

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2009

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 312) revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2010 through 2013:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this budget blueprint for the priorities it sets and the fiscal sanity it restores to our Nation's Capitol.

Seven years after President Bush inherited a projected 10-year \$5.6 trillion year budget surplus, the Congressional Budget Office now reports that the FY 08 budget deficit will be \$396 billion and the FY 09 budget deficit will total \$342 billion. These are the second and fourth largest budget deficits in U.S. history. Not coincidentally, the first and third largest budget deficits in U.S. history were also recorded during the Bush administration.

During the same period, our national debt has exploded by \$3.9 trillion to well over \$9 trillion—or more than \$30,000 for every citizen in the United States. In fact, each taxpayer is now paying over \$3000 every year just to pay the interest on their share of the national debt.

Astonishingly, this budget deterioration has coincided with dangerous disinvestment in our Nation's health, education, public safety, energy independence, veterans and basic scientific research—among other critically important priorities.

This budget document changes all that. It rejects the President's misguided cuts in health care for seniors and lower-income citizens. It increases our national investment in education and lifelong job training. It restores funding for State and local law enforcement. It prioritizes the development of next generation renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. It spares veterans the President's proposed fee increases for health care they have rightfully earned. And it provides robust funding for the Democratic innovation agenda to enhance our Nation's position in the global marketplace.

Importantly, this budget accomplishes these objectives while providing middle class tax relief to millions of hard-working Americans by patching the Alternative Minimum Tax and extending the child tax credit, marriage penalty relief and the 10 percent income tax bracket. Consistent with the PAYGO rules adopted by this House, this document achieves these public policy goals with no new deficit spending. And it brings our budget into balance in 2012.

Mr. Chairman, this budget represents a properly prioritized, fiscally responsible blueprint for the Nation's future. I urge its adoption and encourage my colleagues' support.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE
HONORABLE TOM LANTOS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the memory of the late Congressman Tom Lantos and his devotion to battling genocide and aiding its victims. We have not only lost a wonderful friend but an individual who, during his lifetime, made countless contributions toward the betterment of our Nation, and indeed, the world.

At the age of 16, Tom was taken by the Nazis as they stormed through Budapest in 1944. After two escapes from the Nazi work camps, he found refuge in a safe house and began working to help other Jews in hiding by gathering food and supplies.

Upon moving to the United States in 1947, Tom Lantos served in various capacities as an educator, consultant and political advisor to several Senators. In 1983, only 2 years after being elected to Congress, Congressman Lantos helped to found the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. During his final year of service to the House of Representatives, he served as the distinguished chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Chairman Lantos represented California's 12th Congressional District for 27 years in the House of Representatives and will be remembered as a champion of human rights.

We are privileged to have known and worked with such a passionate and loyal individual. Chairman Lantos will be greatly missed and always remembered. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated public servant.

He will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Annette, their two daughters, Annette and Katrina, 17 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

A TRIBUTE TO MUCM WAYNE C.
TAYLOR

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to Wayne Taylor, Master Chief Musician of the United States Navy Band. Mr. Taylor is retiring on March 21, 2008, after a distinguished career as the lead singer for the U.S. Navy Band's premiere country-bluegrass group, Country Current.

Wayne joined the Navy for his first enlistment in 1974 and was assigned to the Aviation rating. He auditioned and was accepted into the Navy Music Program and received orders to the School of Music at Little Creek, Virginia. Upon graduating he reported for duty with the Seventh Fleet Band in Yokosuka, Japan, as lead vocalist and guitarist with the "Orient Express" Rock Band. He was stationed onboard the USS *Oklahoma City*. Throughout his 2 years in Japan, he traveled

to many Asian countries on 13 different ships. Wayne was honorably discharged in 1978 as a Musician 3rd Class.

When Wayne decided to re-enlist in the Navy in 1987, he auditioned for Country Current and has spent the last 20 years and 7 months as their lead singer. Country Current has performed in 49 of the 50 states, for four U.S. Presidents, three times at the Grand Ole Opry, for the "Nashville Now" show, Good Morning America, the Today Show, Wheeling Jamboree and Richmond Barn Dance. As a member of the Country Current Duo, he has performed at 13 Army-Navy football games and for distinguished military and civilian officials around Washington. Taylor sang the National Anthem to over 100,000 patrons at the Charlotte 600 NASCAR Race in Charlotte, NC, and at Comisky Park for a Chicago White Sox baseball game.

Wayne and his wife, Marrie, have two children; Wayne Coleman Taylor, Jr. (former Marine) and Terra Lee Ann Taylor, a Hospital Corpsman presently stationed in Earle, NJ. I am sure Members of the House will join me in thanking Wayne Coleman for his service to our country and for sharing his love of music with people throughout the world.

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SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

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Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Congressional Black Caucus Budget Substitute.

I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK), and all our staff for their hard work on this effort. Our budget reflects the values and priorities of the American people.

The CBC Members represent some of the most conservative and most progressive people in this country. Some of us are from big cities; others come from tiny, little towns and farm lands. And every year we find a way to come together. Every year, we find a way to provide funds for the most important priorities of all our constituents.

If you care about health care; if you care about homelessness; if you care about education; then you will support this substitute. Our amendment includes an additional \$20 billion investment in education. And we provide an additional \$17 billion for health care.

In Georgia, the mortgage foreclosure crisis is devastating our communities. This budget includes an additional \$8 billion to assist with housing and services for families, this disabled, senior citizens, and children. Unlike the President's budget proposal, we increase services and security for our constituents. And we find a way to pay for it.

Mr. Chairman, I urge all of my colleagues to really look at this legislation. Study our fact sheets; read the dear colleague letters. Then really think about your constituents, and think about how our budget will better all of their lives.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on this amendment.

CONGRATULATING THE WORK OF MASTER DISTILLER JIMMY BED- FORD

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commend and congratulate the life's work of Master Distiller Jimmy Bedford, the craftsman behind the smooth and distinct Jack Daniels whiskey that flows out of Lynchburg, Tennessee, every year.

For years, Jimmy studied his trade under the tutelage of one-time Master Distiller Frank Bobo. When Frank retired, Jimmy took the reigns of the milling, yeasting, fermentation, distillation, and charcoal mellowing of the long lived Jack Daniels recipe. For 20 years, Jimmy has safeguarded this Tennessee tradition in Lynchburg's quiet hollow as the sixth Master Distiller in Jack Daniels history.

Throughout Jimmy's tenure at the distillery, Jack Daniels has seen its yearly sales rise from under one million to nearly ten million cases in just forty years, with shipments going out to 135 countries around the world every year; but, no matter where people are drinking their whiskey, whether overseas, along the coasts or right in the heart of Tennessee, they know now, as they have for twenty years, that every bottle of Jack Daniels whiskey comes to them with Jimmy Bedford's approval.

This year, Jimmy will retire to his farm just two miles up the road from the distillery he served for so long. While it is sad to see him go, we can trust that Jimmy will leave this icon of Tennessee and American culture in the hands of an able and dedicated successor. Jimmy retires this month with our blessing, but it is my sincere hope that before he steps down we might impress upon him our gratitude for his stalwart preservation of this lasting Tennessee tradition.

HONORING MAYOR STAN SCHAEFFER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of a great community leader and a great friend.

Mayor Stan Schaeffer of Collinsville, Illinois, passed away March 7, 2008, at his home in Collinsville. Like so many of Stan's constituents, I knew him in many different capacities: not only did he serve our city as mayor for the last 9 years, he was also a city councilman, a teacher for over 40 years, and a coach of many sports teams.

Stan was dedicated to seeing our community and our region move forward. His tenure as mayor will be remembered as one during which Collinsville grew in population and grew economically through business development, but one during which our town remained the caring, close-knit community it has always been.

Many individuals forget that all the basic services we require—local government, police, fire, sanitation, local roads—come from local government. Collinsville faced many challenges during Stan's tenure. His optimistic outlook and his calm spirit is a path that future leaders should follow.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Liz, his daughter Carrie, his stepdaughters Linda, Paula and Jami, his stepsons Timothy and Scott, his fifteen grandchildren, and all those who mourn this day for our friend Stan. He devoted his life to his family and his community, and he left a positive mark on both. He will be dearly missed by all of us who had the privilege to know him.

TEXAS STUDENTS' INTERVIEWS OF VETERANS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, last fall I invited high school students living in the Third Congressional District to join the Congressional Youth Advisory Council. The goal of the CYAC is to foster civic involvement and to encourage students to unleash their passions for America. Each meeting, they exceed my expectations and make me hopeful for the future.

The students who serve on the CYAC represent the best and the brightest in North Texas. Students are leaders, athletes, musicians, volunteers, and activists. They are the voice of their generation to Congress. They make a difference at each meeting and I'm proud of them.

For this year's community project, students interviewed a veteran and wrote essays. A summary of some of the submitted essays follows.

It is my hope that some day the Congressional Youth Advisory Council will be associated with excellence and one of our highest standards of civic pride for young people in North Texas. I commend the students for volunteering their time on the Congressional Youth Advisory Council. Without a doubt, every student will continue to play an important role in our community for decades to come, and that America and North Texas, will continue to benefit from their dedication, smarts, and service.

To the members of the 2007–2008 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. Thank you. I salute you; God bless you and God bless America.

My interview was conducted with Mr. Allen B. Clark. He served in the United States Army as a Military Intelligence Officer for the Fifth Special Forces. He was able to help many of the operations in Saigon and give life to a Special Forces unit started by him. Mr. Allen Clark gave me a perspective of one who risked his life and sacrificed himself for ideals that he believed in. Further-

more, he is the first person whom I have met that has ever faced such adversity and still succeeded in everything he has done. The adjustments he had to make in order to accommodate his prosthetic legs and his spiritual revolution attest to the integrity and strength of his character. Mr. Clark taught me that one who faces adversity never uses it as an excuse to fail, but rather as a motivation for succeeding. If one has a dream, then it is never out of reach even if the odds are against you. Standing firm for principle, guides one in life and gives him direction to make the choices that will allow him to be satisfied with life.—Nabeel Lockmanjee

For my veteran's interview, I interviewed my grandfather, Theodore Wade Falconer. My grandfather served in the Navy from September 1948 to September 1952 and worked up the ranks from Seaman Apprentice to 2nd Class Petty officer. Ted was born in Portland, Oregon on January 19, 1929, but grew up in Coos Bay, Oregon. He joined the Navy after high school for two reasons: one, he couldn't afford to go to college, and two, the Navy had an exceptional electrical technician program. After going through boot camp for 13 weeks, Ted was shipped off to Treasure Island, where he went to a Navy electrician training school. After 42 weeks of training, he was then shipped off to the Naval Communication Station on Guam, where he spent 16 months stationed there, while stating that it had been the best experience of his Navy career. After spending 16 months in a Pacific paradise, Ted was then shipped off to Hunter's Point in San Francisco to re-commission an old World War Two troop transport for active service in the Korean War. After six months of training, his commission was up and he was discharged from the Navy. His post military career was a successful one where he earned his masters degree and went to work for Texas Instruments for 33 years before retiring. After talking to my grandfather about his military experiences, I saw a living example of all the good virtues a person can possess; integrity, discipline, work ethic, and respect. My grandfather is a perfect example of these traits, focusing his actions based on these virtues. With this, I learned about not only his military experiences, but also how important it is to use these core values as he used them throughout his life. Anchors aweigh.—Joshua Womboldt

Veterans have done a service for our country with their selfless acts during the war, regardless of how large or small their sacrifice was. Charles Pearson made his life the best that he could, and was part of the crucial moment of the Japanese surrender in World War II. As 2nd Lieutenant in the Marine Corps, Mr. Pearson was sent to Okinawa and fought the Japanese on the island for a lengthy period of time. After being sent to Guam to rebuild his division, Mr. Pearson and his men who survived the previous assignment were sent to Japan, just north of Tokyo Bay. Their mission was to verify the Japanese's surrender. Mr. Pearson and his men prepared for a possible attack from the enemy, even though an attack would result in a complete destruction of their ship. Bravely entering the enemy's territory, they were relieved that the Japanese had indeed surrendered. After the peace treaty was signed in 1945, Mr. Pearson was finally sent to China to help improve the economy and send the remaining Japanese back to Japan. In 1946, Mr. Pearson returned home. Since the war, Mr. Pearson has fulfilled his dreams by living a quiet and peaceful life on his family farm in Frisco, Texas.—Rena Sheng

Russell Friese was born in Alto-Pass, Illinois in 1915. After hearing many achievements about brave young men risking their lives for freedom, Mr. Friese decided to enlist and leave with the next shipment of