

for the administration to pursue specific priorities in order to meet the key benchmarks in the crucial final stages of CPA implementation.

The U.S. must direct renewed energy and commitment toward the following strategic priorities:

1. **Protect the People:** Due to a worrisome upsurge in intercommunal violence, the death toll in the South this year now exceeds the number of violent deaths in Darfur in the same period, and as elections draw closer, instability may well increase. Tribal clashes are occurring among a heavily armed civilian population that the poorly disciplined southern army has proved incapable of securing. Some of the latest clashes highlight the flaws and dangers of the so-called the Joint Integrated Units, or JIUs, whose presence has often led greater violence, instability, and civilian casualties. The U.S. should take two specific measures to help improve security and decrease the risk of further violence in communities throughout the South:

Work with the U.N. Security Council to ensure that the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) has the necessary capacity to fulfill its mandate and protect civilians. The United States should lead efforts within the U.N. Security Council to strengthen UNMIS' ability to support the CPA, but this support must be matched with clearer strategic vision by UNMIS on how it can best allocate its resources to operationalize its mandate amidst ongoing security threats throughout the South. Other guarantors of the CPA can support UNMIS' efforts by contributing to coordinated programs such as security sector reform within the SPLA.

Encourage the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) to take leadership in promoting local peace-building initiatives to defuse tensions between communities that have taken up arms against each other.

2. **Build the "peace dividend":** Since the signing of the CPA, progress has been slow in providing basic infrastructure and services to the peripheral areas of Sudan. Insecurity and underdevelopment remain a fact of life for most Sudanese. As long as that is the case, the southern government will have difficulty consolidating the peace and holding together an ethnically divided South with competing political visions. The GoSS has also been hit hard by the financial crisis, and is in need of significant economic support, but this support should be aimed specifically at capacity building efforts that can strengthen the fledgling government. Additional investments in agriculture and micro-credit would make a difference on the ground for the people of southern Sudan, more than two million of whom have returned home to very little after decades of war.

3. **Defuse North-South tensions:** A number of contentious issues between the North and South must be resolved in next year and a half, all of which necessitate robust support from the international community in order to keep the negotiations and processes on track. The U.S. should direct renewed energy and commitment toward the following strategic priorities:

Urge meaningful reforms from the Sudanese parties before the 2010 elections. The United States and other key actors, operating on a tight timeline, need to lower their expectations for the election and develop a multilateral strategy to press the Government of National Unity—the ruling National Congress Party in particular—to enact meaningful reforms regardless of who wins in 2010, revitalize CPA implementation, and establish a framework for talks in Darfur that are consistent with the power-sharing provisions of the CPA. There also has to be a clear and unified international posture with regard to addressing the issue of Darfur, given

the near-impossibility of holding a free and fair ballot there.

Keep the parties on track in the dual processes of implementing the legal ruling on the boundaries of the Abyei region and demarcating the North-South border. Two crucial issues regarding contested borders between Sudan's North and South need sustained attention from the international community. The failure to establish clear international penalties for a failure to implement these key CPA provisions such as the demarcation of the disputed North-South border has been a clear drag on the CPA. However, last week's legal decision on the boundaries of Abyei—an oil-rich, contested region along the disputed North-South border within Sudan—is a crucial litmus test of the parties' will to implement the CPA moving forward. Now that the ruling on Abyei has been accepted by both parties, the U.S., the U.N., and the rest of international community must follow through on its commitments to help implement the ruling and monitor the status of the demarcation of the Abyei boundaries.

Encourage negotiations between the NCP and SPLM on long-term wealth-sharing arrangements before the 2011 referendum. Track-two diplomatic efforts can get both parties to consider various scenarios for wealth sharing after the referendum and mitigate the likelihood that these discussions will short circuit into a zero-sum game leading directly to conflict after the referendum. Discussions of access to land for populations with diverse needs and livelihoods and planning for mutually beneficial development of oilfields in the contested border region could ease current tensions over border demarcation and generate momentum for further cooperation.

Urge passage of the referendum law before the elections. Applying pressure on Sudan's Government of National Unity to urge the National Assembly to review and pass the law on the southern referendum before the elections could reduce tensions between the parties after the elections and enable preparations for the referendum to begin now. Once the law is passed and the Referendum Commission is created, potential disputes, such as questions over whether or not certain populations—such as southerners in Khartoum—are eligible to vote, can be addressed before tensions escalate in the immediate run-up to the referendum.

4. **Prevent a return to war:** The likelihood of a return to war between the North and South, or of conflict breaking out within the South, is real. An arms race between the Northern and Southern government is just one warning sign of a tenuous situation that could explode into outright conflict. Several preventive measures can mitigate the risks of violence in the run-up to the 2010 general elections and the 2011 referendum:

Enhance efforts to professionalize and modernize the SPLA. The SPLA has struggled to transition from a guerilla movement to a formal army, a process complicated by attempts to integrate southern militias that opposed the SPLA during the war. To ensure that the south is stable and the GoSS can deliver a peace dividend, the SPLA must continue to modernize through a well-supported process of security sector transformation that improves discipline, command and control, capacity, and competency. Toward this end, the Obama administration should explore the sale of an air defense system to the GoSS. Although introducing new weapons systems into a volatile military environment could be interpreted as contrary to donors' responsibility to make unity attractive, it is in the interests of lasting stability that the GoSS spend money on defense wisely. Unlike the afore-

mentioned refurbished tanks, an air defense is non-offensive and helps level the playing field by neutralizing the north's major tactical advantage in the event of renewed hostilities.

COMPREHENSIVE PEACE: THE ONLY OPTION IN
SUDAN

Ending genocide in Darfur and fulfilling the promise of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement requires a comprehensive approach to Sudan rather than reactive crisis management. The U.S. must lead the international community in working now to ensure that the CPA does not collapse and spark a devastating new round of conflict in Sudan. With a significant diplomatic reinvestment in the CPA that prioritizes protecting civilians, building peace in the South, and defusing tensions between the North and South, the U.S. can help prevent the catastrophic consequences of a potential collapse of the CPA.

HONORING DARRELL "SHIFTY"
POWERS

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. BOUCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a southwest Virginia resident whose service to this Nation will long be remembered. On June 17, 2009, Darrell "Shifty" Powers, a distinguished World War II veteran, passed away. I would like to take this occasion to recognize his many contributions through his military service to our great Nation. Mr. Powers, who was portrayed in the HBO documentary film "Band of Brothers," is a true American hero from southwest Virginia.

A native of the Dickenson County, Town of Clinchco, Virginia, Mr. Powers volunteered for the United States Army during the early stages of the Second World War in 1942. He was quickly assigned to the newly formed 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment and began training at Camp Toccoa, Georgia. Each day, the new recruits would train by running 6 miles up and down the Curahee Mountain. As a result of the steadfast dedication of Mr. Powers and the other members of what came to be known as Easy Company, the regiment was quickly transformed into one of the Army's toughest fighting units.

In 1943, after completion of parachute school at Ft. Benning, Georgia, the 2nd Battalion of the 506th Parachute Infantry was attached to the 101st Airborne Division and was transferred to England, where they would spend a year preparing to invade the European continent.

At about 1 a.m. on June 6, 1944, Mr. Powers and the other members of Easy Company boarded a plane which transported them across the English Channel in order to parachute into Normandy behind German fortified positions. Shortly after landing, Mr. Powers and 2 fellow soldiers realized that they were a day's walk from their intended drop zone. The Airborne troops spent almost a week fighting German soldiers before they were sent back to England to prepare for an invasion of Holland.

In September 1944, Mr. Powers' unit, along with Polish and English divisions, parachuted into Holland to secure a road for tanks and supply shipments to prepare for a push across

the Rhine River into Germany. During the attack, the English troops landed in a German tank division and were immediately killed. Mr. Powers and the rest of Easy Company spent the following 3 months fighting for control of the same road, laying low during the day and moving at night.

After securing the road and moving out of Holland, Easy Company was then ordered to defend the town of Bastogne, Belgium, when they learned that German troops had counter-attacked along the Adrennes forest. For nearly a week, the undermanned and under-supplied Easy Company fought off a much larger German force. Easy Company lost 16 men during that week of fighting at Bastogne, and 34 more during fighting at Normandy and Holland.

A little more than a month after Hitler's forces were pushed back in mid-January, General Dwight Eisenhower met with Mr. Powers' unit in France and awarded them the Distinguished Unit Citation for holding Bastogne.

Soon after, Mr. Powers earned enough combat points to step away from the front lines of battle and return home to southwest Virginia. Mr. Powers was on his way out of combat when the truck he was riding in collided head-on with another Army truck, killing one soldier and badly injuring Mr. Powers.

After recovering from these injuries he returned home to work for Clinchfield Coal Company in Dickenson County, Virginia, for 33 years. Mr. Powers rarely spoke of the horrors of the combat he faced until producers came to him with the "Band of Brothers" HBO mini-series idea. After the success of "Band of Brothers," Mr. Powers often would receive countless expressions of support and thanks for the role he and his combat unit played in World War II. Upon Mr. Power's passing his online obituary received comments from people across the Nation and several individuals from Europe paying tribute and expressing deep appreciation for the sacrifices he made to help free Europe during World War II. In his later years, Mr. Powers dedicated a great deal of time to speak to current soldiers stationed or returning from Iraq and Afghanistan about his experiences in war and life.

The outstanding dedication and sacrifice that Mr. Darrell "Shifty" Powers displayed during his time with the United States Army will be remembered not only by countless citizens in my congressional district in southwest Virginia but also by citizens across this country and across Europe. The effects of his service to our country will be forever lasting. I want to honor the passing of a great Virginian and a great American.

MEDICARE VA REIMBURSEMENT
ACT OF 2009

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I recently introduced H.R. 3365, the Medicare VA Reimbursement Act of 2009. This legislation authorizes the establishment of a Medicare VA reimbursement program where HHS reimburses the VA for the provision of health care to Medicare eligible veterans for the treatment of non-service-connected conditions at VA medical facilities.

Today, there are veterans who have earned VA health care benefits with their service to our country, as well as Medicare benefits, by paying into the Social Security system during their working years. Even though these individuals have clearly earned both of these benefits, current law unfairly prohibits them from using their Medicare benefits at VA facilities even though they may feel more comfortable seeking care among their fellow veterans from VA providers who specialize in caring for veterans.

This is also inconsistent with the authorities granted to other Federal entities such as the Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Department of Defense's (DoD) TRICARE for Life that are allowed to bill Medicare. IHS and DoD are able to augment their resources with Medicare collections and reinvest the extra funding back into their programs and services. H.R. 3365 would provide equity in such billing practices among the Federal entities. In other words, the VA would be able to access an important new source of revenues from Medicare which may be reinvested to further strengthen the VA's health care system.

In detail, this legislation requires the Secretaries of VA and HHS to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) no later than six months after the date of the enactment of the Act. The MOU must establish such program elements as the frequency of reimbursement, the billing system, the data sharing agreement, and the payment rate.

H.R. 3365 also provides some guidelines on setting the payment rate so that the terms that contributed to the failure of the Medicare DoD Subvention Demonstration Project are not repeated again. For example, this legislation prohibits setting a reimbursement rate which is less than 100 percent of the amount that Medicare would pay a participating provider. It also prohibits annual caps on reimbursement and does not allow for a maintenance of effort requirement, which refers to the requirement that VA maintain a certain level of spending before they can be reimbursed from HHS.

Finally, H.R. 3365 requires an annual report to Congress providing program data, as well as a triennial GAO report assessing the program impact.

I urge the support of all Members for this important legislation.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE GANDHI-KING SCHOLARLY EXCHANGE INITIATIVE ACT OF 2009

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce the Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative Act of 2009. The purpose of this legislation is to create three international initiatives that take the philosophy and examples of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and apply them to current day issues.

In recent years, increasing youth violence has been the center of national headlines. Gangs, drug abuse, stabbings, shootings, bullying, unnecessary harm and heartache plagues schools and communities from Atlanta to Chicago and in unsuspecting urban, rural,

and suburban areas all around and in between. In response to this alarming trend, I introduced the SAFETY through Nonviolence Act, a bill that would teach the doctrine of non-violence in thought, words and actions to students, educators, local police, and community leaders. In reality, Madam Speaker, violence, human rights abuses, discrimination, unprecedented poverty, and terrorism are devastating every corner of our globe, and despite so much progress, much work remains.

In February, I led a congressional delegation with my good friend, the Gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) to India to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mrs. Coretta Scott King's visit to the country. With an official send-off from Secretary Clinton, the delegation was welcomed by the Indian government and Indian people. Martin Luther King, III, his wife, Mrs. Arndrea Waters, and outstanding musicians from the Thelonius Monk Institute of Jazz also celebrated this historic visit with concerts, meetings, and ceremonies across the country.

The congressional delegation also met with Indian government officials, business leaders, and non-governmental organizations on issues of terrorism, democracy, human rights, child labor and trafficking, poverty, and international conflicts. Each of us returned to the United States inspired and determined in our own way to see how we could apply our experiences, our shared history, and the legacies of these two great men to some of the issues facing the international community. How can we build a new generation that understands the benefit of peace?

This legislation responds to that question. The Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative Act of 2009 would create an undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate student exchange program in which students would travel to significant sites of the American Civil Rights Movement and the Indian Independence Movement. They would then develop proposals on how to apply the philosophies of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. to modern issues such as human rights, peaceful conflict resolution, civil rights, and democracy.

The second initiative created by this bill is a professional training module for international state, local and national government employees from conflict regions to develop international conflict solutions based on Gandhian principles.

Last but not least, the Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative Act would develop an annual public diplomacy forum to be held alternately in the United States and India which will focus on the philosophies of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. in the resolution of global conflicts.

I believe that each person must ask themselves how we can make this little piece of real estate that we call Earth, a little cleaner, a little greener, a little safer, a little more peaceful. Gandhi once said that, "If we are to reach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children." The Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative Act of 2009 does just that and a little bit more.

Madam Speaker, I hope all of my colleagues will support this good, common-sense legislation that should be a cornerstone of our public diplomacy efforts.