

Pilgrim Valley Missionary Baptist Church has had an open-door policy towards the entire community, which has surely led to its continual growth in membership.

The church has been a cornerstone of the African-American community, providing a comprehensive drug abuse prevention program called Pilgrim Valley People Against Drugs, or PAD. The church has also provided sustenance for the needy, mentoring programs for the local children of the community, clothing giveaways, and college scholarships to its members seeking higher education.

Through the difficult times and the good times, Pilgrim Valley Missionary Baptist Church has always been a welcoming home for many in Fort Worth. Those who sacrifice their own needs for others are of the utmost moral excellence, and this church and its congregation are the epitome of selfless.

Madam Speaker, today I extend my sincere congratulations to the Pilgrim Valley Missionary Baptist Church and their continual outreach towards the community. I would also like to thank the recently retired Reverend W. G. Daniels for his 36-year devotion and service to the church. It is an honor to represent such a civic minded organization and individuals the 26th Congressional District of Texas.

CELEBRATING THE VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF HIS EXCELLENCY NECHIRVAN BARZANI, PRIME MINISTER OF THE KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome to Washington and to the U.S. Congress a close friend of the United States, Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani of the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq.

On the occasion of this important visit, I am also pleased that Congressman JOE WILSON of South Carolina has joined me to serve as co-chair and co-founder of the Kurdish-American Caucus.

America has no better friend in Iraq than Prime Minister Barzani and the country's Kurdish population. The Kurds have been among America's best allies in the overthrow of Saddam Hussein's regime and in supporting the transition to a democratic Iraq. Kurdish forces fight and die alongside U.S. troops in support of our mission in Iraq and are unambiguously grateful for America's many sacrifices in Iraq. They welcome a continued military presence in the Kurdistan Region as part of any redeployment of U.S. forces in the future, and offer their sincere friendship in the peace process. The Kurds are a model of stability and moderation in Iraq and have set themselves apart from the bloody sectarianism and factionalism that bedevils the political establishment in Baghdad today.

For those of my colleagues who have not visited the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, I would urge you to do so. My visit to Erbil earlier this year was an extraordinary lesson in how democracy can flourish in the Middle East. It is economically vibrant, peaceful and secure,

and pro-American. The Kurdistan Regional Government has seized the opportunity of liberation from Saddam Hussein to establish a government that is both a model for Iraq and a gateway to the rest of the country. This is not to say that there are no challenges ahead. However, with the inspired leadership of Prime Minister Barzani and his colleagues in the region, and his excellent representative in Washington, I am confident of a bright future. I invite my colleagues to join me in the Kurdish-American Caucus and to visit the Kurdistan Region of Iraq so they, too, can see how the ideals of a free and peaceful people can succeed even in war-torn nations of the Middle East.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JIM MCCRERY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

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

Requesting Member: Congressman JIM MCCRERY (LA-04).

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, FY2009 National Defense Authorization Act.

Account: Research and Development, Air Force.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Air Force Cyberspace Command (Provisional) which will administer funds to Louisiana Tech University, Ruston LA.

Address of Requesting Entity: Barksdale Air Force Base, Bossier City LA/Louisiana Tech University, Railroad Ave, Wylly Tower 1629, Ruston, LA 71272.

Description of Request: This \$4M authorization authorizes appropriations for continued research and development of the Remote Suspect Identification (RSI) initiative, a cyber security program that directly supports the Air Force's Cyberspace Command (Provisional) and the Eighth Air Force at Barksdale Air Force Base, LA. Funding will be utilized exclusively for research and development costs and well as associated administrative costs.

TRIBUTE TO ALLEN E. TACKETT WEST VIRGINIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, today I rise to give my congratulations to the West Virginia Army National Guard, under Adjutant General Allen E. Tackett, for being the special category winner of the Army Chief of Staff Army Communities of Excellence.

The ACOE Awards are presented every year to recognize excellence in performance for installation management. The award recognizes installation improvement, innovation, groundbreaking initiatives, and dedication to efficiency, and effectiveness. The award also acknowledges support to soldiers, non-military employees, veterans, and military families who reside on Army installations.

The West Virginia Army National Guard, which has 32 units, is currently supporting

missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo. It has been rated number one in readiness for the past 11 years.

The West Virginia Army National Guard has proven itself to be an elite, efficient military force. I am so proud that they have won recognition for their outstanding performance. Among their peer installations they have gained notoriety for their work in defending the homeland, and serving the American people at home and abroad.

I want to take this opportunity to thank and honor my fellow West Virginians who serve in the Army National Guard as well as all branches of the military. Their bravery and sacrifice exemplifies the best our country has to offer.

I encourage them to continue their hard work and am confident that they will continue to impress our Nation.

CLAY WALKER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, it has been said that a real leader faces the music, even when he doesn't like the tune. Country music superstar Clay Walker has heard sour notes in his life before, but like a real leader he has stood strong and fought for what he believes is right. Because of his tireless dedication to fighting and finding a cure for Multiple Sclerosis he has earned the title of Artist Humanitarian of the Year for 2008 by the Country Radio Broadcasters.

Clay was born in Beaumont, TX, where country music is king. He was given his first guitar at the age of 9. Only 7 short years later, he walked up to a local radio station with a tape of a song that he had written himself. The station went against its own policy of not playing self-submitted tapes because, as the DJ announced, it was "too good to pass up." After graduating high school he went on a tour of Texas and took a job as the house singer in a local bar where he was discovered by a record producer from a major label. The rest, as they say, is history. Walker has released 10 albums, with 4 having been certified platinum and two certified gold. He has placed more than 30 singles on the charts, including 6 number 1s.

Walker's musical career hit some unexpected turbulence in 1996 when he was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, the leading cause of non-traumatic disability in young people throughout the world. Despite dealing with occasional side effects like tiredness and tingling in his hands, Clay has been able to live, work, and maintain his quality of life through daily treatments and a healthy lifestyle. He knows that everyone diagnosed with MS can not enjoy those comforts. So in 2003 he formed the Band Against MS Foundation, a non-profit organization that aims to provide encouragement and education to those living with MS while also raising money to help find a cure for the disease. They have raised over a million dollars to fund research. He has also worked with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Ronald McDonald House, and Habitat for Humanity, among other charities. Walker was recently recognized for his selfless commitment

to helping others by the Country Radio Broadcasters as he was named their Humanitarian of the Year for 2008. He joins other recipients such as Garth Brooks, Vince Neil, Kenny Rogers, Willie Nelson, and Reba McEntire.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, I applaud my personal friend Clay Walker on his outstanding achievements. He personifies the spirit of Texas and Texas country music. He has faced the music and has tried to make the world a better place to live, for those affected by MS and for those without.

And that's the way it is.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

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

Requesting Member: Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Provision: Title I APA line 020.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Army National Guard Readiness Center.

Address of Requesting Entity: 111 S. George Mason Drive, Arlington, VA, 22204.

Description of Request: The UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter is an essential capability of the National Guard. It provides units in every state with a multi-mission aircraft for search and rescue, utility lift, disaster relief and medical evacuation. The Army National Guard (ARNG) is authorized 782 Black Hawk aircraft, but is short of this authorization by almost 100 aircraft. This shortage requires ARNG units to loan or transfer Black Hawks in support deployments, training or state missions, resulting in a higher usage rate of available airframes. Additionally, more than 500 of the 782 National Guard aircraft are older UH-60A models, with an average age of approximately 25 years. The Army is procuring over 1200 UH-60M Black Hawks for utility, special operations and MEDEVAC missions to replace the aging UH-60A from operational units by 2016. The Army acquired 33 UH-60M Black Hawks by the end of FY07, and from FY09 to FY13, the Army plans to procure an additional 300 UH-60M Black Hawks (70 of those aircraft are programmed for ARNG units). However, without an accelerated procurement of the UH-60M, the Army National Guard will be operating more than 400 UH-60A helicopters beyond 2020. The ARNG and the Active Army developed a program to support the continued modernization of the ARNG Black Hawk fleet. Unfortunately, this program is not fully funded. The ARNG plan is to accelerate the fielding of UH-60M Black Hawks by 10 aircraft per year. Although the Active Army has programmed UH-60A recapitalization for the ARNG with Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funds, which includes an airframe life extension, fleet-wide product improvements and the replacement of components, the UH-60A to L upgrade is not funded. The UH-60L Black Hawk is more economical to operate and has 1000 lbs of additional lift than the UH-60A.

The desired rate of UH-60 A to L upgrades is 38 per year. Funding the UH-60A to L upgrade will significantly improve the Black Hawk fleet, and assure that ARNG units are ready, deployable, and available to protect our national interests both abroad and at home. This ARNG aviation initiative has been identified by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau (CNGB) as FY09 "Essential 10-Top 25" unfunded priorities.

Requesting Member: Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Provision: Title II, RDA 0602720A line 22.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Mezzo Technologies.

Address of Requesting Entity: 716 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

Description of Request: This is an Environmental Quality Technology initiative in the Pollution Prevention category that will address the Army's Unfunded need for additional CBRN soldier protection. The program will develop and test critical components for an Integrated ECS/CARS. Current chemical, biological, radiation, and nuclear (CBRN) air filtration systems rely on carbon filters to remove harmful agents from air being used to ventilate armored military vehicles. The program will provide the following benefits to the military: increased CBRN soldier protection; reduced operation and support costs over traditional filtration systems; reduced logistical burden associated with replacement of filters; and reduced dependence on global warming refrigerants.

Requesting Member: Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Provision: Title II, RDA 0602787A line 26.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Biomedical Research Foundation of Northwest Louisiana.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1505 Kings Highway, Shreveport, LA 71103.

Description of Request: The Biomedical Research Foundation in collaboration with Embera Neuro Therapeutics, Inc. are seeking federal assistance to develop a collaborative research plan with the Department of Defense to test the effectiveness of EMB 001 for treatment of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and related neuropsychiatric disorders. EMB 001 is a novel treatment for drug addictions as it is the only emerging drug that reduces the cravings of the addict for the drug; thus, works to cure the addiction through decreased need. It does this by diminishing the effects of the environmental cues that trigger the cravings for the drug in the brain that cause drug use or relapse to drug use. While most other medicines designed to treat drug and alcohol addictions typically only target the limbic system of the brain, Embera's approach targets the prefrontal cortex, which is a higher cognitive center than the limbic system. Embera's lead therapeutic patent-pending drug, EMB 001, developed by Dr. Goeders, is a novel composition of two off-patent, FDA-approved drugs with a long history of use and an established safety profile. Dr. Goeders, currently serves as the Head of Pharmacology and Director, Stress and the Neurobiology of Drug and Alcohol Dependence Training Program at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center.

Requesting Member: Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Provision: Title II, RDAF 0301555F line 4.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Air Force Cyberspace Command Louisiana Tech University.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 10348, Ruston, LA 71272.

Description of Request: "UNCLASSIFIED DESCRIPTION" Remote Suspect Identification (RSI) is a novel technology that uses mathematical models for identity verification over electronic networks. Aspects of this work have been commercialized in the private sector. Building upon recent collaborative successes with Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana, the Air Force has expressed strong interest in further development of the algorithms and associated software for military applications. This project will enhance the Air Force's capability to capitalize upon innovations from Louisiana Tech University's Cyber Research Laboratory, where ongoing research is helping to support the goals of the Air Force's Cyberspace Command (AFCYBER) at Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City, LA. This important Air Force initiative, driven by research at Louisiana Tech, has already benefited from valuable research expertise from the Air Force Research Laboratory's Information Directorate (Rome, NY), Sandia National Laboratories, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Lincoln Laboratory.

Requesting Member: Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Provision: Title III, OMDW ba04-0100d line 260.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: National World War II Museum.

Address of Requesting Entity: 945 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70130.

Description of Request: This request would provide a one-time permanent \$50 million authorization, subject to appropriations, for the National WW II Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana. On June 6, 2000, the National D-Day Museum opened in New Orleans. On December 7, 2001, the Pacific Wing of the Museum opened.

The National D-Day Museum was officially designated by the U.S. Congress as "America's National World War II Museum" in the final Fiscal Year 2004 Defense Appropriations Act (Pub. L. 108-87, Section 8134). A key reason for this national designation is clearly spelled out in the second Congressional finding of Section 8134 that "The National World War II Museum is the only museum in the United States that exists for the exclusive purpose of interpreting the American experience during the World War II years (1939-1945) on both the battlefield and the homefront and, in doing so, covers all of the branches of the Armed Forces and the Merchant Marine."

Approximately \$33 million in state funds and another \$40 million in private funds already available and pledged in matching state/local/private funding for other Pavilions of the WWII Museum. It is planned that a total of \$240 million in non-Federal support will match any future Federal appropriations. The State of Louisiana, which has already appropriated \$33 million towards the Federal \$50m authorization request, has also pledged to match dollar for dollar up to the total amount of the Federal Authorization, (the entire Federal million Authorization) if it is approved by Congress.