

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The House of Representatives this morning passed the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill, which will fund veterans programs and military quality of life projects. The bill includes \$72.7 billion in funds for a wide range of programs, including three projects in Monterey.

“Keeping the Central Coast's military presence on the cutting edge has been a top priority of mine,” said Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel), who sits on the Military Construction/Veterans Affairs subcommittee. “From Fort Hunter Liggett in the south to DLI and NPS in the north, our active duty presence is vital to military readiness, and I'm pleased to have funds included in this bill for important programs.”

Local projects include:

- **\$9.9 million would fund a Graduate School of Business and Public Policy at the Naval Postgraduate School. These funds would help accommodate an increase in students that has strained current facilities.**
- **\$3.9 million to fund the Modified Record Fire Range at Fort Hunter Liggett. This range is one of Ft. Hunter-Liggett's most critical training facility requirements.**
- **\$15 million for a new classroom at the Defense Language Institute that will reduce class size and increase foreign language proficiency.**

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This bill also includes \$47.7 billion to fund a wide range of veterans programs including expanding access to health care; strengthening mental health care for veterans with PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury; and providing veterans with advanced prosthetics.

The legislation would also increase gas mileage reimbursement from 28.5 to 41 cents per mile for veterans who must travel long distances to receive care.

The bill passed by a vote of 409-4. The Senate has not yet passed its version of this bill. Once it does, the two versions will be reconciled, then sent to the president for his signature.

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