

the funding is the Lycoming County Commissioners, 48 West Third Street, Williamsport, PA 17701, in the amount of \$250,000. This funding through the COPS account will purchase new equipment for use by the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and 9-1-1 center. This will directly support the acquisition of an Emergency 9-1-1 console purchase and relocation into a new addition at the center.

The entity to receive funding is the Clarion County Commissioners, 421 Main Street, Clarion, PA 16214, in the amount of \$500,000. This funding through the COPS account will create a joint communication system that will promote seamless interoperability capabilities among counties, hospitals, schools, regional, state, and federal agencies. Radio communications, along with broadband/internet connectivity, are vital elements necessary to link all telecommunications needs together where the counties provide direct services and mutual aid.

The entity to receive funding is the Centre County Commissioners, Willow Bank Office Building, Bellefonte, PA 16823, in the amount of \$250,000. The funding will be used for purchase of an upgraded emergency communications system that will improve safety for citizens of the County and allow for interoperability among multiple agencies throughout Centre County.

HONORING JOSEPH F. THOMPSON

**HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 17, 2009*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph F. Thompson, the 2008 recipient of the Pennsylvania State Police Trooper of the Year Award and a native of Bucks County.

Trooper Thompson has demonstrated incredible bravery and self-sacrifice during his career as a Pennsylvania State trooper, often putting his own personal safety aside for the sake of serving the public.

Following his graduation from Pennsbury High School, Trooper Thompson enlisted in the Marine Corps. He then attended the Pennsylvania State Police Academy and became a trooper in 1993. After 16 years of distinguished service, he retired this past May.

During his career as a trooper, Thompson worked undercover for the Bureau of Drug and Law Enforcement. He later became a member of Troop K, patrolling highways in search of drug dealers. Over the years, Trooper Thompson faced a number of life-or-death situations, even receiving the State Police Medal of Honor for saving the life of his partner during one such instance.

The Trooper of the Year Award is another highlight in a career marked by much well-deserved recognition. In 2008, Trooper Thompson received the department's highest honor, an award recognizing exceptional performance and courage in the line of duty. This honor was based on accomplishments such as the 108 arrests he made in 2007, as well as an incident where Thompson used his own patrol car to slow a large vehicle carrying \$5 million worth of cocaine on the highway.

The Pennsylvania State Police have clearly been privileged to employ such a committed

officer. Over his years of service, Mr. Thompson has undoubtedly helped ensure the safety and well-being of countless citizens. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Joseph F. Thompson for his extraordinary accomplishments, and extremely honored to serve as his Congressman.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2346,  
SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 16, 2009*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of the FY 2009 Supplemental Conference Report. The funding provided in this Report is part of the President and Congress' comprehensive effort to keep our nation safe. The brave men and women in our armed forces are central to our national security. From ensuring our troops have appropriate equipment to fully funding military pay and providing compensation for stop-loss, President Obama and Congress are committed to providing for our troops and their families. The Conference Report also allows the extension of the new GI-Bill benefits to children of members of the armed forces who die while on active duty.

Another central piece of our national security is implementing the comprehensive plans that President Obama has laid out for Iraq and Afghanistan, and this Conference Report is consistent with those plans. It also funds new initiatives in Pakistan as part of our continued effort to improve their ability to confront the threat posed by the Taliban and al Qaeda. Working to improve our health security, the Supplemental Conference Report provides billions for pandemic flu response to expand detection efforts, supplement federal stockpiles, and develop, purchase and administer vaccines.

Congress is working with President Obama every day to keep our nation safe—this legislation is a key piece of that effort. I urge my colleagues to support it.

CALLING ON NORTH KOREA TO  
END HOSTILE RHETORIC AND  
ACTIVITY TOWARD SOUTH  
KOREA

SPEECH OF

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 15, 2009*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, yesterday morning, President Barack Obama welcomed to our nation's capital Lee Myung-bak, President of the Republic of Korea (South Korea). President Lee's friendship and alliance with this country is an integral part of the United States' policy in Northeast Asia, specifically as it relates to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea). I join President Obama in welcoming President Lee to the United States. On behalf of the Fifth District of New Jersey, I thank

President Lee for his leadership in the region and wish him and his nation well.

Though separated by an ocean, the interests of our two nations are joined in the face of current events. The nuclearization of North Korea poses a danger to the security of both the United States and South Korea. There can be no mistake: the threats of Pyongyang cannot be ignored, nor can they be tolerated. North Korea must cease its pursuit of nuclear technology and reengage in dialogue with its neighbor on the Korean Peninsula.

On Monday, the House passed H. Res. 309, of which I was pleased to be an original co-sponsor. This bipartisan resolution calls on North Korea to cease its hostile rhetoric, discontinue its nuclear program, and engage in mutual dialogue with South Korea. An immediate end to North Korean aggression is the only acceptable resolution to this conflict.

Continued North Korean hostility will only serve to harden inter-Korean relations and result in the further destabilization of the region. The policy of the U.S. must be to reject any nuclear aspirations or antagonistic rhetoric on the part of North Korea and its leadership. We should not relent, nor should we apologize for implementing economic sanctions against the North. Rather, we should make it clear that additional economic and diplomatic consequences are in store if North Korea continues its reckless course.

North Korean hostility not only endangers South Korea, the United States, and our allies; it poses a danger to the North Korean people as well. Kim Jong-il has drawn his people into a conflict they have not sought. While the dictator pursued nuclear arms and other weaponry, millions of North Koreans have starved to death in the last two decades. The posture of their leader is a poor representation of the North Korean people.

I support President Obama in the steps he has taken to censure North Korea's recent hostilities. I now urge the Administration to continue using diplomatic pressure to disarm North Korea and encourage bilateral discussions between the North and the South.

STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS IN  
MEDICARE

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 17, 2009*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, for too long, the federal government has enabled the inefficiencies of our health care system. This is not only wasteful, but inequitable to taxpayers in efficient, low-spending regions such as Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin, North Dakota and Minnesota who are subsidizing high-spending regions of the country.

Medicare beneficiaries living in Miami, Las Vegas, New York and Houston receive approximately 60% more services than those living in low-spending regions. This higher spending has not produced higher quality of care or superior outcomes. In fact, research shows that health care outcomes and patient satisfaction are often greater in regions that spend less.

We cannot afford to ignore this problem any longer. The June 2008 Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) report stated

that “. . . our health care system is not delivering value for its stakeholders . . . if current spending and utilization trends continue, the Medicare program is fiscally unsustainable.”

Today I am introducing two bills to address this looming problem. The first would change the financial incentives in our health care system to reward low-spending Medicare regions through a 5% bonus payment. Currently, there is no financial incentive for high-spending regions to reign in spending. This would create that incentive and reward regions that have made a concerted effort to efficiently use health resources.

The second would lay the foundation for better, more accurate research for Congress to use in analyzing Medicare policy recommendations. The legislation will change MedPAC's statutory mandate to include an annual report to examine each Medicare region, evaluating access to care, quality of care, increases or decreases in volume of services, and the potential effects of other policy recommendations under consideration. This new report will provide critical data and result in more accurate and targeted policy recommendations that take into effect geographic variations and recognize that distinctly different delivery systems should be treated differently.

These strategic investments in Medicare will lay the groundwork for future improvements and refinements to the program as we promote efficiency and quality in all regions of the country.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2346,  
SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 16, 2009*

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Defense Supplemental both as a member of the House and as a Commander (select) in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

My fellow soldiers need the resources this bill will provide, and they need them as soon as possible.

I know there is much consternation on the other side of the aisle regarding funds contained in this bill for the International Monetary Fund. I, too, share those concerns, but, I cannot in good conscience vote against the many provisions in this bill that will assist our soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen deployed around the world. These provisions include: \$500 million for National Guard and Reserve Equipment, \$4.5 billion for MRAPs, over \$331 million for high priority intelligence and surveillance, and over \$1 billion to help defeat the threat caused by Improvised Explosive Devices.

Finally, this legislation will compensate 185,000 service members who have been involuntarily extended since September 11th, 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I intend to support our soldiers who are bravely defending this nation. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO RAY  
BURKHOLDER

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 17, 2009*

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to a man who has dedicated 60 years to making weather observations for Northwest Ohio. Today, Ray Burkholder of Pandora, Ohio will celebrate this great milestone achieved by earlier weather recorders Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service was started in 1807, when the Nation's first scientific agency, the Survey of the Coast, was established. In the 1890s, NOAA established the Cooperative Weather Observation Program. Starting in 1949, when Mr. Burkholder was brought into the NOAA in Northwest Ohio, he became an integral part of the Administration. Up to this day, Mr. Burkholder has taken nearly 21,900 observations. The data collected by Mr. Burkholder benefited federal, state, and local agencies including the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

In addition to the Cooperative Weather Observation Program, Mr. Burkholder has served on the local area school board, and was the president of the Pandora Medical Center and the Mennonite Disaster Relief Service of Western Ohio.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Ray Burkholder. Mr. Burkholder's selfless commitment and dedication to the National Weather Service and Northwest Ohio has served our communities well. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize the service of Ray Burkholder.

RECOGNIZING JEFFREY BROWN

**HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 17, 2009*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeffrey Brown, the President and CEO of Brown's Super Stores, Inc. The first Brown's Family Shoprite opened in Philadelphia in 1988 under the leadership of Jeffrey Brown. The Brown's Family Shoprite franchise is one of the last major family grocery businesses left in the county, and counts 2,500 residents as employees. Brown's Family Shoprite has earned a well-deserved reputation of strong community involvement, working alongside local organizations, businesses, and neighborhood groups for events and outreach in the eleven communities where stores are located.

Mr. Brown leads the franchise he founded by example, and he is a fourth-generation Philadelphia grocer. As CEO, he is actively engaged in working with local groups that fight hunger, prevent violence, and help give youth a better future through career preparation. Mr. Brown is an officer and member of the Board of Directors for the Philadelphia Youth Network. He has recently supported the "Goods

for Guns" Program, an exchange that encourages community members to surrender firearms. He has been commended by the NAACP, and actively assists minority businesspeople in achieving their entrepreneurial goals. Mr. Brown has also been recognized by the City of Philadelphia and South Jersey for his work. Mr. Brown and his franchise have been strong supporters of the arts and other community events throughout the years.

Brown's Family Shoprite is a member of the Wakefern Food Corporation, the largest food cooperative in the United States. Mr. Brown's involvement in this cooperative allows him to share his knowledge and experience outside of the district. Mr. Brown is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Pennsylvania Food Merchants, New Jersey Food Council, and Philadelphia Urban League. He has aided grocers across the country in understanding marketing and business development in urban areas, as well as the serving of diverse communities.

Jeffrey Brown has been a community leader and business innovator. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Mr. Brown for his extraordinary accomplishments, and am extremely honored to serve as his Congressman.

AWARDING A CONGRESSIONAL  
GOLD MEDAL TO THE WOMEN  
AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS

SPEECH OF

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 16, 2009*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for S. 614, which passed the House yesterday by voice vote. This resolution recognizes Women Air Force Service Pilots or WASP. These remarkable individuals were the first women in history to fly America's military aircraft. Between 1942 and 1944, these courageous women volunteered to fly noncombat missions so that every available male pilot could be deployed in combat.

These women set a fine example of bravery and helped lead the way for the women of today's armed forces. For too long their deeds have gone unnoticed. This legislation grants these extraordinary patriots the recognition they so deserve by awarding them a Congressional Gold Medal.

There are 300 women pioneers still living today and I am proud to serve as the representative for one of these women. Emily Kline, who resides in Blairstown, New Jersey, served our nation valiantly in World War II. It is because of individuals such as Emily Kline that the current generation of Americans is able to live and work in a nation as free as ours.

The companion bill to S. 614 is H.R. 2014 and I was proud to be one of the 335 cosponsors of this bill. The generation of men and women who served in World War II have come to be known as the "greatest generation." Women such as Emily Kline were part of that generation and for her service she deserves our gratitude.