

Rothman Helps Pass Critical Defense Spending Measure

Bill, crafted in part by Congressman Rothman, will provide essential funding for U.S. military and bring federal money to New Jersey

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 16, 2009

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(Washington, DC) — Today the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 3326, the Fiscal Year 2010 Defense Appropriations Act, by a vote of 395-34. Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ), a member of the powerful Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, played a key role in drafting this vital piece of legislation. The bill provides necessary funds for key investments in the well-being and readiness of our military forces. In addition, Congressman Rothman was able to secure congressionally-directed funding for defense projects throughout New Jersey, including projects at Englewood Hospital, Hackensack University Medical Center, Valley Hospital, New Jersey Institute of Technology, and Picatinny Arsenal to name a few.

“Providing for our national defense is essential,” said Rothman. “We continue to live in a dangerous world and I consider it my number one responsibility as a Member of Congress to keep our country and my fellow citizens safe. As a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, I am proud of the work my colleagues and I have done in crafting this critical bill to fund our military.”

“Funding for these projects, as well as the dozens of others throughout New Jersey, will help support our military men and women and bring employment opportunities to our state,” added Rothman. “This bill fulfills the essential function of providing for our national defense while at the same time creating jobs and stimulating our economy. I am proud to help make Northern New Jersey a hub for critical defense production, which will bring a new industry to our region and provide good-paying jobs for generations.”

The bill provides our troops with first class weapons, training and equipment. It also ensures that they and their families are well taken care of by providing a 3.4% military pay raise and continuing to fund their medical care. The legislation funds the procurement of essential equipment that our soldiers need to complete their missions, such as Stryker Combat Vehicles and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV). It also funds the development next-generation weapons systems like the F-35 Lighting Aircraft. Because defense spending is such a significant portion of our federal budget, the bill also includes a dramatic increase in oversight to rein in waste, fraud, and abuse.

Additionally, the bill directs funding to dozens of defense projects throughout the state of New Jersey. Some highlights supported by Congressman Rothman include:

- \$1.5 million for blood management programs at Englewood Hospital, which will save lives and money for the Department of Defense.

- \$2.4 million for a company in Fort Lee, NJ to develop and manufacture military grade network capability for the U.S. Navy.

- \$2.4 million toward the continued development of mobile response vehicles at Hackensack University Medical

Center that are capable of providing state-of-the-art emergency medical care in response to mass casualty incidents involving terrorist attacks, pandemic flu, natural and accidental disasters.

• \$1.7 million toward the development of a new water-proof concrete by a company in Carlstadt, NJ. This project could save the Department of Defense millions by supporting “green” environmentally-responsible infrastructure construction and repair.

• \$2 million for Valley Hospital’s Medical Errors Reduction Initiative which aims to reduce the incidence of medical errors in both civilian and military hospitals.

• \$1.6 million for New Jersey Institute of Technology to continue the development of a weapons system capable of destroying chemical and biological munitions stockpiles.

• \$1.6 million for a company in East Rutherford to develop a digital condition-based maintenance system for U.S. Army helicopters that will save the Army money and improve operational safety in both training and combat operations.

• \$2.4 million for Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital to continue with its Mass Casualty First Responders Disaster Surge Technology Program.

• \$10.8 million for various cutting-edge research projects at Picatinny Arsenal in Dover, NJ.

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