

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4613) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to this bill. National defense is important to all of us. This bill, however, will neither ensure our defense nor promote the general welfare, two of the central obligations of this government.

It is truly mind-boggling, Mr. Chairman, that with just one short hour of debate, this House will pass a bill to spend \$392 billion for the Pentagon's regular budget in FY 2005.

Amazingly, that sum does not include, \$25 billion for the ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, but we all know that the Administration will be back for more, much more. They are misleading the American public about the price tag of the unnecessary war in Iraq.

Mr. Chairman, the \$392 billion this bill expends is a 7 percent increase over last year's bloated defense budget and comes at a time when federal deficit and large tax cuts have left us with scarce resources. I have to ask: will our education, health care and housing budget receive a 7 percent increase? The answer is NO.

This is an absurd and tragic case of misplaced priorities. And our entire country pays the price. It simply makes no sense to spend our nation's scarce resources on Cold War era weapons systems. It makes no sense to spend another \$9 billion on missile defense, a 17-percent increase over last year. This represents another heavy installment on what may be a bottomless pit of spending.

This spending comes at real costs. To put this in perspective, last year, according to the National Priorities Project, the people of California paid \$859 million in tax dollars that were spent on missile defense.

That money could have paid to allow another 106,000 children to enroll in Head Start. It could have extended healthcare coverage to nearly half a million children. It could have created over 12,000 new units of affordable housing. Or it could have hired nearly 15,000 elementary school teachers. And this year we are spending 17 percent more. That's a misplaced priority. And it is not the ticket to national security.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM G.
BOWDON ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Major General William G. Bowdon for thirty-

four years of outstanding and dedicated service to the United States Marine Corps and his country. Major General Bowdon will retire from the Marine Corps on July 1.

Graduating from Louisiana State University in 1970, General Bowdon entered the Marine Corps in August and reported to Pensacola, Florida, for flight training. He received his wings at the Naval Air Station in Kingsville, Texas, in February 1972, and reported for flight duty at El Toro, California.

General Bowdon completed F-4 Combat Qualification Training in Yuma, Arizona, in December of 1972. In January 1973 General Bowdon departed for his first Fleet Marine force tour and, following this assignment, served his country as a flight instructor.

In January 1977, General Bowdon received his first overseas assignment in Iwakuni, Japan. He returned to the U.S. the following year to attend Amphibious Warfare School at MCB Quantico, VA.

In August 1982, General Bowdon attended the Marine Corps Command and Staff College in Quantico, VA. After graduation he reported to Marine Training Support Group at the Cecil Field, Florida, Naval Air Station as the Executive Officer.

Major General Bowdon assumed command of VMFA-333 in July 1988 and deployed the "Shamrocks" to the Western Pacific. After this command, Major General Bowdon reported to the National War College at Fort McNair for the training that would prepare him for the great responsibilities our nation was about to entrust in him.

Following graduation then Lt. Col. Bowdon was assigned to the Joint Staff, J-4 Directorate, in the Pentagon in June of 1991. He was promoted to Colonel in August of the following year. In June of 1994 General Bowdon returned to the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station and assumed command of Marine Aircraft Group 11. He was promoted to Brigadier General on October 1, 1996, while assigned as the Assistant Wing Commander of the 2nd Division Marine Aircraft Wing in Cherry Point, North Carolina.

Major General Bowdon assumed the duties as the Commanding General of the Marine Corps Air Station at Cherry Point in April 1998. He served as the Deputy Commander of the Marine Forces Reserve in New Orleans for one year in 1999. After that he went on to command a number of posts before assuming command of our nation's largest West Coast Marine Corps base, Camp Pendleton, on June 24, 2002.

Mr. Speaker, I have the distinct honor and privilege of representing California's 49th Congressional District, the home of the Marines of the 1st Division based at Camp Pendleton. For the past two years, I have also had the honor of working with General Bowdon during the one of the most significant times in the history of the U.S. Marine Corps' storied First Division.

Last year the 1st Division Marines, along with a U.S. Army Division and a British Division, crushed a much larger Iraqi force that had been set-up to defend the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein. The victory achieved by America and its allies, thanks to outstanding training, technology, bravery, and command, was the quickest and most decisive defeat of a modern military power in history.

The Marines of the First Division, who spearheaded this victory, were trained at

Camp Pendleton and many left their families behind in the care of Camp Pendleton and communities like Oceanside, Fallbrook, and Vista while they were serving in Iraq. As the commanding officer of Camp Pendleton, General Bowdon played a crucial role in preparing the Marines of the 1st Division for the great victory they helped achieve in Iraq and for successfully executing the largest troop rotation in the history of the U.S. military.

One of General Bowdon's finest qualities as a commanding officer, however, is that he cares about Marines and their families well beyond their training and their ability to perform under fire on the battlefield. General Bowdon and I have worked together on a number of issues on Camp Pendleton including getting better housing for Marine families, improving recreational facilities for enlisted Marines, strengthening relations between Camp Pendleton and the neighboring city of Oceanside, and seeking out improvements to the quality of water on base. As commander of Camp Pendleton, he was truly dedicated to both his duty as a U.S. Marine and to his fellow Marines with whom he served.

General Bowdon has received awards including the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

Major General Bowdon has had an exemplary career filled with distinction. It has been a great pleasure to know and work with General Bowdon and an honor to offer this testament to his dedication, service and hard work for America.

REGARDING THE SECURITY OF
ISRAEL AND THE PRINCIPLES OF
PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 460. The citizens of the U.S. and Israel maintain a deeply rooted friendship based upon common interests, a shared commitment to democracy, individual freedoms, and a rejection of extremism and terrorism.

Since 1948, the State of Israel has committed itself to living in harmony and mutual respect with its neighbors and to arriving at a peaceful solution to the conflict with the Palestinians. For most of the last four years, however, Israelis and Palestinians have found themselves in a violent and crippling deterioration of relations. Thousands have died in horrible violence that has torn through the hearts of both the Israeli and Palestinian communities.

With President Sharon's disengagement plan, I hope we are at a renewed moment of hope. I believe that the future security of Israel depends upon bringing an end to terrorism, bloodshed, and human suffering and to establishing a just, permanent peace with the Palestinians. The principles endorsed by President Bush and Prime Minister Sharon are a step towards peace.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Prime Minister Sharon's disengagement plan represents an important opportunity to break the deadlock in