

(b) Under regulations to be prescribe by the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary concerned, upon application to him, shall furnish one gold star lapel button without cost to the widow and to each parent and next of kin of a member who lost or loses his or her life under any circumstances prescribed in subsection (a).

(c) Not more than one gold star lapel button may be furnished to any one individual except that, when a gold star lapel button furnished under this section has been lost, destroyed, or rendered unfit for use without fault or neglect on the part of the person to whom it was furnished, the button may be replaced upon application and payment of an amount sufficient to cover the cost of manufacture and distribution.

(d) In this section:

(1) The term "widow" includes widower.

(2) The term "parents" includes mother, father, stepmother, stepfather, mother through adoption, father through adoption, and foster parents who stood in loco parentis.

(3) The term "next of kin" includes only children, brothers, sisters, half brothers, and half sisters.

(4) The term "children" includes stepchildren and children through adoption.

(5) The term "World War I" includes the period from April 6, 1917, to March 3, 1921.

(6) The term "World War II" includes the period from September 8, 1939, to July 25, 1947, at 12 o'clock noon.

(7) The term "military operations" includes those operations involving members of the armed forces assisting in United States Government sponsored training of military personnel of a foreign nation.

(8) The term "peacekeeping force" includes those personnel assigned to a force engaged in a peacekeeping operation authorized by the United Nations Security Council.

H.R. —

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Gold Star Parents Annuity Act."

SEC. 2. SPECIAL PENSION FOR GOLD STAR PARENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

"SUBCHAPTER V—SPECIAL PENSION FOR GOLD STAR PARENTS

§ 1571. Gold Star parents

"(a) The Secretary shall pay monthly to each person who has received a Gold Star lapel pin under section 1126 of title 10 as a parent of a person who died in a manner described in subsection (a) of that section a special pension in an amount determined under subsection (b).

"(b) The amount of special pension payable under this section with respect to the death of any person shall be \$125 per month. In any case in which there is more than one parent eligible for special pension under this section with respect to the death of a person, the Secretary shall divide the payment equally among those eligible parents.

"(c) The receipt of special pension shall not deprive any person of any other pension or other benefit, right, or privilege to which such person is or may hereafter be entitled under any existing or subsequent law. Special pension shall be paid in addition to all other payments under laws of the United States.

HELP WANTED—NIGHT WATCHMAN

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the record the attached editorial written by Oliver North and published in the Washington Times.

[From the Washington Times, June 18, 2000]
(By Oliver North)

Prince Albert is on his "progress and prosperity tour" asking Americans "are you better off than you were eight years ago?" If "better off" includes America's national security, the answer is: You have to be kidding. The day the vice president began to "re-introduce himself to the American people," shell-shocked Clinton-Gore administration officials dodged questions about how they lost more of America's dwindling supply of nuclear secrets.

After a monthlong cover-up, it was finally admitted on June 12 that computer hard drives from the Los Alamos National Laboratory's "X Division"—where nuclear weapons are designed—have been missing from a vault at the lab since "some time in May." This is the latest embarrassment for Los Alamos, which is still reeling from a string of security lapses, including the arrest of Taiwanese-American scientist Wen Ho Lee on 59 counts of mishandling nuclear secrets. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, a potential running mate for Internet Al, claims "there is no evidence of espionage" and "the missing computer files may be related to the evacuation of the facility during the recent forest fires." Get the word: "missing"—as in, "My home work is 'missing.' Maybe the dog ate it."

The "missing" multi-gigabyte computer drives contain detailed, highly secret, nuclear weapons data used by the super-sensitive Nuclear Emergency Search Team (NEST)—an interagency contingent of military and civilian specialists who respond to nuclear accidents and nuclear-related terrorist threats. The data on the hard drives includes all the information necessary to disarm all nuclear weapons worldwide. This is, of course, the same kind of data needed to arm or build a nuclear device. That is what's "missing."

Security lapses are nothing new for this regime. In the wake of the administration's latest fiasco, Rep. Porter Goss, Florida Republican, chairman of the House Select Intelligence Committee, told me that "when it comes to security, the Clinton-Gore administration manifests a culture of disdain." He is right and it is an attitude that pervades not just our nuclear weapons labs but the whole administration.

In 1994, more than a year after taking office, more than 100 high-level White House staff members still had no security clearances because they never bothered to complete the paperwork for requisite background investigations. They were granted access to highly classified information anyway.

By 1996, White House security was so lax that shortly before fleeing the country, Democratic Party fund-raiser Charlie Trie smuggled a foreign businessman into the White House using false identification. When the General Accounting Office reported that from January 1993 until June 1996 there were no procedures to control access to Sensitive Compartmental Information (a level of clas-

sification higher than Top Secret) within the Executive Office of the President, White House officials promised to "fix the problem." They did not.

At the State Department, foreign spies stand in line to rip off America's secrets. In 1998, an unidentified individual posing as a reporter walked out of the Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's office suite with a stack of classified documents. Last year, the FBI caught a Russian Intelligence Service spy wearing headphones outside the State Department headquarters and discovered a device planted in a secure conference room inside the building. This January, a laptop computer containing top secret information vanished from the department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research. Mrs. Albright said she was "outraged."

Last year, FBI agent Michael Vatis told Congress that computer hackers broke into the Pentagon's classified computer systems and downloaded "vast quantities of data" containing "sensitive information about essential defense matters." The FBI suspected the Russian intelligence service. What did the Clinton-Gore administration do? They asked the Russians to help. Like O.J., the Russians are still looking for those who really did it.

But even when the perpetrators of massive security violations are caught, it hardly matters. According to the CIA's inspector general, John Deutch, the Clinton-Gore CIA director from 1995-1996, routinely "placed national security information at risk" by processing a "large volume of highly classified information" on his unprotected home computer. After covering up the breach (and failing to notify the FBI as required by law) for more than 18 months, Mr. Deutch had his security clearances revoked and was given a letter of reprimand.

The abysmal seven-year national security record of the Clinton-Gore administration should come as no surprise—nor should their predictable spin: First comes the plea not to "make a partisan issue" out of what is at best gross incompetence and at worst dangerous malfeasance. Then comes the accusation there has always been espionage (remember the "everyone does it" defense from Monicagate?). Finally the counterallegations: "It is all the fault of the Reagan and Bush administrations."

Don't be surprised to hear Bill's and Al's pals tell you that if Presidents Reagan and Bush hadn't planted so many trees, the Clinton-Gore administration wouldn't have had to do a "controlled burn" of several thousand acres and 205 houses, thus forcing the evacuation of the Los Alamos lab. If that doesn't wash, they can argue there is nothing on these missing hard drives that the Communist Chinese didn't already get.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under