

BOB STUMP NATIONAL DEFENSE  
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FIS-  
CAL YEAR 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2002*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4546) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2003 for military activities of the Department of Defense, and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes:

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Chairman, there are three simple reasons why Congress should support H.R. 4546. America is at War.

We must accept the fact that terrorist groups like al-Queda have one goal and that is to destroy America and our way of life.

As such, we must protect ourselves aggressively. More importantly, we must support our President in his efforts to root out the terrorists.

Our troops must continue to receive excellent training, but that alone won't ensure victory. We have to equip our troops with the most advanced equipment available. This legislation helps to do just that.

The programs funded in the bill are helping to win the war on terrorism. We have funded initiatives that the men and women on the front lines say work.

For example, the bill fully funds Global Hawk—This is something the good people in my district know something about.

I know how important this program is to our national security. But don't take my word for it. Listen to the people leading the fight in Operation Enduring Freedom: Theatre Commander General Tommy Franks called Global Hawk "invaluable". Air Component Commander, General Mosley said "I could use a dozen Global Hawks right now."

While the legislation has funded a number of significant program needs, we also understand that those systems are useless without the brave men and women that operate them. As the men and women of the armed services fight for our freedom, we must fight for their families. We can say we value our troops and the sacrifices they make all day long, but those words mean absolutely nothing if not backed by action. After years of neglect, we finally have an administration dedicated to supporting our military and their families.

This administration and this congress have taken steps to finally give the military the support that they deserve. By including a 4.1 percent pay raise, this legislation shows our troops that we value them and their sacrifices.

Mr. Chairman, I am also pleased that this legislation bears the name of my friend and colleague BOB STUMP. It is truly a deserving recognition and I certainly urge my colleagues to support it as well.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BOB RILEY**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 127, H.R. 2911, Des-

ignating the Federal Building located at 5100 Paint Branch Parkway in College Park, Maryland, as the Harvey W. Wiley Federal Building on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 404. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 128, H. Con. Res. 271, Expressing the Sense of Congress Supporting the National Importance of Health Care Coverage Month. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 129, On Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 414, Providing for the disposition of H.J. Res. 84, Disapproval of the Actions taken by the President Under Sec. 203 of the Trade Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 130, on H. Res. 414, Providing for the disposition of H.J. Res. 84, Disapproval of the Actions taken by the President Under Sec. 203 of the Trade Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 131, on Agreeing to the Senate Amendments on H.R. 3525, the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 133, H.R. Res. 87, the Yucca Mountain Repository Site Approval Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF THE SANFORD  
MERIDIAN CLASS OF 2002

**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor The Sanford Meridian High School Class of 2002, which, "adopted" Pentagon survivor Army Lieutenant Colonel Brian Birdwell.

I applaud the 93 students whose compassion and initiative stirred them to action following the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Their decision to "adopt" a Pentagon survivor is highly commendable. After months of hard work and dedication, the students raised over \$14,000 for Pentagon survivor Army Lieutenant Colonel Brian Birdwell, who will use the money for a college scholarship fund for his son Matthew.

Through the students' acts of kindness and compassion, the members of the Meridian High School Class of 2002 have proven to be true role models for their community. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Michigan, I am proud to congratulate the Meridian High School Class of 2002 for their admirable efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday during rollcall No. 131 my voting card did not register my "yea" vote. Instead, I was recorded as "not voting." I ask that this state-

ment be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at the appropriate place.

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING  
WORK BY PARTICIPANTS IN STU-  
DENT CONGRESSIONAL TOWN  
MEETING AT UNIVERSITY OF  
VERMONT

**HON. BERNARD SANDERS**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize the outstanding work done by participants in my Student Congressional Town Meeting held this spring at the University of Vermont. These participants were part of a group of high school students from around Vermont who testified about the concerns they have as teenagers, and about what they would like to see government do regarding these concerns.

I respectfully request that the following testimonials be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

REGARDING JUVENILE JUSTICE

(By Sean Fontaine, Krystal Turnbaugh, and James Nichols)

SEAN FONTAINE. Hi. I am going to begin. My name is Sean Fontaine. This is Krystal Turnbaugh and James Nichols. We all represent YouthBuild, and we're all members of the policy committee.

We come here today to discuss juvenile justice, the idea of what ongoing problems in the community with juvenile offenders, usually in age brackets of 16- to 17-year-olds, and how it affects the community in terms of positive reinforcement and what we need to do for programs to financially fund these reinforcement types of things.

I got some notes here somewhere.

I'm just going to start with a brief summary. But I'm speaking on behalf of juvenile offenders on the juvenile justice system. We all know the community is just as responsible for the upbringing of these delinquents as they are themselves. Most people fear the youth of America, and it is not a surprise. There are 2.4 million 16- to 24-year-olds in the U.S. that live low-income lifestyles. 360,000 of them are in prison. There are only 300,000 job-training openings among the 2.4 million students, which means that there are a lot of kids running rampant with no positive reinforcement and nothing to do.

There is a very few amount of people that are not involved in the community, because a community involves everybody, even though delinquents are the weakest links, I guess. But in 1997 alone, drug-law violations increased 125 percent, and I'm sure crime has a lot to do with drug use. Drug use is definitely an ongoing problem in my community, and that's something that we definitely need help with. We need more money for youth programs to support drug-free environments, recreational facilities, and low-income housing programs like YouthBuild that promote positive reinforcement and good life styles and living situations.

The biggest problem with juvenile cases today, I believe, is the system that's handling with them. I don't believe it is right to throw kids in jail. We need to improve conditions in SRS today. I attended a meeting, there was a partnership in service, with Dave Martin, the director of SRS. According to him, the caseloads are just unmanageable for their caseworkers, and they're completely understaffed, underpaid, and overwhelmed,

which leads kids to believe that no one cares about them, especially in the system of social rehabilitation services.

YouthBuild honors community. YouthBuild has just made unparalleled contributions to its community, and the residents are proud of its participants. And it's one of the many programs. There are 250-something YouthBuilds nationwide, and there is a proposal for more money. We are in the process of doing a HUD grant to get more money for those programs.

I know, from my experiences, it is unlike any program I have been in, in terms of juvenile offenders, and that is why I speak about this as I do. I know that the system that deals with juvenile offenders is basically a "first-come, first-serve" basis, that you need to be referred to by programs like Spectrum or the Department of Corrections.

Now, for kids that would like to intervene on negative pathways, we need to have programs available for kids to want to enroll for themselves, alternative programs in jail. Instead of, like, CSE is a program and Pathways is a program in jail for sexual offenders and drug addicts. There should be a way to intervene and have other programs available for kids that just need positive reinforcement. These programs can't just possibly apply to everybody's need areas.

But more importantly, people need to listen. Problems exist everywhere, and we see them and we try to solve them. Our current juvenile system doesn't respect individual cases. It is merely paperwork and statistics, seemingly. These conditions need to improve. I know it cannot be done in a six-minute segment, a six-year or a 600-year projection. The important thing here today is the acknowledgement of these problems and spreading of awareness to parents who are trying to raise these troubled teens.

#### REGARDING CREDIT CARDS

(By Kelly Green)

KELLY GREEN. I would like to begin by asking if the people who plan on attending college would raise their hand.

Thank you.

How many of you have a credit card at this time?

Thanks.

Two-thirds of you that raised your hand for going to college will have a credit card while you are there, according to Keeping an Eye on Junior's College Habits by Terry Savage. That is completely normal. The unimaginable part is, the average undergraduate will leave college about \$12,000 in credit card debt. This is due to the fact that the average unpaid balance left on a credit card is \$2,200. You most likely won't just own only one credit card either. The average number is three cards.

As a high school junior with college in my near future, these statistics scare me. Not only am I paying more than double what my parents did, but I also now have to worry about a credit card company luring me into a trap that could take away my future. According to chapter one of Paying for Your Child's College Education by Margaret Smith, a year at Harvard in the 1970s was barely \$5,000. And between 1995 to '96, the freshmen had to come up with \$27,575. And today, on average, a year in a public college costs about \$6,824, and in a private college costs about \$17,630.

As you can see, college costs have risen drastically over the years, due to more and more students attending. The median income of families in America who have college-age children has nearly tripled. Today only 30 percent of the public college costs is paid by a family's income. The rest is coming from loans and grants. These loans have to be paid off somehow, and what better way

than a credit card or two, or that is what the credit card companies lead to you think.

According to a Salliemae Financial Advice Internet site, a \$2,000 tuition bill on a credit card with 18.5 percent APR, with only a minimum payment of \$20 each month, will take eleven years to pay off, plus you will pay over \$1,900 in interest on top of the initial \$2,000. In the end, you will be paying around \$3,900 total. I don't know about you, but I can't come up with that much money all the time. Credit card companies know that. They aren't stupid. But they also know, one way or another, they will have the money in the end, even at the cost of your future.

Could you imagine being 19 years old, a sophomore in college, and filing bankruptcy because you owe a company \$23,000? This is a true statement according to the College Student Credit Card Protection Act. This sophomore isn't alone either. In 1999, 100,000 Americans under the age of 25 declared bankruptcy. As you can see, I am not the first person to bring this issue up. The legislature, too, has discussed this issue.

In this day and age, more and more young people like myself are being forced into bad credit ratings, without even starting a full-time job. We will be forced to live with this slander on our name for years after. It will affect our ability to buy a house, car, and, depending on our field of interest, starting a business will be almost impossible.

Credit ratings follow you for the rest of your life. Young people like me and many others shouldn't have to file bankruptcy so young, or be haunted by bad credit ratings. We have our whole lives ahead of us.

Things can change, and should. I strongly suggest that we take the time to make change happen. We can't eliminate all debt and credit problems, but we can lower them. High schools today don't offer much for money management classes. Freshman in college are going in blind to what these companies are doing. The school should be required, at some point in the senior year of high school, to educate us about what is happening and how to manage money so we can protect ourselves from such debt.

Another problem that is influencing the debt is guidance counselors. They are pressuring college on to students who don't want to attend. So when they get to college, they end up dropping out, and are stuck with the costs. And that, in itself, is causing higher tuition and more debt. I'm not saying that guidance counselors should stop promoting college, but should not make students feel forced to attend. This way, in the end, it will be worthwhile for them.

The credit card company should keep the amount an individual can put on a card low, instead of letting us dig ourselves a hole we can't get out of. John Simpson, of the University of Indiana, stated, "Credit cards are a terrible thing." I strongly agree. College students shouldn't be forced to ruin their lives by the bright, ludicrous ideas credit card companies are putting into their head.

Lastly, I would like to thank you, Mr. Sanders, for allowing teens like me an opportunity to have a voice on issues that affect us now or will in the near future.

#### TRIBUTE TO CANDICE NEAL OF EVA, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Miss Candice Neal, winner of the

American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest. Miss Neal is the first Alabamian to win this contest since it began 65 years ago.

In her speech, Miss Neal demonstrated incredible patriotism and a strong understanding of the United States Constitution. With the winning prize of a four-year scholarship, she will enroll in the University of Alabama this fall.

Mr. Speaker, it is with honor that I submit Candice Neal's speech into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

#### THE CONSTITUTION: A FANTASTIC JOURNEY

Attention time travelers this is your final boarding call for flight U.S. 1-7-8-7. Congratulations you have selected one of our more popular destinations, The Beginning of American Government. I will be your guide for today's journey back in time. Today, you will experience some of the more dramatic events in our nation's history. Flight 1-7-8-7 is a nonstop flight, back in time, to the creation of the U.S. Constitution. The flight crew has requested that you remain seated with your personal liberties securely fastened. When the captain is certain that you are not in danger she will illuminate the "ratification light" indicating that you may move about the cabin freely. As we prepare for take-off I will remind you that this is a non-smoking flight, and in keeping with today's destination, federal law prohibits the violation of anyone's inalienable rights.

Please look in the seat back pockets in front of you, to review today's agenda. We begin our journey with a basic knowledge and understanding of the Constitution and how it was created. In the second phase of this adventure, you will learn how to responsibly engage in our constitutional rights. And, finally you will discover what it means to become a part of history yourself, by participating in this government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

We've been cleared for takeoff, so please direct your attention to the windows on the left side of the cabin. You will note instances in recent history, in which rulers and dictators have taken away people's personal freedoms. There's Kosovo, Bosnia and Tianenmen Square.

Make sure your seat belts are securely fastened. We are about to enter a turbulent time in American History—the defense of democracy—There's Desert Storm, now Pearl Harbor and our final stop, the Revolutionary War. This is where our journey begins . . .

What you might not realize is that the Constitution is actually our third form of government. It was here during the Revolutionary War when our fight for freedom began. The American Colonies were first forced to live under the reign of England. From 1775 until 1783 the American Colonies fought for their independence. Fast forward to 1781. You'll notice that even before the fighting was over, our second form of government, the Articles of the Confederation, was adopted. It is obvious to us now, as time travelers, that these young colonies would require much more structure than the Articles of Confederation had to offer. Here we seek the lack of a central government to levy taxes and enforce laws. We see states minting their own currency and imposing tariffs on out-of-state goods. We see economic depression and political wandering.

We now move forward to 1787, please do not disturb the 55 men who are meeting in this old Philadelphia state house. They are statesmen, patriots, each with their own ideas about how this new government should be organized. Some of them are states' rights advocates. Many of them are federalists. But you will notice that one man stands out in