

from economically humble roots to found and head a well-respected electronics manufacturing firm, and he gave back to his community and to those around him, helping to create a better future for others through his life. America is a better place because of Robert Ozuna, and he will be sorely missed.

LEGISLATION TO MEMORIALIZE  
VETERANS WHO DONATE THEIR  
ORGANS

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, several months ago, I was contacted by one of my constituents, Mrs. Linnae Hedgebeth of Salem, Virginia. She requested that my office intervene on a matter of great importance to her family, and others across the country.

Mrs. Hedgebeth is the widow of Roger Hedgebeth, Sr., a decorated World War II veteran and a career civil servant. When Mr. Hedgebeth passed away in 1997, he requested that his body be donated to assist in medical research, and that his ashes be memorialized at Arlington National Cemetery. Following his wishes, his family donated his body to science, but unfortunately were not able to give this military hero the final recognition that he deserved at Arlington National Cemetery.

As it stands now, due to various legal concerns, no ashes of individuals who donate their bodies to science are returned. And unfortunately, current regulations at Arlington National Cemetery prohibit memorializing veterans in the Columbarium unless their remains are actually interred there. While I understand that space is limited at Arlington, and it is necessary to follow strict guidelines regarding burial and memorialization, I cannot accept that an entitled veteran can be denied appropriate recognition simply because he has donated his remains to further medical research.

While our nation is blessed with many treasures, none is more cherished than the peace we enjoy in our prosperous country. Arlington National Cemetery has long been a sanctuary for remembrance to veterans who provided and safeguarded that peace. We should not deny any eligible veteran that recognition simply because they may choose to help others by donating their remains to medical study.

With that said, Mr. Speaker, I submit this bill which seeks to modify current regulations to allow otherwise eligible veterans, who have donated their bodies to science, to be memorialized at the Columbarium in Arlington National Cemetery, notwithstanding the absence of their physical remains. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

FATHER DRINAN'S VOICE FOR  
SANITY

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, my predecessor in Congress, Father Robert

Drinan, was during his very impressive tenure here an important spokesman for a sensible reordering of our national spending priorities. Since leaving Congress, Father Drinan, has continued to be a leader on issues of human rights and social justice, and his most recent article on national policy makes in a compelling way the case against the proposed military budget increases President Clinton has unfortunately requested. Father Drinan sets this in the appropriate context and I believe his reasoning is persuasive and his facts compelling. As Father Drinan notes in this article in the National Catholic Report for January 22, "the world scene has changed, but neither the White House nor the Pentagon seems to have heard the good news." I ask that this important statement be printed here.

THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX JUST  
MARCHES ON

(By Robert F. Drinan)

When I read in early January that President Clinton had agreed to support the Pentagon's request for an increase of some \$125 billion over the next six years, I became certain that the United States had failed to produce a new foreign policy for the world after the Cold War.

All my anxieties and misgivings about U.S. foreign policy in the six years of the Clinton administration coalesced into the conviction that the United States had lost an unprecedented opportunity to fashion for the entire world a policy that would relieve hunger, promote democracy and bring stability to troubled regions.

Since the Warsaw Pact and world communism dissolved in 1990, the entire human family has been looking to the United States for moral leadership that could usher in a new era of peace.

The military has not rethought its goals since 1990. The one review the Pentagon conducted resulted in the questionable finding that the United States must be prepared to wage two regional wars at the same time. That theory has never been approved by Congress following hearings or evaluated in the crucible of public opinion.

It is self-evident that the world has changed radically since the disappearance of the Soviet Union. The nations of the world do not need military jets or sophisticated armaments; they need the skill and resources to promote economic stability and make adequate provision for health and education for their people.

America could help make that happen. Instead, the White House chooses to invest the nation's wealth in the largest boost in military spending since the heyday of the Reagan buildup. The Air Force will be able to buy more F-22 fighters, and Army can acquire new Comanche attack helicopters and the Navy will build new ships.

In so doing, the president may have headed off a potentially dangerous issue in the race for the White House in the year 2000. Vice President Gore will not have to face charges of letting America's guard down. But meanwhile the opportunity to rethink the military policies of the United States in a postcommunist world is slipping away.

For me, the concession of 1999 to the Pentagon symbolize the failure of the White House to engage Congress and the country in a fundamental re-examination of what America should do as the human family struggles with feeding, sheltering and keeping all its members safe.

The White House has rejected all the voices since 1990 that have been pressing for

new foreign policy priorities. Arms control experts, activists and academics in the peace community and scores of religious organizations feel spurned by Clinton as he agrees to go along with the Pentagon with business as usual.

The Council for a Livable World and similar organizations get regular assessments from military experts of what the United States needs to deal with its current challenges. Their estimate is nowhere close to the \$260 billion available to the Pentagon this year.

There certainly is no need for the entire world to be spending \$780 billion on arms this year.

The world scene has changed, but neither the White House nor the Pentagon seems to have heard the good news. The military is still operating with 80 percent of its Cold War budget and much the same attitude.

The military establishment in this country is awesome. It includes 1,396,000 men and women on active duty, 877,000 in the reserves and 747,000 full-time civilians. Imagine the impact if only a fraction of this vast armada joined the 7,000 Peace Corps volunteers serving the poor in useful ways.

Supervision of the sprawling world of the Department of Defense seems to be beyond even the Congress. There are 122 separate kinds of accounting used by the Department of Defense—so many that even the Pentagon's inspector general admits the need for reform. And although there is every indication that the country's military needs are shrinking, the Pentagon asked Congress for 54 new slots for generals and admirals this year.

It should also be remembered that the Pentagon resisted and prevented America's acceptance of the international ban on land mines whose advocates captured last year's Nobel Peace Prize. The Pentagon blocked U.S. participation in the new International Criminal Court, a sort of permanent Nuremberg Court, and it was the Pentagon that spent \$35 billion in 1998 monitoring and maintaining some 12,500 nuclear warheads.

Opportunities to protest the latest surge in defense spending will probably be minimal, since the administration and Congress usually push such measures through as a matter of routine.

There is no sign of hope. Dale Bumpers, longtime arms control advocate, took office Jan. 4 as the new director of the Center for Defense Information. After 24 years as a Democratic senator from Arkansas. Bumpers now head up an organization composed of retired high-ranking military officers devoted to developing a sensible military policy for the United States.

Widely regarded as a leader on arms control issues, Bumpers will carry forward the center's work seeking a sensible and balanced military policy. Bumpers opposed plans for an elaborate missile defense system, fought against the F-22 and supported procurement reform at the Pentagon.

The present dominance of the Pentagon and its arms merchants reminds one of the familiar but distressingly true observation of President Dwight Eisenhower in his farewell address of Jan. 17, 1961. The only U.S. general to be president in the 20th century said:

"We must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex."

March 11, 1999

ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
STONEVILLE TORNADO

**HON. RICHARD BURR**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 1999*

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on the afternoon of March 20, 1998, a tornado ripped through the town of Stoneville, NC which is in my district. The people of this small town had no warning before the powerful winds of an F2 tornado ravaged the downtown area and touched the surrounding towns of Madison and Mayodan.

The path of the tornado was 12 miles long and 100 to 400 yards wide. It claimed the lives of 2 individuals while damaging or destroying 500 to 600 homes and nearly all of the businesses in the downtown area.

Yet, after facing this devastating force of nature, the people of Stoneville did not give up. They pulled together with the aid of their neighbors and have been rebuilding their homes, their businesses and their lives over the past 12 months.

I was there the night of the tornado, and from that time until now I have witnessed the best in the human spirit as everyone has volunteered to help those in need.

The buildings were destroyed, but not the determination to survive. This is a true example of American's working together for the good of their fellow man.

I salute the people of Stoneville and all of their neighbors who have volunteered for their will to rebuild rather than to let their heritage be destroyed. I wish them the best and brightest future which they surely deserve.

HONORING VALERIA SOWELL

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 1999*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ms. Valeria Sowell for her distinguished service to the Brooklyn community of East New York. A teacher for fifteen years, Ms. Sowell has served her community as educator, lobbyist, and activist.

Known for her no nonsense approach to solving problems, Ms. Sowell earned the respect and admiration of members of the community by helping to establish The Cleveland Street Block Association. In addition to community development, Ms. Sowell is concerned about health issues in Brooklyn. Wearing her hat as community lobbyist, Ms. Sowell is presently working with members of the New York General Assembly to change state law to permit HMO coverage of alternative forms of medicine.

While serving as American Federation of Teachers School Delegate, Ms. Sowell was honored by her peers with the prestigious Very Special Arts Award and later the Impact Award. She is affiliated with several organizations, including the NAACP, Democratic National Committee, New York Alliance of Black School Educators, New York Coalition of

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Black School Educators, Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers, and the New York Coalition of 100 Black Women.

Ms. Sowell is an active member of the Christian Life Center in Brooklyn. Born in Brooklyn, New York, Ms. Sowell was the fourth of five children from the union of her beloved parents, Mildred and Clyburn Sowell.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor an unselfish, positive role model for the community, Ms. Valeria Sowell.

A BUDGET WORTHY OF OUR  
NATION'S VETERANS

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 1999*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a travesty that happened in the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs just a few hours ago. As we all know, this committee has had a long-standing tradition of bipartisanship, of working together, of advocacy for our nation's veterans.

That all changed today. Unbelievably, on the eve of the bipartisan retreat in Hershey, Pennsylvania, the Members of the majority on this committee decided not to allow a discussion or a vote on an alternative budget that was derived from the Independent Budget for Fiscal Year 2000, a comprehensive policy document created by veterans for veterans and endorsed by over 50 veterans' service organizations.

As we are well aware, the Administration's fiscal year 2000 budget for veterans is completely unacceptable. Under this budget, the VA health care system is drastically underfunded and in danger of actual collapse. This budget for the GI Bill is far short of realistic needs and failing as a readjustment benefit and as a recruitment incentive. Desperately needed staffing increases included in this budget appear to be phony—little more than transparent shell games. The National Cemetery System has been underfunded for years, and the money needed for the most basic repairs and upkeep is unavailable. These are drastic problems and they demand serious, substantial solutions! Veterans have been wronged by this budget, and it is the responsibility of Congress to right that wrong.

For many, many years, America's veterans have been good soldiers. They have done their duty and been conscientious, responsible citizens. Every time the Veteran's Affairs Committee was handed a reconciliation target, it met that target. Billions of veterans' dollars have been handed over in order to balance the budget and eliminate the deficit. Time and time again, America's veterans answered their nation's call. The country needed their support, and America's veterans gave all that they could give.

Well, the budget deficit has been eliminated. That battle has been won. I believe that this year, it is time for America's veterans to come first. We, as a nation, owe them that.

I listened closely to the testimony of the many veterans' service organizations as they have come to Washington to appear before

the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees over the past few weeks. I carefully studied the Independent Budget for Fiscal Year 2000, which I mentioned earlier. I hear a strong sense of urgency and frustration and even anger that I've never heard before. America's veterans are telling us that they have done more than their fair share—and now they expect us to be their advocates.

As I read the Independent Budget, I was struck by this powerful statement that I would like to share with you. The signers of the Independent Budget said, "As the Administration and Congress develop budgets and policies for the new millennium, we urge them to look up from their balance sheets and into the faces of the men and women who risked their lives to defend our country. We ask them to consider the human consequences of inadequate budgets and benefit denials for those who answered the call to military service."

I took this to heart! Because, as I said earlier, the Administration budget of \$43.6 billion is completely unacceptable, we Democrats on the Veterans' Affairs Committee developed a proposal, based on this Independent Budget, that would add \$3.19 billion to the Administration proposal.

We came to the meeting today, hoping for a full discussion of the chairman's proposal which added \$1.9 billion to the Administration's request, the Democratic alternative which added \$3.19 billion—and a vote on which one to send to the Budget Committee. For I believe that it is our duty, as members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, to send to the Budget Committee the very best "views and estimates" on the VA budget that we can.

In a democratic society, it is our right to be able to express ourselves, to debate and discuss various alternatives, and to vote!

The chairman's recommendation could have gained more votes than the Democratic alternative proposal, but we will never know. Because a vote was not permitted. Not to allow a full discussion of the needs of veterans and the best way to meet those needs—this is simply outrageous. These are the needs of our veterans that we are talking about! Let us hope that the travesty that occurred this afternoon in the Veterans' Affairs Committee will not be repeated for a very long time.

As the Independent Budget asks of us, I ask my colleagues to remember the faces of the men and women who sacrificed so much as we develop a budget worthy of our nation's veterans.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MARLENE DAVIS

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 1999*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Marlene Davis, Superintendent of the Southfield Public Schools.

Dr. Davis recently was named the 1999 Michigan School Superintendent of the Year. A native of Dearborn, Michigan, Dr. Davis has an extensive educational background. She holds a Bachelors of Arts in Art History, from Michigan State University; a Masters of Arts in