



Zylon Settlement Benefits Vest Program

President Canterbury welcomed the announcement on January 22 by U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. that the U.S. Department of Justice will be setting aside \$11 million of the settlement from those companies which manufactured soft body armor with Zylon for the Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) program. This program, created by legislation authored by Senator Patrick J. Leahy (D-VT), Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Representative Peter Visclosky (D-IN) has helped State and local law enforcement agencies purchase more than 800,000 bullet-resistant vests.

"I think this is an example of poetic justice," Canterbury said. "The companies that profited from the manufacture and sale of body armor that was not able to adequately protect the officers who wore it will see those profits used to ensure these officers are safely equipped in the future."

The lawsuit was filed in June 2007 by the the Civil Division of the U.S. Department of Justice and other Federal components after the FOP brought the issue to the attention of then-U.S. Attorney General John D. Ashcroft and other high-level officials at the Department. In 2003, the



FOP learned that a police officer in Forest Hills, Pennsylvania was seriously wounded because his body armor failed to protect him from a bullet that the vest was rated to stop. It was the first verifiable incident in which soft body armor failed to prevent penetration from a bullet it was designed to defeat. Since the suit was settled later that same year, the body armor industry has paid the United States more than \$54 million to resolve allegations that it violated the False Claims Act by knowingly manufacturing and selling defective body armor made with Zylon bulletproof vests. Of this amount, \$11 million will be returned to the BVP program.

"The BVP program has been enormously successful since the FOP pushed through the legislation creating it more than a decade ago," Canterbury said. "The Justice Department estimates that the additional \$11 million will enable State and local law enforcement agencies to purchase an additional 26,000 vests."

For more information about the BVP program, visit website: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bvpbasi

National Eye Exam Event for Service Dogs in May

Guide dogs, handicapped assistance dogs, detection dogs and search and rescue dogs selflessly serve the public. So, for the month of May 2010, the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ACVO) is launching the 3rd annual ACVO/Merial National Service Dog Eye Exam Event to help serve these dogs who dedicate their lives to serving us. More than 150 board certified veterinary ophthalmologists in the U.S. and Canada will provide free sight-saving eye exams to thousands of service dogs.

Stacey Daniel, executive director of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ACVO) says, "If we can assist more dogs, then the dogs can better assist people. This event is a success each year due to the outstanding support of our volunteer ophthalmologists, our sponsors and the service dog community. All are instrumental in helping these dogs."

HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE 2010 EVENT:

To qualify, dogs must be active "working dogs" that were certified by a formal training program or organization or currently enrolled in a formal training program. The certifying organization could be national, regional or local in nature. Specific service groups are listed on the website at www.ACVOeyeexam.org

Owners/agents for the dog(s) must FIRST register the animal via an online registration form beginning April 1, at www.ACVOeyeexam.org Registration ends May 16th. Once registered online, the owner/agent can locate a participating ophthalmologist in their area and contact that doctor to schedule an appointment during the month of May. Appointment dates and times may vary depending on the facility and are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

To learn more about and register for the ACVO®/Merial® National Service Dog Eye Exam Event, please visit www.ACVOeyeexam.org.

