

Requesting Member: Congressman GREGG HARPER

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Project Name: Silicon Carbide Electronics Material Producibility Initiative

Project Amount: \$2,400,000

Account: Air Force, Advanced Materials for Weapon Systems

Recipient and Address: II-VI Wide Band Gap Materials Group, 201 Research Blvd., Starkville, MS 39759

Description of Request: Funding will be used to develop technology, and establish production capability, along with evaluation and testing of SiC materials and integrated circuits for use in high power, high frequency DoD weapons systems and platforms. Future mission requirements dictate a range of current and next-generation U.S. Military systems requiring critical high frequency and high power components with dramatically enhanced capabilities which are unattainable with current technology.

Requesting Member: Congressman GREGG HARPER

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Project Name: Advanced, Long Endurance Unattended Ground Sensor Technologies

Project Amount: \$3,920,000

Account: Defense-Wide, Special Operations Intelligence Systems Development

Recipient and Address: Mississippi State University, P.O. Box 6301, Mississippi State, MS 39762

Description of Request: A significant challenge in modern military operations is the ability to achieve and maintain real-time battlefield situational awareness. Achieving battlefield situational awareness requires the ability to robustly and persistently monitor the movements of the adversary in near real-time across a wide range of operational environments including foliage, mountainous, and urban terrain. This initiative is a follow-on effort to ongoing Mississippi State University Unattended Ground Sensor (UGS) research and development in support of the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM).

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2009*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the FY 10 Department of Defense Appropriations Act.

Requesting Member: Representative CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Project name: Re-establishing Ties: The Road from Warrior to the Community

Account: OM, ARNG

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Address of Requesting Entity: 101 Eggert Crossing Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Description of Request: This funding would be used to help successfully transition returning soldiers back in civilian life through the NJ National Guard's multi-tiered, reintegration program to address the needs of the returning combat veteran. This program includes: PTSD and TBI Screening; Suicide Prevention Efforts; Small Business Restart Assistance; and Counseling Services, among other benefits.

#### CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GARFIELD RIDGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2009*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Garfield Ridge Chamber of Commerce as it celebrates 50 years of service to the community.

Founded in 1959, the Garfield Ridge Chamber has grown to 100 members who work tirelessly to fully embody its motto, "The Neighborhood that Cares and Shares."

The chamber takes great pride in being an active member of the community, participating each year in the Patriot Day Parade and Annual Pumpkin Parade, providing Christmas decorations along a major thoroughfare in the neighborhood, delivering a business directory to 17,500 homes in the area, and recognizing a police officer, firefighter, and teacher of the year at its annual dinner dance.

The chamber's largest event, in which it takes special pride, is the "Snack with Santa,"

at which children are provided with a gift from Santa, snacks, and a puppet show. This year marks the 26th anniversary of the event, which is extremely popular, attracting over 1,300 attendees.

Throughout the year, chamber members show their commitment to the organization and its role in the community at monthly gatherings featuring speakers who keep business owners informed of new developments and innovations.

Through its dedication to service, the Garfield Ridge Chamber of Commerce has contributed immensely to the larger community. As a proud native of Garfield Ridge, I sincerely offer the chamber's many dedicated members my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

#### A PROCLAMATION HONORING SHERRI LAWRENCE FOR HER CERTIFICATION BY THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS

### HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2009*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker,

Whereas, Sherri Lawrence has been granted certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; and

Whereas, Sherri Lawrence has sufficiently demonstrated adherence and dedication to the five core propositions of teaching set by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; and

Whereas, due to her hard work and dedication to her profession, Sherri Lawrence was able to achieve this esteemed honor; and

Whereas, we recognize the values and lessons teachers impart to our children; and

Whereas, the creative ingenuity that Sherri Lawrence has demonstrated while educating her students; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with Ohio's 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Sherri Lawrence for her certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

#### FIRST RESPONDER ANTI-TERRORISM TRAINING RESOURCES ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2009*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3978, legislation that would permit the Center for Domestic Preparedness to accept gifts and donations in order to better train our Nation's first responders. As Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, I am pleased that the House is considering this legislation today, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Center for Domestic Preparedness, Center, is the Nation's leading all-hazards first-responder training center. Located in Anniston, Alabama, the Center has

provided emergency response training to first responders in all fifty States and territories, as well as Federal Government employees, foreign officials, and private entities. The Center is especially well-known internationally for its weapons of mass destruction training facility.

The Center often receives offers of donated goods and services, such as training displays, response equipment, and trailers. These donations would allow the Center to offer stronger training opportunities at a lower cost to the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, and the American taxpayer. Regrettably, the Center does not have the legal authority to accept gifts that would enhance its ability to deliver superior training.

H.R. 3978 would amend the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 to permit the Center to receive donated gifts and services that are related to preparedness for and response to terrorism. The legislation further calls on the Secretary of Homeland Security to annually report to Congress on gifts accepted and how such gifts contribute to the mission of the Center.

Other DHS training centers, such as the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, already have the authority to accept gifts and donations. It is only appropriate that the Center also have this authority.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3978 is a straight-forward piece of legislation that will pay immediate dividends for our first responder community. I support its passage and encourage my colleagues to support it as well.

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#### THE LOSS OF JACK PEEL

### HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a brave American veteran and a great Floridian, Jack Peel, who passed away on November 29, 2009.

Mr. Peel was a native Floridian, born in Chipley, and a graduate of Chipley High School. He served his country for four years in the Navy where he made lifelong friends with his fellow sailors. He then joined the Air Force where he remained for the next 26 years and retired as master sergeant.

After retirement from the military, Mr. Peel and his beloved wife Lynette made their home in Bay Crest Park in Hillsborough County, Tampa. There he dedicated his time to public service. He served as president of the Bay Crest Park Civic Association, an active member of the Town N Country Alliance, a Catholic Church community volunteer and advocate. Jack Peel had a talent for persuading his neighbors, policymakers, and the Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners to beautify and enhance Bay Crest and Town N Country. He and Lynette and the outstanding Town N Country community activists worked diligently to improve our community. For his dedication to service, the Civic Association completed Peel Park in December 2009 in honor of Mr. Peel.

Madam Speaker, Jack Peel will be greatly missed. For all who love our community, be inspired by Jack Peel's dedication and service.

#### BUENOS AIRES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

### HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to all the staff at the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge consists of a beautiful 118,000 acres of mountains, riparian zones, and grasslands in the Southern Arizona desert and contains majestic areas such as Brown Canyon, Arivaca Cienega and the Baboquivari Mountains.

The Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge is a sanctuary for many different types of wildlife including the Pima pineapple cactus, the pygmy-owl and the endangered masked bobwhite quail. Additionally, 325 bird species, 53 species of reptiles and amphibians, 58 mammal species, including mule deer, white-tailed deer, pronghorn, javelina, and mountain lions all call the Refuge home. Without the protection of the Refuge, many of these species would disappear and be lost to us forever. The Refuge is also a vital part of the community and offers guided tours, hiking, camping, horseback riding, mountain biking, excellent birding, and plenty of beautiful picnic areas. The Refuge even offers wonderful educational opportunities through volunteer projects and nature workshops.

The men and women employed at the Refuge work tirelessly to preserve this beautiful area. Through their efforts, the Refuge has successfully reintroduced the endangered bobwhite quail and the pronghorn deer into the wild and ensures their continued protection. These people are truly the guardians of an environmental treasure and view their task as a privilege, not just a job.

In addition to the wonderful staff at the Refuge, an exemplary group of volunteers known as the Friends of the Buenos Aires National Refuge dedicate their time to the community education conservation, and preservation of this wonderful land. This nonprofit group gives selflessly to promote the goals of the Refuge and with the help of the Refuge staff; they recently held the 1st Annual Grasslands Fair to celebrate this beloved land.

The Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, its staff, and the volunteers who dedicate their time are all truly valued players in the protection of America's wild lands. Being a member of the House Committee on Natural Resources and having seen our community grow to over a million people, during my lifetime, I know the importance of protecting areas like the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. It gives me great joy to see such wonderful people giving of themselves to preserve and protect this spectacular region of southern Arizona.

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#### A PROCLAMATION HONORING MICHELE MANISKAS FOR HER CERTIFICATION BY THE NA- TIONAL BOARD FOR profes- sional TEACHING STANDARDS

### HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker,

Whereas, Michele Maniskas has been granted certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; and

Whereas, Michele Maniskas has sufficiently demonstrated adherence and dedication to the five core propositions of teaching set by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; and

Whereas, due to her hard work and dedication to her profession, Michele Maniskas was able to achieve this esteemed honor; and

Whereas, we recognize the values and lessons teachers impart to our children; and

Whereas, the creative ingenuity that Michele Maniskas has demonstrated while educating her students; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with Ohio's 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Michele Maniskas for her certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

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#### AUTHORITY TO CONVERT CERTAIN OVERSEAS LIMITED APPOINT- MENTS TO PERMANENT AP- POINTMENTS

SPEECH OF

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1517, a bipartisan bill authored by Representative ENGEL and the ranking member on the Committee of Homeland Security, Representative KING.

As chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, I am grateful to these members for putting before us today a bill that aims to fix a discrete but important issue at Customs and Border Protection.

In short, this bill gives the Commissioner the authority to noncompetitively convert approximately 35 overseas CBP employees into full-time permanent civil service positions.

These employees were originally hired by the Immigration and Naturalization Service under "limited overseas appointment" authority between 1987 and 2003.

Over time, the nature of their work changed, but their employment designation did not.

Since 2005, CBP, the Office of Personnel Management and the Department of State have been trying to fix the glitch, but realize they need the help of Congress.

Doing so will not only ensure that the employees continue to receive the appropriate benefits, but will also provide them with the protections they deserve as dedicated employees serving the CBP mission abroad.

Further, this conversion of employment status will ensure that CBP and the United States honor agreements between our country and our foreign counterparts, such as Ireland, governing U.S. personnel overseas.

Going forward, using the authorities provided to the Commissioner in H.R. 1517, it is my hope that the Commissioner will take the histories of these dedicated 35 individuals into account when applying CBP's rotation policy.

In our attempt to "right the system," CBP should not unduly disrupt the lives of these dedicated individuals, who provide a valuable service to this country.