

blind and visually impaired adult residents of the county to work, to promote equity within our society for the blind or visually impaired, to heighten awareness of legislative action pertaining to blindness or visual impairments, and to create a sense of community and increase sociability among members.

Currently, the Association offers training in computer skills and also provides Braille lessons, training in daily living skills, and self help discussion sessions, in addition to educational and informational sessions on services and programs available to members. To help foster this, the Association works in tandem with the New Jersey Commission for the Blind, along with other New Jersey organizations in the field of blindness.

During the past fifty years, the Monmouth County Association for the Blind has helped hundreds of people with blindness or visual impairment to enjoy a higher standard of living. The Association has also played a key role in improving the understanding of the public on treating and helping those who are blind or visually impaired in a positive and helpful manner. As the senior population swells, we will continue to see an increasing amount of blind or visually impaired seniors, bringing new challenges. Thankfully, the Monmouth County Association for the Blind seems well prepared.

It is my sincere hope that my colleges will join me in honoring the Monmouth County Association for the Blind for their service to the blind, the visually impaired, and the general public.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
RELATIVE TO THE REPEAL OF
THE SELECTIVE SERVICE ACT
AND RELATED PORTIONS OF
THE US CODE (APRIL 26, 2001)

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to repeal the Selective Service Act and related parts of the US Code. Also, I am placing the attached article from the Taipei Times in today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I fear that this source is not widely read among many in this body or our nation, so I am hopeful this action will serve to bring this letter to a much wider audience. The person who writes this letter is a law student in Taiwan. His arguments against conscription are similar to those offered by people in the United States who oppose the draft. The student argues that conscription is a violation of civil liberties, a costly and ineffective system that harms society and the economy as well as the rights of the individual conscripted, and a system that harms national defense rather than helping it. While we do not currently have conscription in the US we do have draft registration and each argument against the draft is equally applicable to our current selective service system and the registration requirement. I urge my colleagues to seriously consider the arguments against conscription raised in this article and cosponsor my legislation to repeal the Selective Service Act.

[Taipei Times on line edition, Thurs. Apr. 26, 2001]

CONSCRIPTION IS HARMING TAIWAN

By Chang Yung-chien

Some time ago, the media reported on would-be conscripts scrambling to grab a place in the "alternative service" to military conscription. There is now an uproar over President Chen Shul-blan's future son-in-law, who escaped doing his term of military service because he had gout. The issue of military service has again struck a sensitive chord in Taiwan's society.

Why do so many people feel disgruntled?

This writer has always advocated a volunteer military recruitment system. But this seems to be a politically incorrect view in a country that faces external threats. The difficulty of getting enough recruits and the increased burden that would be imposed on government coffers are the usual reasons given against a volunteer system. I find these reasons totally incomprehensible.

Military recruitment is a public policy matter. It needs to undergo an analysis for cost-effectiveness. Why do we have "reserve officers" and "alternative service" systems?

We have them precisely so that skilled people can be more valuable for the country if they are pulled out from the ranks to serve as platoon leaders or as cheap labor for high-tech companies. Once this point is clear, then the alternative service system will seem quite strange. Someone with a PhD in electrical engineering would be working in a high-tech company anyway if he were not doing alternative service. The only difference is that he would be getting a reasonable salary for his work. The conscription system forces conscripts to provide the same service for less pay. By comparison, an outstanding female with a PhD in electrical engineering can get paid according to her market value because she does not have to do military service. Why should we use a conscription system to provide cheap labor to corporations?

Moreover, society as a whole has paid an enormous invisible price for the conscription system. Friends of mine waited almost a year to be conscripted—doing nothing (of course, two years of military service are also spent doing nothing). Still more people see their lifetime plans interrupted. They waste the most creative time of their lives writing military reports that do not help the nation's economy or the people's livelihood.

How many people have left the country before conscription age just to evade those two years, and come back only after they are too old for conscription? How many people have cut their fingers, damaged their eyesight, or otherwise harmed their bodies? How can it be beneficial to the country? How many mutants have we had in the armed forces?

Our president, who can carry his wife to and from her wheelchair every day, did not have to do military service because of a problem with his "hands." And the president's future son-in-law is busy running in

I would also like to ask: Why can't I finish my studies before serving my country? Even if I have to serve two years as a conscript, I will be of far more use to the country providing legal services to ordinary citizens than just do drills and jogging. How much more of its human resources can Taiwan afford to waste?

As for the question of not finding enough recruits, this should not be a problem as long as the Ministry of National Defense offers competitive salaries. If serving in the military simply means loafing around, then such service may be worth less than \$10,000 a

month. But there should be no such "profession." If being a soldier is a high-risk profession, there should be a high salary to compensate for that risk. That may increase expenditures for the government, but it must be remembered that only people who can freely enter various professions on the job market can maximize their value.

Unless we believe that the average productivity of conscription-age males is worth less than \$10,000 or so per month (the monthly salary of an ordinary soldier), we cannot but agree that society as a whole would gain more wealth without conscription than the government coffers have to lose. Such losses might even be offset by increased government revenue from taxes on the gains made by those conscription-aged men who would be working in society instead.

No talk about "honor" solves any problems. Everyone sets out from a rational, self-interested standpoint. What the state should do is maximize the benefits for society as a whole, not limit its thinking to military service. Maintaining a conscription system certainly does more harm than good. Those who wear the badge "being a soldier is a good experience" should ask themselves whether they would be willing to do it again.

HONORING MILDRED HART SHAW

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I now ask that Congress take a moment to pay its respects to a leader in the Grand Junction community. Mildred Hart Shaw passed away on March 25, 2001 at the age of 91. Mildred has been a model citizen of the Western Slope since 1933. For her life of service to Colorado, I would now like to honor her.

For 45 years Mildred's byline appeared in the Daily Sentinel. When she first started out in the media, women reporters were traditionally assigned births, deaths and weddings, but she soon changed that. She started at the Sentinel as the society editor and a copy editor. She finally convinced then publisher Walter Walker to let her cover breaking news stories. Eventually she covered everything from politics to crime, earning the reputation of a talented and ethical journalist.

She is described by her friends as determined, civic minded and thoughtful. "She was an intelligent, independent woman," said William Robinson. "She was a great supporter of the soul of Grand Junction. She enjoyed life and she enjoyed having people around her who enjoyed life."

Mildred was active in a whole array of community affairs. She was a strong voice for then Mesa College to become a state college. She served on the Mesa County Art Center board of directors, she was a member of the executive board of the Gifted Child Committee and was chairman of the Civil Defense Committee for Grand Junction during World War II. She also started the Sub for Santa program in Mesa County. Because of her love of books, also Mildred served as the director of the Junior Great Books Program for District 51 for 11 years.