

At a time when our national debt is over \$15 trillion, these fourth graders have realized we must manage down our debt and get our fiscal house in order. Their selfless contribution towards tackling this problem is a promising sign that the future leaders of our country realize that Washington's out of control spending is growing at an unsustainable rate. Just as any family or business must do, Washington must live within its means so that future generations have the same opportunity to earn success that has always made America so great. I only hope that Americans—young and old—can follow the example set by this remarkable group of young students.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me today in applauding the fourth graders at White Oaks Elementary School for their selfless contribution towards managing down our national debt.

REMEMBERING BING WELCH

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to honor the passing of Mr. Bing Welch, city councilman and community leader from Richmond, Indiana.

Bing Welch was born in Tennessee and later attended the University of Tennessee. After serving in the 40th Armor Division in Korea for more than two years, Bing settled in Richmond. There he was employed by ALCOA as a tool designer, but later transferred to North Carolina and Kentucky before settling in Richmond once again in 1969.

His 37-year tenure at ALCOA was marked by several notable accomplishments and opportunities, such as product development of plastic soft drink bottles and pull-tabs on cans. By the time he retired, he was a member of the 25-Year Club and had traveled across the country representing ALCOA in product liability lawsuits.

In the mid 1970s, Bing decided to become more active in the community which he loved so well, and he was appointed to fill a vacant At-Large position on the Richmond Common Council. He would go on to serve on the council, including time spent as president, for an astonishing and admirable 22 years. Bing's legacy of leadership also includes service on the boards for the Richmond Sanitary District, the Parks and Recreation Department and Richmond Power and Light, where he spent time as chairman. Additionally, Bing was a member of the Corridor North Commission that planned the development of U.S. 27 North.

The Richmond community remembers Bing as a man of character who loved God, his family, his community, and his country. He was known for his incredible leadership, honesty, commitment, and integrity. Bing's focus was always on the interests of the people he served, and during his long career in public service and in business, he made Richmond a better place. He and his wife founded the Concerned Citizen coalition, and he also helped start the Jerry Lawrence Memorial Golf Outing.

I offer my deepest condolences to his wife of 57 years, Patricia; as well as his daughter

Kristi; son Brian; grandchildren Morgan, Blaine, Jessica, and Nathan; and his many nieces, nephews, and other extended family. May God comfort Patricia and Bing's entire family with the assurance of His grace and with the assurance of the gratitude of the people of Richmond whom he served and loved.

“WHAT'S THE REAL DEFENSE BUDGET?” BY MALLORY FACTOR

HON. TIM SCOTT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit an article on behalf of Mallory Factor expressing his opinion regarding the need for transparency with respect to the different roles of our military.

“WHAT'S THE REAL DEFENSE BUDGET?”

[By Mallory Factor]

The new Congress won the election by promising to cut spending, and unsurprisingly the defense budget is on the table for the first time in more than a decade.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates recently announced \$78 billion in defense spending cuts over the next five years, including reductions in troop levels for the Army and Marine Corps. These types of cuts suggest that the military is working to become leaner and more efficient. Still, many Americans and congressmen are calling for deeper cuts.

Not counting the cost of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Defense budget is expected to be \$553 billion in 2012, up from \$549 billion in 2011. That outlay currently represents 19% of the entire federal budget and over 50% of U.S. discretionary spending; cutting it would go a long way toward reining in government spending. But before further slicing the military budget, Congress must reconsider the military's mission and what activities it should undertake.

The purpose of a large standing army is to provide for our national defense. In essence, the defense budget is an insurance policy that protects the U.S. against threats from other nations and groups. But in recent years a growing percentage of that budget has been spent on activities that don't involve traditional national defense. These include nation-building, policing foreign nations, humanitarian missions and ferrying executive- and legislative-branch leaders and their attendants around the globe. While these activities may be tangentially related to our standing in the world, they do not enhance our war-fighting capabilities; rather they relate more to the success of our foreign policy than to our national defense.

This increase in nondefense missions has been accompanied by a dramatic shift from war-fighting to nation-building. The official White House website now describes the function of the Department of Defense as to “protect national interests through war-fighting, providing humanitarian aid and performing peacekeeping and disaster relief services.” Is war-fighting just one among the many functions we want our military to perform?

Rightly or wrongly, we give our military these various assignments because we don't want to pay someone else to do them, and other government entities currently can't. Yet just because our military can do these jobs doesn't mean that it should. Indeed, these assignments shift focus away from the military's core missions: keeping America safe and winning wars.

Right now it is difficult for Congress to determine how much money is spent on protecting the U.S. The “military” budget gives an exaggerated impression of the cost of our national defense. When Congress adds burdens to the military, direct costs like fuel, food and relief supplies may be calculated and expressed in the budget.

But these items are just a small part of these missions, and the larger costs get buried. These hidden costs include recruiting and training extra troops, purchasing and servicing additional equipment, additional layers of bureaucracy, and maintaining and enlarging bases, none of which are separated out in the budget as relating to nondefense missions.

The military's nondefense activities may or may not be warranted, but their total costs must be transparent. If Congress does not consider these costs separately, traditional defense missions and essential equipment upgrades will be crowded out.

America is a compassionate nation and would surely engage in humanitarian activities even if their true costs were known. But why charge these costs to the defense budget and then hide them? Only by demanding that the military budget be limited to legitimate defense activities can Americans know how many dollars we are actually devoting to our national security.

Some military leaders have privately estimated that if these nondefense-related activities were eliminated or given a separate budget, defense spending could be substantially reduced and at the same time the military's war-fighting capabilities increased. Given this uncertainty, before any additional cuts are made to military spending, Congress must demand transparency with respect to the different roles of our military.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 12 on H. Res. 522, I mistakenly recorded my vote as “yes” when I should have voted “no.”

A TRIBUTE TO THE SERVICE OF JACK KING

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my California delegation colleagues Mr. LUNGREN, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. FARR, Mr. DENHAM, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. BACA, Mr. HERGER, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. FILNER, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. NUNES, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. LEE, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. CHU, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. LINDA SANCHEZ, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. HAHN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. CALVERT and Senator FEINSTEIN, to pay tribute to Mr. Jack King on the occasion of his retirement from the California Farm Bureau Federation. For more than 35 years, Jack King has worked on behalf of our nation's farmers and ranchers to ensure that they have a voice in our nation's capital. His passion for agriculture has made him a strong and effective advocate

for the American Farm Bureau Federation and the California Farm Bureau Federation.

Growing up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin taught Jack the value of hard work, and the important role agriculture plays in America—specifically when it comes to feeding and clothing our families and supporting our economy. Upon graduating from the University of Wisconsin, Jack began his career in agriculture with the university's cooperative extension office. Jack then went on to work for the Wisconsin Council of Agricultural Cooperatives and the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture. In 1973, Jack ventured west and joined the California Farm Bureau Federation as assistant manager of the information division.

Jack expanded his work with the Farm Bureau, and in 1985, he became news services director for the American Farm Bureau Federation. Based in Illinois, Jack managed internal and external communications and often worked in conjunction with the Washington, DC office to ensure that legislators were connected with farmers and ranchers. In 1994, Jack returned to California to serve as manager of the California Farm Bureau Federation's National Affairs Division. He served as a direct link between farmers, ranchers, and Members of Congress.

Jack's tremendous contributions and dedication can be measured in a number of ways. Notably, Jack made approximately 200 trips to Washington, DC. His deep commitment was based in his belief that legislators needed to hear directly from farmers and ranchers in order to understand their contributions and the difficulties they face. Specifically, Jack has been dedicated to working on comprehensive immigration reform, natural resource regulations, and renewable energy.

Of course none of these accomplishments would be possible without the love and support of Jack's wife, Mary Ann; their sons, Carl, David and Bryan; and two grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in recognizing Jack King's enthusiasm and work ethic. His devotion and loyalty to our nation's farmers and ranchers make him a source of pride for our community, state and nation. We thank Jack for his work on behalf of farmers and ranchers in California and all across the country, and wish him well in retirement.

REMEMBERING THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, in 1994 I was part of a delegation, organized by Christian Solidarity International, that visited Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenia, and Azerbaijan.

In Nagorno-Karabakh, I saw horrible conditions: doctors operating without anesthesia using only a stiff dose of cognac; land mines planted by the retreating Azeri army which resulted in injury and amputation of limbs of women and children as well as soldiers and people living in hazardous partially bombed-out apartment buildings in the cities and in lean-tos among the debris of demolished villages.

Upon my return, I urged Congress not to forget the long-suffering people of Nagorno-Karabakh. And I rise today to do the same.

In 1921, Joseph Stalin, then the commissar for nationality affairs in the Transcaucasia Bureau of the Communist Party, declared Nagorno-Karabakh to be an autonomous region controlled by Azerbaijan as part of his divide and rule strategy. Historically, the majority of the population in Nagorno-Karabakh has been Armenian and the people have always had close ethnic, religious and familial ties with Armenia.

In the years leading to the breakup of the Soviet Union, the Karabakh Armenians petitioned in 1987 for inclusion of Nagorno-Karabakh in the state of Armenia. In 1991, they petitioned for independent state status. To date, the situation remains unresolved.

Shortly after the break-up of the Soviet Union, Armenians in Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh endured great hardship, including pogroms in Sumgait (February 1998), in Kirovabad (November 1988) and in Baku (January 1990).

A January 19, 1990, New York Times article described the Baku pogrom as a "massacre." That same article also pointed to the violence in 1988, when, "armed Azerbaijanis rampaged through the town of Sumgait and slaughtered 32 people, mostly Armenians."

These horrific acts of targeted violence are as deplorable today as they were more than two decades ago. Tragically, tensions remain high in the region. A January 16 Bloomberg article reported that, "Azerbaijan is buying up modern weaponry to be able to regain control of the breakaway Nagorno-Karabakh region quickly and with few losses should peace talks with neighboring Armenia fail, President Ilham Aliyev said."

Such acts of aggression would have a devastating impact. It is critical that the U.S. works toward a lasting, peaceful and democratic solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE ON ERNEST SALGADO, SR.

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to pay tribute to a great leader and role model Ernest Salgado, Sr. Ernest, the eldest member of the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians passed away on January 23, 2012 at the age of ninety-one.

Ernest was born on the Soboba Indian Reservation, in Riverside County, California. He attended high school at Sherman Indian High School, where he was an outstanding athlete and played on the championship baseball team.

When Indians became citizens in 1924, Ernest was the first of his tribe to fill out the U.S. census form. Ernest served his country honorably as a soldier in the Army, where he had an expert shot, having picked up the skill from deer hunting with his grandfather. During World War II, Ernest participated in the landing at D-Day in 1944 and would later pass on the value of service to ones country to his son, Richard who served in the Vietnam War.

After serving his country, Ernest served his tribal community by working at Sherman Indian School and by serving on the Soboba

tribal council during the 1970s. During his time on the Soboba tribal council, Ernest provided great leadership in rebuilding his tribal community and has fostered understanding and respect for Native People in everything that he did. His son Robert Salgado Sr. would later serve on the Soboba tribal council as Chairman of the tribe. As a young man, I have the privilege of knowing Robert and meeting the Soboba Tribe during baseball games on reservations. In my time spent with them, the Soboba tribe always welcomed me and treated me like family.

Ernest is survived by his children, Ernie Salgado Jr., Robert Salgado Sr., Richard Salgado Sr., Lorraine "Raina" Maciel, Francie Diaz and Rose Salgado; his brothers and sisters, Nella Salgado Heredia, Frances Bentiste Arres, Alice Bentiste Helms, Henry "Sonny" Bentiste and William "Billy" Bentiste, as well as a loving family of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

My thoughts and prayers, along with those of my wife, Barbara, and my children, Rialto City Councilman Joe Baca Jr., Jeremy, Natalie, and Jennifer and are with Ernest's family at this time. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to pay tribute to Ernest Salgado, Sr.

HONORING PFC JUAN MEZA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the commitment and sacrifice of PFC Juan Meza. Mr. Meza served in Company B 399th Infantry Unit during World War II from October 1944 until March 1946 and demonstrated great bravery and dedication as a soldier for the United States Army.

Mr. Meza was born December 15, 1925 in Laredo, Texas. Upon graduating from high school, he enlisted in the Army and was deployed to Europe. During his service, he was wounded twice in combat and remained in-country until 1946 after a cease fire was declared. By March 1946, Mr. Meza was honorably discharged. When Mr. Meza returned to Laredo, Texas, he married Antonia Galvan and together they raised six children. After serving in the Army, he dedicated more than 35 years of service to U.S. Customs and Border Protection and retired happily in Laredo.

Mr. Meza is very proud of his time and experiences while serving in the military. Experiences that are only unique to an American hero and veteran are those that he can recall as if it were yesterday. One specific memory beckons Mr. Meza to a cold New Year's Eve day in 1944, when he outwitted a band of German soldiers at a listening post in France and his actions led to saving the lives of several Americans and Allied troops. Every scent he smelled, every sound he heard and every color he saw that day is imprinted in his memory. At 86 years of age, he tells the story with passion and no details are left out when he was triumphant against the enemy for the lives of his brothers and freedom of the nation.

During Mr. Meza's time in the Army he showed great courage and by using his intelligence, knowledge and common sense he not only survived a tremendous war, he also helped young soldiers like himself return home