

SOCIAL SECURITY AND THE 2006
BUSH BUDGET

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Bush Administration's 2006 budget which will in essence short-change the American people. It fails to include the cost of the war in Iraq, increases the cost of health care for our veterans, and cuts billions in education, health care, housing, and environmental programs, while adding more than \$4 trillion to the deficit in the next 10 years.

What is more amazing is that while the President has made the privatization of Social Security his top priority, he has failed to provide any details for his proposed program. Most notably, the budget omits the cost of the proposed privatization which according to independent experts will cost more than \$4 trillion in the first 20 years. Additionally, his budget continues the raid on the Social Security Trust Fund, borrowing and spending all of the money from the Social Security Trust Fund over the next five years.

The President's failure to provide a clear and honest accounting of the difficult trade-offs between increases in the debt, benefit cuts, and tax increases necessary to fund the White House's privatization proposal is another attempt to pull the wool over the eyes of the Americans. But, Mr. President, I want you to know that the American public is not fooled by this false rhetoric.

So today I want to speak on behalf of the over 160,000 people in my district and the more than 48 million people across this country who currently rely on Social Security benefits. These are not just retired Americans, but also people with disabilities and those who have lost a parent. Many of them are seniors who without their Social Security benefits, nearly half would be living in poverty. Instead of privatizing and enacting a plan that will gamble benefits in the stock market we should be working on a plan to make Social Security solvent for the long term. We owe it to the American people who have worked all their lives and paid into this program to strengthen, not weaken Social Security. And we deserve better than this reckless and irresponsible budget.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE OHIO AIR NATIONAL GUARD 180TH FIGHTER WING ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BASE

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to the men and women, both past and present, who serve the Ohio Air National Guard's 180th Fighter Wing in Swanton, Ohio.

In 1955, the 112th Bombardment Squadron moved from the Akron-Canton Airport to To-

ledo and became a Fighter Interceptor Squadron. Soon after, the base became a Tactical Fighter Squadron and was activated for the Berlin Crisis. Then in 1962, the squadron became part of the newly formed 180th Tactical Fighter Group. After earning the Air Force Outstanding Unit distinction in both 1985 and 1990, members of the base were deployed to Panama during Operation Just Cause and Iraq for both Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm.

Today, the 180th Fighter Wing is equipped with F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft and continues to be a tactical asset to the National Guard. Members have served in Operations Provide Comfort and Operation Northern Watch over Iraq in 1996, 1998, and 1999. Additionally, the brave men and women of the 180th were some of the first to scramble jets in defense of our Nation on September 11th.

Because its central location places the 180th Fighter Wing within a 30 minute flight time to nearly 50 million Americans, the base has been a vital force in American airpower for the past 50 years. The men and women who have served our area have benefited from the excellent quality of life in Northwest Ohio, and we in Northwest Ohio have benefited from their service. Many of my constituents have served honorably as members of the 180th Fighter Wing and earned numerous distinctions. In addition, the airmen of the 180th have contributed to our community through programs such as the "Homeless Awareness" project, the "Adopt-A-School" program and the Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the men and women of the Ohio Air National Guard's 180th Fighter Wing in Swanton, Ohio. Their dedication to duty and contribution to air power has proven the airmen of the 180th Fighter Wing to be American heroes. Today, we pay respect to 50 years of dedicated service to Northwest Ohio and look forward to a future in which our children and grandchildren grow up under the protections provided by these great patriots.

TRIBUTE TO MANUEL HERNANDEZ

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Representative JIM COSTA, to pay tribute today to Manuel Hernandez, a long-time community activist in Visalia, California, who died February 25th at the age of 91.

Mr. Hernandez was affectionately known as the "Godfather of North Visalia," where he mentored many up and coming leaders in the large Latino community.

He was born in 1913 in Torreón, in the Coahuila state of northern Mexico. His family moved to the United States in the 1920s. He worked in the fields earning a living by picking cotton, oranges, peaches and other crops for as little as 15 cents an hour.

Later, he worked cleaning up after construction crews. He became a carpenter and took certification courses at College of the Sequoias to become a construction supervisor.

In the 1960s, he was involved in the formation of Self-Help Enterprises, helping low-in-

come families build and own homes. As a longtime member of the Self-Help board and during his service with a long list of organizations and citizens advisory committees, including the Tulare County Grand Jury, he was an advocate for Visalia's less fortunate.

Hundreds gathered at his funeral in March, and as his hearse drove to the cemetery, children stood on the sidewalk and saluted him.

Once again, we urge our colleagues to join us in applauding his many years of selfless dedication to the community he loved. His legacy of hard work, compassion, and cooperation stands as an example for us all.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDED IN-HOME CARE OF THE ELDERLY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support of Federal and State funded in-home care for the elderly. This legislation highlights the inadequacies seniors face with electing in-home care. By increasing financial assistance for in-home care, establishing fee payment guidelines, implementing better schooling for in-home aides, and assembling a supervisory board of care givers, we can help ensure the quality of care elderly receive in-home is as adequate as hospitalized attention.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important resolution for three crucial reasons. First, it endorses the efforts of the elderly to remain independent and sustain their viability during the last years of their life. Supporting studies show that seniors who receive in-home care have greater life expectancies than seniors who are moved from everything that is familiar to them and placed in nursing homes. Second, this resolution promotes the expansion of employment opportunities in the nursing and in-home care industries. By implementing government funded in-home care to equal that of nursing home care, more seniors will elect to be nursed at home, which in turn increases job opportunities. Finally, this resolution encourages the establishment of better treatment and guidelines for students and schools who train certified nurse assistants and home health aides. Through adoption of uniformly high standards, we can ensure our seniors have access to qualified professionals when selecting in-home care. Each of these important ambitions are achievable through raising the quality of in-home care.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. As Members of Congress, we have a great opportunity to make a positive impact on this issue, an issue that is of concern to many of our grandparents, parents, and will be of concern to us. I look forward to working with my colleagues and moving this resolution forward.