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AGENT ORANGE

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE SENATE THURSDAY APPROVED A \$400-MILLION SUPPLEMENTAL SPENDING BILL THAT INCLUDES FUNDS FOR A MEDICAL STUDY OF VIETNAM VETERANS EXPOSED TO THE DEFOLIANT AGENT ORANGE.

THE BILL, APPROVED ON A VOICE VOTE, CONTAINS \$54 MILLION FOR THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL IN ATLANTA TO CARRY OUT THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE SUSPECTED CANCER-CAUSING SUBSTANCE.

A SIMILAR BILL PASSED BY THE HOUSE CONTAINS \$57 MILLION FOR THE STUDY.

A SENATE-HOUSE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE NOW WILL RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO BILLS AND SEND A SINGLE, COMPROMISE VERSION TO THE HOUSE AND SENATE FOR FINAL APPROVAL.

THE AGENT ORANGE STUDY IS TO DETERMINE WHETHER VIETNAM VETERANS WHO MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO THE HERBICIDE, AND VIETNAM VETERANS IN GENERAL, ARE AT GREATER RISK OF SUFFERING LONG-TERM HEALTH EFFECTS THAN VETERANS WHO DID NOT SERVE IN VIETNAM.

THE SENATE BILL ALSO INCLUDES \$69,800 -- THE AMOUNT OF A SENATOR'S SALARY -- TO THE WIDOW OF THE LATE SEN. HENRY JACKSON, D-WASH. THE PRACTICE OF PAYING DEATH GRATUITIES HAS BEEN CUSTOMARY IN THE SENATE FOR ABOUT 125 YEARS. JACKSON DIED OF A HEART ATTACK IN SEPTEMBER.

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