

with a dissertation titled: "The Role of the College President." Later, he completed Harvard University's Institute of Educational Management for Executive Management.

I appreciate Dr. Smith for taking the time to be with us today, and thank him for his thoughtful prayer and the kind words he shared.

SALUTING SERVICE ACADEMY STUDENTS—CHRISTOPHER GORDON

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary group of young men and women who have been chosen as future leaders in our armed forces by the prestigious United States service academies. It is a privilege to send such a fine group from the third district of Texas to pursue a world-class education and serve our nation.

As we keep them and their families in our prayers, may we never forget the sacrifices they are preparing to make while defending our freedoms all across the globe. I am so proud of each one. God bless them and God bless America.

Today I salute Christopher Gordon, a United States Military Academy Appointee. Christopher spent the past year at Boston University studying for Mechanical Engineering on an AROTC Scholarship. He is a 2010 graduate of Plano West Senior High where he played varsity soccer as the goalkeeper and participated in JROTC Rifle Team. Christopher also participated in Army JROTC as a platoon leader, served as a member of the patriot booster club, and holds the rank of Eagle Scout within the Boy Scouts of America. Christopher aspires to serve his country and foster a career as an officer in the Army Special Forces. Christopher believes that West Point leadership education will provide him with the proper tools to learn more and more about what it is to be a better, more effective leader.

RON POWELL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY WITH THE UNITED FOOD AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity that I take this opportunity to honor and congratulate Ronald E. Powell, who is celebrating fifty years of service with the United Food and Commercial Workers Inter-

national Union (UFCW) Local 881. For nearly five decades, Ron has dedicated his life's work to the American Labor Movement and has been able to touch the lives of countless workers, families, and communities across the nation. In honor of Ron's fifty years of service, a celebratory reception will be held on June 16, 2011, at Gibson's Steakhouse in Chicago, Illinois.

Ronald Powell began his career with the UFCW in 1961 when he was hired on as a Field Representative for Local 881. Because of his true dedication and strong leadership skills, he was promoted in 1968 to Field Staff Supervisor, and was then appointed Vice President/Director of Field Operations in 1973. In 1983, Ron's hard work and success led him to become President of Local 881. Under Ron's leadership, Local 881 has become an exemplary organization, providing exceptional service in the areas of work-site representation, membership services, benefits, communications, and activities.

In addition to his impressive career with Local 881, Ron serves as a Vice President on the UFCW International Executive Board, and is a Vice President for the Illinois State AFL-CIO. Ron also currently serves as a Trustee for the UFCW Midwest Pension Benefits Fund. In 2010, he was appointed by Governor Pat Quinn to serve on the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority Board. Ron is also a past member of the Board of Directors for the International Employee Benefits Foundation and is the former Chairman of the Illinois State Investment Board. Ron's passion and unwavering devotion to the UFCW and its members is unmatched and he is to be commended.

Ron selflessly gives of his time to many charitable organizations and has been a dynamic force in promoting the union's involvement in numerous civic endeavors. He has been a tremendous asset to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and has helped to raise funds to facilitate research toward finding a cure. He also initiated fundraising campaigns for the Jackson Park Hospital and the Little City Foundation and is a former board member for the United Way of Illinois and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois. Although Ron has served the UFCW and his community with complete dedication, it is his commitment to his family that is most impressive. Ron and his wonderful wife, Lois, have four beloved children and twelve grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Mr. Ronald Powell as he is honored for his lifetime of service and dedication to the UFCW, as well as the state of Illinois, Northwest Indiana, and communities nationwide. Ron's complete dedication and uncompromising loyalty are to be admired and he is worthy of the highest praise.

"CAN WE AFFORD THE MILITARY BUDGET?"

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, a leading conservative policy analyst, Bruce Bartlett, on June 14th published a compelling analysis of the great disparity that exists in military spending in the world as a percentage of gross domestic product. Building on the speech Secretary of Defense Gates gave last week, which Mr. Bartlett correctly describes as a speech "in which he berated our allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization for not carrying their weight in terms of providing resources for the common defense," Mr. Bartlett offers a very important chart. As he notes, it shows "that in 2010, the United States spent 5.4 percent of its gross domestic product on its military—twice as much as spent by Britain and three to four times as much as most of our NATO allies . . ." Mr. Bartlett notes that simply talking about percentages understates the disparity between our military spending and that of the rest of the world—"because the United States has the world's largest economy, its share of world military spending is outsized, accounting for 43 percent of all the military spending on Earth—six times as much as China . . ."

Mr. Bartlett correctly closes by noting that "With polls showing declining support for the war in Afghanistan and increasing talk in Congress, even among Republicans, about cutting the military budget," it is time for us to rethink our worldwide military commitments, and find ways in which we can reduce military spending so that we fully protect the legitimate interests of the United States, but end a situation in which military spending makes impossible demands on any effort to reduce the deficit.

CAN WE AFFORD THE MILITARY BUDGET?

(By Bruce Bartlett)

Bruce Bartlett held senior policy roles in the Reagan and George H.W. Bush administrations and served on the staffs of Representatives Jack Kemp and Ron Paul.

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates gave a speech in Brussels on Friday in which he berated our allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization for not carrying their weight in terms of providing resources for the common defense. "For all but a handful of allies, defense budgets—in absolute terms, as a share of economic output—have been chronically starved for adequate funding for a long time, with the shortfalls compounding on themselves each year," Mr. Gates said.

An examination of the latest NATO data shows that in 2010, the United States spent 5.4 percent of its gross domestic product on its military—twice as much as spent by Britain and three to four times as much as most of our NATO allies, as shown in the following table.

MILITARY EXPENDITURES AS A PERCENTAGE OF G.D.P. IN NATO

Country	1985-89, average	2010	Country	1985-89, average	2010
U.S.	6.0	5.4	Norway	2.9	1.5
Greece	4.5	2.9	Czech Rep	--	1.4
Britain	4.4	2.7	Denmark	2.0	1.4
Albania	--	2.0	Germany	2.9	1.4
France	3.7	2.0	Italy	2.2	1.4
Poland	--	1.9	Netherlands	2.8	1.4
Turkey	2.5	1.9	Romania	--	1.3
Estonia	--	1.8	Slovak Rep	--	1.3