

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2009

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 312) revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2010 through 2013:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this budget blueprint for the priorities it sets and the fiscal sanity it restores to our Nation's Capitol.

Seven years after President Bush inherited a projected 10-year \$5.6 trillion year budget surplus, the Congressional Budget Office now reports that the FY 08 budget deficit will be \$396 billion and the FY 09 budget deficit will total \$342 billion. These are the second and fourth largest budget deficits in U.S. history. Not coincidentally, the first and third largest budget deficits in U.S. history were also recorded during the Bush administration.

During the same period, our national debt has exploded by \$3.9 trillion to well over \$9 trillion—or more than \$30,000 for every citizen in the United States. In fact, each taxpayer is now paying over \$3000 every year just to pay the interest on their share of the national debt.

Astonishingly, this budget deterioration has coincided with dangerous disinvestment in our Nation's health, education, public safety, energy independence, veterans and basic scientific research—among other critically important priorities.

This budget document changes all that. It rejects the President's misguided cuts in health care for seniors and lower-income citizens. It increases our national investment in education and lifelong job training. It restores funding for State and local law enforcement. It prioritizes the development of next generation renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. It spares veterans the President's proposed fee increases for health care they have rightfully earned. And it provides robust funding for the Democratic innovation agenda to enhance our Nation's position in the global marketplace.

Importantly, this budget accomplishes these objectives while providing middle class tax relief to millions of hard-working Americans by patching the Alternative Minimum Tax and extending the child tax credit, marriage penalty relief and the 10 percent income tax bracket. Consistent with the PAYGO rules adopted by this House, this document achieves these public policy goals with no new deficit spending. And it brings our budget into balance in 2012.

Mr. Chairman, this budget represents a properly prioritized, fiscally responsible blueprint for the Nation's future. I urge its adoption and encourage my colleagues' support.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE
HONORABLE TOM LANTOS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the memory of the late Congressman Tom Lantos and his devotion to battling genocide and aiding its victims. We have not only lost a wonderful friend but an individual who, during his lifetime, made countless contributions toward the betterment of our Nation, and indeed, the world.

At the age of 16, Tom was taken by the Nazis as they stormed through Budapest in 1944. After two escapes from the Nazi work camps, he found refuge in a safe house and began working to help other Jews in hiding by gathering food and supplies.

Upon moving to the United States in 1947, Tom Lantos served in various capacities as an educator, consultant and political advisor to several Senators. In 1983, only 2 years after being elected to Congress, Congressman Lantos helped to found the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. During his final year of service to the House of Representatives, he served as the distinguished chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Chairman Lantos represented California's 12th Congressional District for 27 years in the House of Representatives and will be remembered as a champion of human rights.

We are privileged to have known and worked with such a passionate and loyal individual. Chairman Lantos will be greatly missed and always remembered. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated public servant.

He will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Annette, their two daughters, Annette and Katrina, 17 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

A TRIBUTE TO MUCM WAYNE C.
TAYLOR

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to Wayne Taylor, Master Chief Musician of the United States Navy Band. Mr. Taylor is retiring on March 21, 2008, after a distinguished career as the lead singer for the U.S. Navy Band's premiere country-bluegrass group, Country Current.

Wayne joined the Navy for his first enlistment in 1974 and was assigned to the Aviation rating. He auditioned and was accepted into the Navy Music Program and received orders to the School of Music at Little Creek, Virginia. Upon graduating he reported for duty with the Seventh Fleet Band in Yokosuka, Japan, as lead vocalist and guitarist with the "Orient Express" Rock Band. He was stationed onboard the USS *Oklahoma City*. Throughout his 2 years in Japan, he traveled

to many Asian countries on 13 different ships. Wayne was honorably discharged in 1978 as a Musician 3rd Class.

When Wayne decided to re-enlist in the Navy in 1987, he auditioned for Country Current and has spent the last 20 years and 7 months as their lead singer. Country Current has performed in 49 of the 50 states, for four U.S. Presidents, three times at the Grand Ole Opry, for the "Nashville Now" show, Good Morning America, the Today Show, Wheeling Jamboree and Richmond Barn Dance. As a member of the Country Current Duo, he has performed at 13 Army-Navy football games and for distinguished military and civilian officials around Washington. Taylor sang the National Anthem to over 100,000 patrons at the Charlotte 600 NASCAR Race in Charlotte, NC, and at Comisky Park for a Chicago White Sox baseball game.

Wayne and his wife, Marrie, have two children; Wayne Coleman Taylor, Jr. (former Marine) and Terra Lee Ann Taylor, a Hospital Corpsman presently stationed in Earle, NJ. I am sure Members of the House will join me in thanking Wayne Coleman for his service to our country and for sharing his love of music with people throughout the world.

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2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

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Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Congressional Black Caucus Budget Substitute.

I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK), and all our staff for their hard work on this effort. Our budget reflects the values and priorities of the American people.

The CBC Members represent some of the most conservative and most progressive people in this country. Some of us are from big cities; others come from tiny, little towns and farm lands. And every year we find a way to come together. Every year, we find a way to provide funds for the most important priorities of all our constituents.

If you care about health care; if you care about homelessness; if you care about education; then you will support this substitute. Our amendment includes an additional \$20 billion investment in education. And we provide an additional \$17 billion for health care.

In Georgia, the mortgage foreclosure crisis is devastating our communities. This budget includes an additional \$8 billion to assist with housing and services for families, this disabled, senior citizens, and children. Unlike the President's budget proposal, we increase services and security for our constituents. And we find a way to pay for it.