

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