

wage two regional wars at the same time. That theory has never been approved by Congress following hearings or evaluated in the crucible of public opinion.

It is self-evident that the world has changed radically since the disappearance of the Soviet Union. The nations of the world do not need military jets or sophisticated armaments; they need the skill and resources to promote economic stability and make adequate provision for health and education for their people.

America could help make that happen. Instead, the White House chooses to invest the nation's wealth in the largest boost in military spending since the heyday of the Reagan buildup. The Air Force will be able to buy more F-22 fighters, and Army can acquire new Comanche attack helicopters and the Navy will build new ships.

In so doing, the president may have headed off a potentially dangerous issue in the race for the White House in the year 2000. Vice President Gore will not have to face charges of letting America's guard down. But meanwhile the opportunity to rethink the military policies of the United States in a postcommunist world is slipping away.

For me, the concession of 1999 to the Pentagon symbolize the failure of the White House to engage Congress and the country in a fundamental re-examination of what America should do as the human family struggles with feeding, sheltering and keeping all its members safe.

The White House has rejected all the voices since 1990 that have been pressing for new foreign policy priorities. Arms control experts, activists and academics in the peace community and scores of religious organizations feel spurned by Clinton as he agrees to go along with the Pentagon with business as usual.

The Council for a Livable World and similar organizations get regular assessments from military experts of what the United States needs to deal with its current challenges. Their estimate is nowhere close to the \$260 billion available to the Pentagon this year.

There certainly is no need for the entire world to be spending \$780 billion on arms this year.

The world scene has changed, but neither the White House nor the Pentagon seems to have heard the good news. The military is still operating with 80 percent of its Cold War budget and much the same attitude.

The military establishment in this country is awesome. It includes 1,396,000 men and women on active duty, 877,000 in the reserves and 747,000 full-time civilians. Imagine the impact if only a fraction of this vast armada joined the 7,000 Peace Corps volunteers serving the poor in useful ways.

Supervision of the sprawling world of the Department of Defense seems to be beyond even the Congress. There are 122 separate kinds of accounting used by the Department of Defense—so many that even the Pentagon's inspector general admits the need for reform. And although there is every indication that the country's military needs are shrinking, the Pentagon asked Congress for 54 new slots for generals and admirals this year.

It should also be remembered that the Pentagon resisted and prevented America's acceptance of the international ban on land mines whose advocates captured last year's Nobel Peace Prize. The Pentagon blocked U.S. participation in the new International Criminal Court, a sort of permanent Nuremberg Court, and it was the Pentagon that spent \$35 billion in 1998 monitoring and maintaining some 12,500 nuclear warheads.

Opportunities to protest the latest surge in defense spending will probably be minimal,

since the administration and Congress usually push such measures through as a matter of routine.

There is no sign of hope. Dale Bumpers, longtime arms control advocate, took office Jan. 4 as the new director of the Center for Defense Information. After 24 years as a Democratic senator from Arkansas, Bumpers now head up an organization composed of retired high-ranking military officers devoted to developing a sensible military policy for the United States.

Widely regarded as a leader on arms control issues, Bumpers will carry forward the center's work seeking a sensible and balanced military policy. Bumpers opposed plans for an elaborate missile defense system, fought against the F-22 and supported procurement reform at the Pentagon.

The present dominance of the Pentagon and its arms merchants reminds one of the familiar but distressingly true observation of President Dwight Eisenhower in his farewell address of Jan. 17, 1961. The only U.S. general to be president in the 20th century said:

"We must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex."

ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE STONEVILLE TORNADO

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on the afternoon of March 20, 1998, a tornado ripped through the town of Stoneville, NC which is in my district. The people of this small town had no warning before the powerful winds of an F2 tornado ravaged the downtown area and touched the surrounding towns of Madison and Mayodan.

The path of the tornado was 12 miles long and 100 to 400 yards wide. It claimed the lives of 2 individuals while damaging or destroying 500 to 600 homes and nearly all of the businesses in the downtown area.

Yet, after facing this devastating force of nature, the people of Stoneville did not give up. They pulled together with the aid of their neighbors and have been rebuilding their homes, their businesses and their lives over the past 12 months.

I was there the night of the tornado, and from that time until now I have witnessed the best in the human spirit as everyone has volunteered to help those in need.

The buildings were destroyed, but not the determination to survive. This is a true example of American's working together for the good of their fellow man.

I salute the people of Stoneville and all of their neighbors who have volunteered for their will to rebuild rather than to let their heritage be destroyed. I wish them the best and brightest future which they surely deserve.

HONORING VALERIA SOWELL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ms. Valeria Sowell for her distinguished serv-

ice to the Brooklyn community of East New York. A teacher for fifteen years, Ms. Sowell has served her community as educator, lobbyist, and activist.

Known for her no nonsense approach to solving problems, Ms. Sowell earned the respect and admiration of members of the community by helping to establish The Cleveland Street Block Association. In addition to community development, Ms. Sowell is concerned about health issues in Brooklyn. Wearing her hat as community lobbyist, Ms. Sowell is presently working with members of the New York General Assembly to change state law to permit HMO coverage of alternative forms of medicine.

While serving as American Federation of Teachers School Delegate, Ms. Sowell was honored by her peers with the prestigious Very Special Arts Award and later the Impact Award. She is affiliated with several organizations, including the NAACP, Democratic National Committee, New York Alliance of Black School Educators, New York Coalition of Black School Educators, Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers, and the New York Coalition of 100 Black Women.

Ms. Sowell is an active member of the Christian Life Center in Brooklyn. Born in Brooklyn, New York, Ms. Sowell was the fourth of five children from the union of her beloved parents, Mildred and Clyburn Sowell.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor an unselfish, positive role model for the community, Ms. Valeria Sowell.

A BUDGET WORTHY OF OUR NATION'S VETERANS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a travesty that happened in the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs just a few hours ago. As we all know, this committee has had a long-standing tradition of bipartisanship, of working together, of advocacy for our nation's veterans.

That all changed today. Unbelievably, on the eve of the bipartisan retreat in Hershey, Pennsylvania, the Members of the majority on this committee decided not to allow a discussion or a vote on an alternative budget that was derived from the Independent Budget for Fiscal Year 2000, a comprehensive policy document created by veterans for veterans and endorsed by over 50 veterans' service organizations.

As we are well aware, the Administration's fiscal year 2000 budget for veterans is completely unacceptable. Under this budget, the VA health care system is drastically underfunded and in danger of actual collapse. This budget for the GI Bill is far short of realistic needs and failing as a readjustment benefit and as a recruitment incentive. Desperately needed staffing increases included in this budget appear to be phony—little more than transparent shell games. The National Cemetery System has been underfunded for years, and the money needed for the most basic repairs and upkeep is unavailable. These are drastic problems and they demand serious, substantial solutions! Veterans have been

wronged by this budget, and it is the responsibility of Congress to right that wrong.

For many, many years, America's veterans have been good soldiers. They have done their duty and been conscientious, responsible citizens. Every time the Veterans' Affairs Committee was handed a reconciliation target, it met that target. Billions of veterans' dollars have been handed over in order to balance the budget and eliminate the deficit. Time and time again, America's veterans answered their nation's call. The country needed their support, and America's veterans gave all that they could give.

Well, the budget deficit has been eliminated. That battle has been won. I believe that this year, it is time for America's veterans to come first. We, as a nation, owe them that.

I listened closely to the testimony of the many veterans' service organizations as they have come to Washington to appear before the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees over the past few weeks. I carefully studied the Independent Budget for Fiscal Year 2000, which I mentioned earlier. I hear a strong sense of urgency and frustration and even anger that I've never heard before. America's veterans are telling us that they have done more than their fair share—and now they expect us to be their advocates.

As I read the Independent Budget, I was struck by this powerful statement that I would like to share with you. The signers of the Independent Budget said, "As the Administration and Congress develop budgets and policies for the new millennium, we urge them to look up from their balance sheets and into the faces of the men and women who risked their lives to defend our country. We ask them to consider the human consequences of inadequate budgets and benefit denials for those who answered the call to military service."

I took this to heart! Because, as I said earlier, the Administration budget of \$43.6 billion is completely unacceptable, we Democrats on the Veterans' Affairs Committee developed a proposal, based on this Independent Budget, that would add \$3.19 billion to the Administration proposal.

We came to the meeting today, hoping for a full discussion of the chairman's proposal which added \$1.9 billion to the Administration's request, the Democratic alternative which added \$3.19 billion—and a vote on which one to send to the Budget Committee. For I believe that it is our duty, as members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, to send to the Budget Committee the very best "views and estimates" on the VA budget that we can.

In a democratic society, it is our right to be able to express ourselves, to debate and discuss various alternatives, and to vote!

The chairman's recommendation could have gained more votes than the Democratic alternative proposal, but we will never know. Because a vote was not permitted. Not to allow a full discussion of the needs of veterans and the best way to meet those needs—this is simply outrageous. These are the needs of our veterans that we are talking about! Let us hope that the travesty that occurred this afternoon in the Veterans' Affairs Committee will not be repeated for a very long time.

As the Independent Budget asks of us, I ask my colleagues to remember the faces of the men and women who sacrificed so much as we develop a budget worthy of our nation's veterans.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MARLENE DAVIS

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Marlene Davis, Superintendent of the Southfield Public Schools.

Dr. Davis recently was named the 1999 Michigan School Superintendent of the Year. A native of Dearborn, Michigan, Dr. Davis has an extensive educational background. She holds a Bachelors of Arts in Art History, from Michigan State University; a Masters of Arts in Guidance and Counseling, from the University of Michigan; a Masters of Science and a Ph.D. in Education Administration, from Purdue University.

Before coming to the Southfield Public Schools in 1991, Dr. Davis was the Superintendent of Novator Unified Schools and Fillmore Unified Schools, in California from 1985 to 1991. She was also a proud member of the United States Peace Corps for three years, serving in Sierra Leone.

Dr. Davis was named Michigan's 1999 Superintendent of the Year because of her vision and leadership as exemplified by her initiation of the Southfield Public Schools strategic plan, designing the framework of the high school restructuring plan and the implementation of various diversity programs.

Although she has dedicated the last 20 years of her life to make education a priority for the leaders of tomorrow, Dr. Davis is deeply involved in the Southfield community as well. This includes serving on the Boards of the following: Southfield Chamber of Commerce, the Southfield Community Foundation, the Metro Detroit Bureau of School Studies, Gilda's Club and the Southfield Total Living Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Marlene Davis as the recipient of this most prestigious award and wishing her success as she continues to serve the educational community.

A TRIBUTE TO RICHARD KILEY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep regret that I report to our colleagues the passing this past weekend of one of the outstanding actors in American show business—an individual for whom respect was universal.

Richard Kiley was one of the most respected members of his craft because he brought sincerity and professionalism to everything he did. Richard Kiley was not only a gifted actor, but a great humanitarian, whose friendship spanned nearly a half century.

Richard was one of the few people in show business who had the reputation of lending class to every project he had undertaken. From originating the starring role in "Man of LaMancha" to providing the voice over of thirty years of "National Geographic" documentaries, and from his Emmy-winning role as star of "A Day In The Life" to his guest appearances on various other programs, and his

most recent film, "Patch Adams," Richard Kiley brought grace, dignity and intelligence to all of his many roles.

In recent years, we came to rely on Richard Kiley, not only for his advocacy of the National Endowment for the Arts and other programs to encourage artistic development, but also his concern for the environment of his home town of Warwick.

Richard Kiley is perhaps best known as the first actor to play the title role in "Man of LaMancha" for which he received the Tony Award for "the most distinguished performance by a musical star" as well as the Drama Critics Poll and the Drama League Award. He repeated the role in London Center, and on a record-breaking tour of the United States.

Born in Chicago, Richard began his career in radio as a soap opera juvenile in such vintage favorites as "The Guiding Light" and "Ma Perkins." After three-and-a-half years in the Navy, his first significant employment was to understudy Anthony Quinn in the touring company of "A Streetcar Named Desire" and later take over the role of Stanley. He was first seen on Broadway as Joey Percival in the successful revival of Shaw's "Misalliance," for which he received the Theater World Award.

Richard's first musical role was the Caliph in "Kismet" in which he introduced the classic, haunting song, "Stranger in Paradise," which was one of the biggest hit songs of the 1950's. For a time he was in the enviable position of alternating straight plays with musicals, following the Caliph and Major Cargill in the Theater Guild's "Time Limit." He co-starred with Gwen Verdon in "Redhead," for which he won his first Tony Award. The following season he was seen as Brig Andersen in "Advise and Consent," the dramatization of Allen Drury's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, after which he co-starred with Diahann Carroll in Richard Rodgers' "No Strings."

Richard co-starred with Colleen Dewhurst in the Spoleto Festival production of O'Neill's "A Moon for the Misbegotten." He returned to Broadway as Caesar in "Her First Roman," followed by the "Incomparable Max," "Voices" with Julie Harris, "Absurd Person Singular," "The Heiress," and "Knickerbocker Holiday." He appeared at the Kennedy Center in "The Master Builder" and at the Edinburgh Festival in an American poetry reading with Princess Grace of Monaco. He played Tartuffe at Philadelphia's Drama Guild, Moliere in "Spice of Himself" at the Hartford Stage, and toured as Scrooge in a new musical version of "A Christmas Carol." He was last seen on Broadway in the revival of Arthur Miller's "All My Sons" for which he received a Tony nomination.

His television career began during the medium's "Golden Age" and continued until his death with regular guest appearances on many popular shows. He received both the Emmy and Golden Globe Awards for his performances in "The Thorn Birds," as the lead star in the series "A Day In The Life," and as Kathy Baker's father on the acclaimed series, "Picket Fences."

Richard Kiley's motion picture career began with his spellbinding, standout performance in the classic 1955 film, "The Blackboard Jungle." Other notable performances include his roles in "Eight Iron Men," "The Phoenix City Story," "The Little Prince," and "Looking for Mr. Goodbar," in which he appeared as Diane Keaton's father. Richard also appeared in