

threats before they reach America's shores." I couldn't agree more, and appreciate the hard work that these signatories and the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition have done to support our international affairs budget.

MARCH 10, 2010.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: As retired officers of the U.S. military across all branches of the armed services, we are writing to express our support for the President's FY 2011 International Affairs Budget request, a fundamental pillar of U.S. national security and foreign policy. The critical programs in the International Affairs Budget invest in the non-military tools of development and diplomacy, foster economic and political stability on a global scale, strengthen our allies, and fight the spread of poverty, disease, terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

Continuing the bipartisan precedent set by the Bush Administration, the Obama Administration views the International Affairs Budget as part of the national security funding alongside Defense, Homeland Security, Intelligence, and Veterans programs. However, the International Affairs Budget remains underfunded, representing 1.4 percent of the entire federal budget and less than 7 percent of our total national security funding.

Our view is shared by Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who has stated that "America's civilian institutions of diplomacy and development have been chronically undermanned and underfunded for far too long—relative to what we traditionally spend on the military, and more important, relative to the responsibilities and challenges our nation has around the world." Secretary Gates and other military leaders believe, as we do, that our national security is dependent not only on a strong military force but also on increased investments in the full range of diplomatic, development and humanitarian tools funded through the International Affairs Budget.

The United States must combine its strong military with robust, effective civilian tools of international development and diplomacy to secure its national interests in an era when many of the challenges of the 21st century recognize no borders. While our military power can provide the logistics and organizational support to help those in need in times of humanitarian crisis, as demonstrated by our current efforts in Haiti, it can only help create the conditions necessary to allow the other tools of statecraft—our diplomatic, development and humanitarian programs—to effectively address these issues.

Balancing our military power with the range of International Affairs programs funded by the International Affairs Budget is critical to stabilizing fragile states, combating terrorism, and deterring threats before they reach America's shores. Therefore, we urge you to support no less than the Administration's request of \$58.5 billion for the International Affairs Budget.

Sincerely,

General Michael W. Hagee, USMC (Ret.), Co-Chair, National Security Advisory Council; Admiral James M. Loy, USCG (Ret.), Co-Chair, National Security Advisory Council; Charles S. Abbot, USN (Ret.), Deputy Commander in Chief, U.S. European Command ('98-'00); General John P. Abizaid, USA (Ret.), Commander, U.S. Central Command ('03-'07); Admiral Frank L. Bowman, USN (Ret.), Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion ('96-'04); General Charles G. Boyd, USAF (Ret.), Deputy Commander in Chief, U.S. European Command ('92-'95); Admiral Archie R. Clemins, USN

(Ret.), Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet ('96-'99); General Richard A. "Dick" Cody, USA (Ret.), Vice Chief of Staff, United States Army ('04-'08); Lieutenant General John B. Conaway, USAF (Ret.), Chief, National Guard Bureau ('90-'93); General Richard D. Hearney, USMC (Ret.), Assistant Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps ('94-'96); General James T. Hill, USA (Ret.), Commander, U.S. Southern Command ('02-'04); Admiral James R. Hogg, USN (Ret.), U.S. Military Representative, NATO Military Committee ('88-'91); General James L. Jamerson, USAF (Ret.), Deputy Commander in Chief, U.S. European Command ('95-'98); Admiral Gregory G. Johnson, USN (Ret.), Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe/Commander in Chief, Allied Forces Southern Europe ('01-'04); Admiral Jerome L. Johnson, USN (Ret.), Vice Chief of Naval Operations ('90-'92); General John P. Jumper, USAF (Ret.), Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force ('01-'05). Lieutenant General Jeffrey W. Oster, USMC (Ret.), Deputy Administrator and Chief Operating Officer, Coalition Provisional Authority, Iraq (2004); Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources, Headquarters Marine Corps (ended in '98); Lieutenant General Charles P. Ostott, USA (Ret.), Deputy Chairman, NATO Military Committee ('90-'92); Admiral William A. Owens, USN (Ret.), Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff ('94-'96); Admiral Joseph W. Prueher, USN (Ret.), Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command ('96-'99); Lieutenant General Harry D. Raduege, Jr., USAF (Ret.), Director, Defense Information Systems Agency ('00-'05); Manager, National Communications System ('00-'03); Commander, Joint Task Force for Global Network Operations ('04-'05); Vice Admiral Norman W. Ray, USN (Ret.), Deputy Chairman, NATO Military Committee ('92-'95); General Robert W. RisCassi, USA (Ret.), Commander in Chief, United Nations Command/Commander in Chief, Republic of Korea/U.S. Combined Forces Command ('92-'93); Lieutenant General John Costello, USA (Ret.), Commanding General, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Space Command ('98-'01); Admiral James O. Ellis, Jr., USN (Ret.), Commander, U.S. Strategic Command ('02-'04); Admiral Thomas B. Fargo, USN (Ret.), Commander, U.S. Pacific Command ('02-'05); Admiral S. Robert Foley, USN (Ret.), Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet ('82-'85); Lieutenant General Robert G. Gard, Jr., USA (Ret.), President, National Defense University ('77-'81); Admiral Edmund P. Giambastiani, Jr., USN (Ret.), Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff ('05-'07); Vice Admiral Lee F. Gunn, USN (Ret.), Inspector General, U.S. Navy ('97-'00); General Michael W. Hagee, USMC (Ret.), Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps ('03-'06); General Richard E. Hawley, USAF (Ret.), Commander, Air Combat Command ('96-'99). General Paul J. Kern, USA (Ret.), Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command ('01-'04); General William F. Kierman, USA (Ret.), Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic/Commander in Chief, U.S. Joint Forces Command ('00-'02); Admiral Charles R. Larson, USN (Ret.), Commander, U.S. Pacific Command ('91-'94); Vice Admiral Stephen F. Loftus, USN (Ret.), Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Logistics ('90-'94);

General John Michael Loh, USAF (Ret.), Commander, Air Combat Command ('92-'95); Admiral James M. Loy, USCG (Ret.), Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard ('98-'02); General Dan McNeill, USA (Ret.), Commander, International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan ('07-'08); Lieutenant General Paul T. Mikolashek, USA (Ret.), The Inspector General, U.S. Army/Commanding General of the Third U.S. Army Forces Central Command ('00-'02); Commanding General, Southern European Task Force ('98-'00); Admiral Robert J. Natter, USN (Ret.), Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet/Commander, Fleet Forces Command ('00-'03); General Peter J. Schoomaker, USA (Ret.), Chief of Staff, U.S. Army ('03-'07); General Henry H. Shelton, USA (Ret.), Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff ('97-'01); Admiral Leighton W. Smith, Jr., USN (Ret.), Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe/Commander in Chief, Allied Forces Southern Europe ('94-'96); Admiral William D. Smith, USN (Ret.), U.S. Military Representative, NATO Military Committee ('91-'93); General Carl W. Stiner, USA (Ret.), Commander in Chief, U.S. Special Operations Command ('90-'93); Admiral Carlisle A. H. Trost, USN (Ret.), Chief of Naval Operations ('86-'90); General Charles F. Wald, USAF (Ret.), Deputy Commander, U.S. European Command ('02-'06); General Charles E. Wilhelm, USMC (Ret.), Commander, U.S. Southern Command ('97-'00); General Michael J. Williams, USMC (Ret.), Assistant Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps ('00-'02).

HONORING JAMES HARDEN "PAT" DAUGHERTY AND THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 22, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. James Harden "Pat" Daugherty who was a member of the 92nd Infantry Division of the United States Army in World War II.

Veterans are some of our country's greatest treasures, and I commend Mr. Daugherty on his service. It is important for us to remember the sacrifices that members of our armed services make and have made to ensure our freedom and our prosperity. It is with heartfelt thanks that I recognize Mr. Daugherty today, and I encourage my fellow colleagues to join me in doing so.

Additionally, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the collective efforts of Mr. Daugherty's division, the 92nd Infantry. This group was more commonly known as the Buffalo Soldiers and was the only African American infantry division to see combat in Europe during World War II. Their efforts helped to desegregate the military, and they proved that African-Americans were valorous and dedicated members of the United States military.

Madam Speaker, America is a stronger and nobler country because of veterans like Pat Daugherty and his compatriots in the 92nd Infantry Division. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing the service and accomplishments of Mr. Daugherty and the Buffalo Soldiers with which he served.

A TRIBUTE TO GLORIA WILLIAMS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 22, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Gloria Williams, who has made important contributions to education throughout her career in Brooklyn and internationally.

Born and raised in the small rural village of Bartica, Guyana, South America, Gloria Williams hails from a large family of ten and is blessed with one son, Robert. She is the beneficiary of an amazing journey that focuses on being allowed to play a deciding role in the future of children's lives. Ms. Williams is currently an Assistant Principal of Intermediate School 292, located in East New York, Brooklyn.

Gloria spent her formative years in Guyana and completed her secondary education in Zambia. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Secondary education from the University of Guyana and began her teaching career in 1984. She later migrated to the United States of America was awarded two masters Degrees: one in Literacy Education and the other in Supervision and Administration from Touro College in New York.

Gloria is fortunate to have found her niche in the field of education and has been charting courses in that arena for the last twenty-six years. She has held the positions of teacher, staff-developer, assistant-principal and principal and has made it her mission to lead young people in the right direction. Her passion is curriculum development and instruction and she works assiduously to ensure all students in her charge have opportunities to engage in a rounded productive education. Ms. Williams has been credited as being a member of the dynamic team that transformed Intermediate School 292 in East New York, Brooklyn from a struggling, failing school to one that is now the pride of East New York.

Being cognizant of the struggles and sacrifices her parents endured to ensure her success, Ms. Williams has founded the Educating All Guyanese through Literacy and Education (EAGLE) foundation where she seeks to empower children in need. Through her foundation, Gloria donates school supplies to students in Guyana and conducts professional development sessions for teachers and other educators in the hope of enhancing the teaching and learning process so that ultimately, all benefit.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of Gloria Williams.

A TRIBUTE TO LEANNE DICKSON

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 22, 2010

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Leanne Dickson of San Gabriel, California. Each year in March, in recognition of Women's History Month, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our Nation's most distinguished women.

Leanne Dickson has been a resident of San Gabriel for over thirty-five years. She is the widow of James Dickson, owner of Dickson Motor Service, Towing Service, & Auto Repair. Leanne has two adult children, Wendy Dickson Holten and Greg Dickson.

Leanne's involvement in San Gabriel has been varied. She has been the Vice President and Box Office manager for the San Gabriel Valley Music Theatre since 2005. At the same time, she has served as treasurer of the San Gabriel Rotary for the last three years. For the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce, she volunteers her time two days a week and has served as board member and treasurer for three years. In 2008, the chamber honored her as Women's Division Woman of the Year.

Leanne is continually doing for others in the community. It seems as though she attends every city function and every community activity, helping out where needed. She has volunteered on the Parent-Teacher Association for twelve years, has been a Neighborhood Watch Block Captain for four years, and was a Girl Scout leader for seven years. In 2008, she donated her time volunteering for the Church of Our Savior's AIDS luncheon. Leanne has actively supported La Casa Community Center and the San Gabriel Valley YMCA with their events.

Leanne was the Vice President at Pasadena Federal Credit Union twenty-three years, and she is currently employed part time at the Gazebo boutique in San Gabriel.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring a remarkable woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Leanne Dickson. The entire community joins me in thanking Leanne for the meaningful impact she has had on the 29th Congressional District.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 22, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,661,039,727,506.65.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,022,613,981,212.80 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL T. McCaul

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, March 21, 2010

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Speaker, in a desperate effort to pass a sweeping government takeover of our health care system, Democrats held Congress in session throughout the weekend to pass H.R. 3590, The Patient Protection and Health Care Affordability Act along with a package of desired "fixes," H.R. 4872, The Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act. In a purely partisan fashion, the Democrats have now passed the largest tax increase in history, a massive expansion of entitlements, and policies which will put the health care system at the whim of the Federal Government.

One of the most distressing aspects of this legislation is the dishonesty which has been utilized for its passage. While I am pleased that the Democrats forfeited the "Deem-and-Pass" ploy to hide a vote on the Senate health care bill, I am shocked that they support this 2,700 page monstrosity, complete with its slew of sweetheart deals that benefit home states of members who once opposed the bill. Despite the backlash that rightfully followed these deceitful kickbacks, the Democrats included even more million-dollar deals for specific members in the reconciliation package. This tactic is an abuse of power, an abuse of taxpayer money, and abandons the integrity that the American public expects from their Congress.

The numbers in this Democratic health care package are astounding. The bill costs about \$1.2 trillion over the next ten years, imposes almost \$570 billion in new taxes on the American public, and cuts the Medicare program by over \$500 billion. As our economy attempts to recover from the largest recession since the Great Depression, this bill's laundry list of new taxes is deplorable: \$32 billion in taxes on health care benefits, \$52 billion in taxes on employers, \$17 billion in penalties on individuals, \$210.2 billion in an unprecedented Medicare tax on wages, self-employment income, and certain investment income, and many more. While these taxes will be in effect immediately, 98% of the bill's provisions do not begin until 2014. Therefore, Americans will be paying for health reform for four years without ever seeing the government return the favor. Unbelievably, the bill's true ten-year cost when fully implemented totals about \$2.4 trillion dollars. To pay for this spending, it proposes half a trillion in cuts to Medicare and Medicare Advantage, robbing the benefits our seniors deserve.

What may be worse than the vast cost of this bill are the budgetary gimmicks used in its scoring. The authors use ten years of revenue to pay for only six years of government spending. They also double count savings from Medicare cuts to simultaneously pay for Medicare entitlements and the bill's new entitlements. Furthermore, the bill does not include the "doc fix," legislation that will likely be passed separately to ensure doctors do not incur a huge cut in reimbursements—and costs an additional \$371 billion. These methods were used to dupe the American people, a smoke-and-mirrors strategy to uphold President Obama's pledge that health care reform will "not add a dime to the deficit." Unfortunately, if one omits these budgetary tricks from the bill's cost, it will actually increase the deficit by almost \$600 billion in the first ten years.

The structure of this bill is a clear effort to give the government complete control over health care—it takes choice and flexibility from American citizens while also making them pay more. For example, the bill instructs the Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary to determine what constitutes a "minimum