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Collection Name BLACKWELL, MORTON: FILES

Withdrawer

RBW 8/11/2011

File Folder VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS] (2 OF 3)

FOIA

F06-0055/07

Box Number 50

POTTER, CLAIRE

72

DOC NO	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
1	LIST	RE. VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS VOICE OF DEMOCRACY WINNERS	6	ND	B6

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

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B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.



Telephone
202-543-2239

NEWS *Release*

Washington Memorial Building
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002



"THE VOICE OF TWO AND ONE HALF MILLION MEN AND WOMEN OF THE VFW AND ITS AUXILIARY"

FOR RELEASE:

IMMEDIATELY
(April 26, 1983)

VFW BACKS COMPENSATION FOR AGENT ORANGE DISEASES

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- Personally appearing before the Congress, VFW National Commander-in-Chief James R. Currieo asked that "legislation providing a presumption of service connection for the occurrence of certain diseases related to exposure to herbicides or other environmental hazards or conditions in veterans who served in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam era be enacted."

Rep. Thomas A. Daschle introduced a bill which will provide compensation for three diseases linked to the exposure of dioxin found in Agent Orange, a herbicide used in Vietnam by the government to defoliate vegetation. In addition, the bill will give the Veterans Affairs Administrator the power to presume service connection for other disabilities as medical evidence becomes available.

"I view it as a compassionate and responsible response on the part of the government to Vietnam veterans. This legislation represents the beginning of another aspect of the healing process for Vietnam veterans," said Currieo.

ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

Date

3/22/83

TO: (Name, office symbol, room number, building, Agency/Post)	Initials	Date
1. Mr. Morton Blackwell		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

Action	File	Note and Return
Approval	For Clearance	Per Conversation
As Requested	For Correction	Prepare Reply
Circulate	For Your Information	See Me
Comment	Investigate	Signature
Coordination	Justify	

REMARKS

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FROM: (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post)	Room No.—Bldg.
Michael R. Frost, Associate Director Workforce Effectiveness & Development	Phone No.

5041-102

OPM

OPTIONAL FORM 41 (Rev. 7-76)

Prescribed by GSA
FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.206

U.S. G.P.O. 1982-361-529/156



United States
**Office of
Personnel Management**

Washington, D.C. 20415

file
VFW

In Reply Refer To:

March 10, 1983

Your Reference:

Mr. James R. Currieo
National Commander-in-Chief
Veterans of Foreign Wars
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Mr. Currieo:

This is in response to your letter of January 21, 1983, which was addressed to Ed Meese with a copy to me concerning OPM's proposed regulations on Reductions-in-Force (RIF). Frankly, I was quite surprised at VFW's letter because OPM has consistently kept VFW informed about the provisions of the regulations throughout their development.

My Associate Director in charge of the Veterans Employment Program, Michael Frost, meets quarterly with representatives of the major Veterans organizations, including VFW, for an exchange of views and information regarding current veterans issues. At each of the last three meetings the proposed RIF regulations were part of the agenda, and it was made very clear in those meetings, attended by Kim Graham representing VFW, that veterans' preference would not be diluted in the new regulations.

You state in your letter that the proposed regulations "give first preference to those with the highest performance ratings and to veterans only within these specific rating categories as a secondary consideration." Actually, precisely the opposite is the case. For those rated fully successful or above, veterans' preference is given priority, regardless of performance rating.

Since being named Director of OPM, I have on numerous occasions emphasized this Administration's commitment to veterans' preference. I am a strong proponent of veterans' preference in Federal service, and have taken a number of tangible steps to promote its use which have been widely recognized by veterans' groups. I cannot understand how you can write that I have "chosen to ignore this provision of law." I am the first Director of OPM to follow the law on veterans' preference.

I anxiously await a clarifying letter from you on this subject.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Devine
Director

cc (list attached)

cc: Mr. Edwin Meese
Mr. David A. Stockman
Senator Ted Stevens
Senator Alan K. Simpson
Senator Alan Cranston
Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt
Mr. G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery
Mr. Harry N. Walters
Mr. Ronald Drach
Mr. James Bourie
Mr. Kim Graham
Mr. Pete Currier

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

November 5, 1982

Mr. Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Morton:

This letter will wrap up certain points I made at the meeting of defense types you hosted on October 28th.

(1) NUCLEAR FREEZE:

This issue will not go away and has received a strong shot in the arm from the various referenda voted on Tuesday.

RECOMMENDATION: the Administration can and should call on non-governmental types to carry water for you on this issue wherever and whenever it raises its head around the countryside. (Carter certainly did on the Canal and SALT II.)

(2) DEFENSE REORGANIZATION:

The point made by Danny Graham, Mark Hill, myself, and others to have a go at restructuring the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, is both central and "Presidential."

The shift in the military balance of power that the President had to confront when he took office raises the obvious question "How come?"

Bluntly, we won World War II without a Department of Defense, created in 1947.

(A) The Joint Chiefs of Staff should be, ~~as we discussed~~, made advisors, under a revised law, to the Congressional committees on (a) Budget; (b) Armed Services; and (c) Appropriations. Currently, the JCS, under the law, advises the President, the NSC, and the Secretary of Defense. When they "level" with the Congress, they are properly accused of "legalized insubordination" -- Eisenhower's words.

A "Tom Moorer" type "Blue Ribbon Group" (you have some suggested names) would serve both President Reagan and the common defense.

(3) THE MISSILE-EXPERIMENTAL -- "M-X:"

This will not get through either the 97th Congress rump session or the 98th in its favored "Dense Pack" basing mode -- nor should it.

Personally, I urge that the defense dollars created (when M-X goes under) be applied to the non-nuclear, conventional end of the spectrum.

Morton, I appreciated being at your meeting and will continue to fight to assure that we stay the course in defense that the President has set.

Most cordially,

Phelps
Phelps Jones, Director
National Security and Foreign Affairs

PJ/mmt



Telephone
202-543-2239

NEWS *Release*

Washington Memorial Building
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002



"THE VOICE OF TWO AND ONE HALF MILLION MEN AND WOMEN OF THE VFW AND ITS AUXILIARY"

FOR RELEASE:

IMMEDIATELY
(Mar. 14, 83)

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States today conditionally endorsed President Reagans' proposal to send increased military and economic aid to El Salvador.

In commenting of the issue, VFW National Commander-in-Chief, James R. Currieo said, "While we agree in principal with the increase in military and economic assistance, we feel the final solution must come through diplomatic initiatives and dialogue between the government of El Salvador and the opposing forces. If the additional money will expedite a cease fire and peaceful negotiated settlement, then the funds will have been well spent. I hope we have learned something from similar assistance actions taken during the 1950s and 1960s in support of Vietnam."

VFW

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 3, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: Lt. Colonel Richard T. Childress

FROM: Morton C. Blackwell

SUBJECT: Acceptance of Petitions from Thousand
Oaks, California VFW Post

Attached hereto is a copy of the listing of individuals which Congresswoman Bobbi Fiedler's Office has called in to my office regarding the presentation of the MIA/POW petition.

It is my understanding that Mr. Pedro Holquin has a brother who is one of the Vietnam MIAs.

If you see a name on the list that may cause a potential problem, please let me know.

MCB:jet

1 Attachment a/s

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 27, 1983

Mr. Cooper T. Holt
Executive Director
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
VFW Memorial Building
200 Maryland Ave., NE
Washington D.C. 20002

Dear Cooper:

I received the copies of the invitations
you sent to Secretary of State Schultz
and Ambassador Kirkpatrick.

I then talked to each of their scheduling
officers and urged that they attend your
convention and accept their awards. I
certainly hope that this can be arranged.

Let me know the status and if I can do
anything more on this for you.

Cordially,



Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 6, 1983

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
Office of Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Morton:

Enclosed are copies of letters relative to our invitations to Secretary of State Shultz and UN Ambassador Kirkpatrick per our telephone conversation. You can rest assured we will be forever grateful for any assistance you can give us in obtaining affirmative replies from these two individuals to attend our National Convention in New Orleans.

With warmest personal regards and best wishes, I remain

Sincerely your friend,

COOPER T. HOLT
Executive Director

CTH:nlp
Enclosures

*to draft
note of response
for me.
I call
the schedulers
of both &
endorse
their
invitation.*

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



June 2, 1983

C
O
P
Y

Honorable George P. Shultz
Secretary of State
Department of State
2201 C Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter to you dated April 26, 1983, from National Commander-in-Chief Currieo of the Veterans of Foreign Wars relative to our organization honoring you during our 84th National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana.

We are most interested in finalizing our program for the Convention as soon as possible in order to proceed with the printing of our convention programs and other convention materials; therefore, it would be greatly appreciated if you would give immediate consideration to our request. Please forward your reply to Mr. Currieo just as soon as possible; however, we would like to request your response no later than June 17.

Your cooperation in this matter will certainly be appreciated. We, of course, are hoping for an early affirmative reply.

Sincerely yours,

COOPER T. HOLT
Executive Director

CTH:nlp
Enclosure

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



April 26, 1983

C
O
P
Y

Honorable George P. Shultz
Secretary of State
Department of State
2201 C Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

It is with a great deal of personal pleasure I inform you that by unanimous vote of the National Council of Administration of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, you have been selected to receive the 1983 VFW Dwight David Eisenhower Distinguished Service Award and Citation.

This award is presented annually to an individual deemed to have made the greatest contribution to "American security, unity and world peace." and is contingent upon the recipient appearing at our National Convention in person to accept the award. With the award goes a \$1,000 check for any use you care to make of it, plus all travel expenses incurred in your visit to our Convention, which will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The award was established in 1970. Previous recipients include former President Richard Nixon, former Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird, Bob Hope, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Senator Strom Thurmond, former Senator Jim Allen, General Alexander Haig, Ross Perot, and General Vernon Walters.

The Dwight David Eisenhower Distinguished Service Award is the highest honor the Veterans of Foreign Wars can bestow on any individual. It is our desire to present this award to you at our Annual Distinguished Guests Banquet which will be the highlight of our National Convention to be held the evening of August 15, in the Grand Ballroom of the New Orleans Hilton Hotel. You will be the principal speaker for the Banquet at which time we expect to have approximately 3,000 persons in attendance.

If you can be with us the evening of August 15, Cooper T. Holt, Executive Director of our Washington Office, will be in touch with your office to work out the necessary details of your visit. In the meantime, if you should have any questions relative to the presentation of this award, Mr. Holt may be reached by phone at 543-2239.

-2-

In closing, let me congratulate you on behalf of the 1.9 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the 680 thousand members of our Ladies Auxiliary on your selection as recipient of this high honor.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES R. CURRIEO
National Commander-in-Chief

BCC: Currieo, Vander Clute, Vater

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



June 2, 1983

C
Honorable Jeane Kirkpatrick
United States Ambassador
to the United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, New York 10017

O
Dear Ambassador Kirkpatrick:

I am most pleased to inform you that by unanimous vote of the National Council of Administration of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States you have been selected to receive the 1983 VFW Citizenship Award. This award is presented annually by our organization to an individual "for outstanding service contributing to American citizenship." In your particular case, this honor is bestowed on you for your outstanding loyalty and service to the United States as our representative to the United Nations.

P
For your information, previous recipients of this award include Walter George, Sam Rayburn, Lyndon B. Johnson, Carl Vinson, John Connally, Gerald Ford, Hubert Humphrey, Melvin Price and Charlton Heston.

Y
We would like to make the presentation of this award to you during the 84th VFW National Convention to be held in New Orleans, Louisiana. The presentation would take place at 11 A.M. on Wednesday, August 17, during our General Business Session to be held in the Ballroom of the New Orleans Hilton Hotel. I wish to assure you there will be no "boo's" from our organization.

I am hopeful you will make a special effort to be with us personally for this presentation. Once we have your acceptance a member of my staff will be in touch with you to work out the necessary details of your visit. The VFW, of course, will take care of all necessary expenses in conjunction with your visit to New Orleans.

Please accept my personal congratulations on being named recipient of this high honor. We look forward to receiving an early affirmative reply.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES R. CURRIEO
National Commander-in-Chief

CC: Currieo & Vander Clute

★ WASHINGTON OFFICE ★

DRAFT LETTER FOR THE PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE

Mr. James R. Currieo
National Commander-in-Chief
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
200 Maryland Ave., NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Jim:

I am writing to thank you for your recent comments in support of my Central America policy.

In our efforts with respect to Central America, we confront a delicate situation. The success or failure of our efforts will depend on the continued support of the American people, manifested in the form of communication to their members of Congress. The leadership that the Veterans of Foreign Wars supplies is invaluable to the success of our efforts.

With this in mind, I took great pleasure in reading your comments. I again express to you my sincere appreciation for your leadership and for that of your organization.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan



Telephone
202-543-2239

NEWS Release

Washington Memorial Building
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002



"THE VOICE OF TWO AND ONE HALF MILLION MEN AND WOMEN OF THE VFW AND ITS AUXILIARY"

FOR RELEASE:

IMMEDIATELY
(25 APRIL 1983)

*Draft letter
of thanks to Currieo
for sig of RA*

VFW: CENTRAL AMERICA "OFF LIMITS"
TO SOVIET MILITARY IMPERIALISM

WASHINGTON, D. C. --

"In a single day, we have rendered vulnerable the democratically elected government of El Salvador and have protected the Marxist government of Nicaragua."

-- Rep. Henry Hyde (Ill.), speaking of the April 12th vote of the Western Hemisphere Affairs Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee

James R. Currieo, National Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, today noted that with respect to Central America, the 98th Congress has "three broad options open to it:

"(1) do nothing beyond deploring unfolding events;

"(2) attempt to halt the surrogate spread of Soviet military power by covert, indirect means; or

"(3) employ U. S. military power directly in El Salvador and elsewhere.

"Most reasonable people reject both doing nothing or using U. S. military forces to do the required combat job. This leaves resort to indirect, covert means to blunt the advance of Soviet military power throughout Central America as our best bet. Therefore, the irresponsible, non-recorded 'voice' votes of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee would both gut our aid to embattled El Salvador and protect the Marxist government of Nicaragua from the deep resentments of the Nicaraguan people; i.e.,

(OVER)

create a privileged Central American sanctuary for communists in Nicaragua."

(The House Subcommittee voted: (a) no \$50 million supplement for El Salvador; (b) cut the \$86.3 million request to \$50 million for the next two years; (c) continuance of the limit of 55 U. S. advisors in El Salvador; and (d) no U. S. aid to Nicaraguan rebels without a joint resolution of the Congress.)

The VFW leader continued by noting the "grotesquely massive Soviet military build-ups in both Cuba and Nicaragua and the resultant pressure from Marxist Nicaragua on El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Columbia.

"Central America must be placed 'off limits' to Soviet military imperialism and we must do so now. I urge members of the 98th United States Congress on both sides of the aisle to support President Reagan's Central American policy.

"It is the only 'game in town' that makes sense."

VFW



Telephone
202-543-2239

NEWS Release

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Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002



"THE VOICE OF TWO AND ONE HALF MILLION MEN AND WOMEN OF THE VFW AND ITS AUXILIARY"

FOR RELEASE:

IMMEDIATELY
(Mar. 25, 83)

VFW LAUDS PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL STRATEGY CHANGE

WASHINGTON, D.C.--"President Reagan has taken a heroic step to change the United States' policy of avoiding nuclear war by assuring mutual destruction if Russia attacks. This new policy is one which is a truly defensive strategy. The President has embarked on a 'vision of the future' which will destroy missiles before they reach the United States or our allied nations," said James R. Currie, National Commander-in-Chief.

"This new concept is truly non-aggressive. It cannot kill anyone, but at the same time it will prevent anyone from destroying us. It fully satisfies one of the VFW's priority goals calling for the country to adopt as an immediate strategic objective the exploration of space technology which will advance the safety and well-being of America and her citizens.

(over)

"The president's vision is so peace-keeping and defensive in nature that even the most devout pacifist can support this concept. Certainly, the president has the full support of the VFW in this endeavor to move from assured destruction of both the U.S. and Russia to a fully defensive posture which would only assure the destruction of missiles fired toward our country and its allies," Currieo said.



Telephone
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"THE VOICE OF TWO AND ONE HALF MILLION MEN AND WOMEN OF THE VFW AND ITS AUXILIARY"

FOR RELEASE:

IMMEDIATELY
(Mar. 30, 83)

*file
V.A.*

VFW STOPS EFFORT TO ELIMINATE THE VA

WASHINGTON, D.C.--"A working draft recommending that the VA be disbanded was stopped by quick, alert action on the part of the VFW," said VFW National Commander-in-Chief James R. Currie.

The President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control preliminary recommendations urged dividing all of the VA's programs except hospitals among the other federal departments.

"This is a rehash of old recommendations long disapproved by the Congress and the President. The VFW knew there was no basis for this offensive report and quickly received an assurance from VA Administrator Harry N. Walters, speaking for the Reagan Administration, that, 'The roles and missions of the Veterans Administration have been reaffirmed by every Congress

(over)

for the past 50 years, and there is certainly no indication that the law of the land is likely to be changed regarding this nation's commitment to veterans.' A top White House official also called the VFW to confirm the administration's dedication to keep veterans programs under the VA," said Currieo.

The task force had tentatively suggested that compensation and DIC be transferred to the Defense Department, pension to the Social Security Administration, education to the Education Department, insurance to the private sector, home loans to HUD and burials to the Social Security Administration.

The group went on to say that, "In the long run, particularly in the absence of future wars, serious consideration should be given to eliminating the VA."

"There is nothing amusing about this situation. The VFW views with alarm any suggestion to eliminate the VA or to tamper with its programs. We believe that the Congress has established programs for the nation's veteran and that the country has the obligation to care for those who have fought for it," Currieo said.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

GREETING VFW NATIONAL COMMANDER, NATIONAL OFFICERS,
AND VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WINNERS

DATE: March 31, 1982
LOCATION: Rose Garden
TIME: 11:30 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.
FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE 

I. PURPOSE:

To greet the VFW National Commander-in-Chief and national officers and to recognize the 52 winners of the Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program.

II. BACKGROUND:

The 1.7 million member Veterans of Foreign Wars actively supported your candidacy, Economic Recovery Program and AWACS sale. They are in town this week for their annual Washington Conference.

The VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary have sponsored the Voice of Democracy Scholarship program for the past twenty years. This year more than 250,000 students participated in the program from over 8,000 U.S. and U.S. overseas schools. Student involvement has tripled and school participation has doubled since last year. Over four and one-half million students have competed and awards totaling more than \$2,500,000 have been granted. Students compete by writing an essay on democracy and this year's winner is Scott Baker of Mitchellville, Maryland.

III. PARTICIPANTS:

Arthur Fellwock, National Commander-in-Chief
James R. Currieo, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief
Clifford G. Olson, Jr., Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief
Howard Vander Clute, Jr., Adjutant General
James A. Cheatham, Quartermaster General
Mrs. Marion Watson, Ladies Auxiliary President
Cooper T. Holt, Executive Director
52 Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program winners (list attached)

IV. PRESS PLAN:

Open Press Coverage

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

- 11:30 a.m. On announcement, you proceed to the podium and offer brief remarks.
- 11:34 a.m. On conclusion of your remarks, you are presented with a set of flags by Arthur Fellwock and Scott Baker.
- 11:40 a.m. You offer thanks and shake hands as you depart.

ATTACHMENTS: Talking Points
List of Participants

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS

- I would like to begin by expressing my gratitude to the Veterans of Foreign Wars for their active support of my Administration's Economic Recovery Program and other vital issues.
- Commander Fellwock, please extend my personal welcome to your 2,000 state and local VFW officials who are in town for your annual Washington Conference. Our country is deeply indebted to each of your 1,700,000 members.
- I am especially pleased to be able to welcome these 52 high school student winners of your Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program. I understand that more than one-quarter million students participated in this year's program from over 8,000 U.S. and U.S.-overseas schools. I hear this is a tripling of student involvement and a doubling of school participation over last year. I cannot think of a place I would rather be than here to share in honoring each of you for your achievement and to pass along my congratulations to Scott Baker, this year's national winner.
- I compliment the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary for your outstanding sponsorship of this program. During its twenty years, over four and one-half million students have participated and awards totaling more than two and one-half million dollars have been given to winners at all levels.
- I hope we can count on each of you to continue your fine example as you move to leadership positions within your generation. God bless you.

NOTE: Commander Fellwock and Scott Baker step forward to present you with a set of flags (US, VFW and Voice of Democracy).

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

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BLACKWELL, MORTON: FILES

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RB 8/11/2011
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File Folder

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS] (2 OF 3)

FOIA

F06-0055/07
POTTER, CLAIRE

Box Number

50

72

DOC Document Type

NO Document Description

No of Doc Date Restric-
pages tions

1 LIST

6 ND B6

RE. VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS VOICE OF
DEMOCRACY WINNERS

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
4TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEES:
SMALL BUSINESS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

POLICY COMMITTEE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
513 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3765

CONSTITUENT SERVICE CENTERS:
2333 WHITE HORSE/MERCERVILLE ROAD
SUITE H
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08619
(609) 890-2800

MADISON ARMS PLAZA
18 THROCKMORTON LANE
ROOM 208, 2ND FLOOR
OLD BRIDGE, NEW JERSEY 08857
(201) 679-7440

222 HIGH STREET
BURLINGTON CITY, NEW JERSEY 08016
(609) 386-5534

Dea Kathy,

Here is the speech delivered to VFW.

It is my speech, but I don't take credit(?)
for phrases like "extremist military spending."

Chris tried to weasel out of some phrases.

In fact, he tried to scrap the speech. But when
he asked the Republican Study Committee for a
speech they gave him an even stronger speech,
calling for conscription!

Morton
interesting
comments
by

Kevin

Well, the laugh's on him. But I've
got to get out of here. Chris is a liberal,
no doubt about it. We made a big mistake.

At any rate, my best to Morton.

Kevin

MR. STATE COMMANDER AND DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

GOOD MORNING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I AM HONORED TO HAVE BEEN ASKED TO ADDRESS THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

TODAY, WITH YOUR 1.9 MILLION MEMBERS, THE VFW IS ONE OF THE FOREMOST PROPONENTS OF VETERANS' RIGHTS IN OUR COUNTRY. AND FROM MY CONTACT WITH YOUR STATE WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVES, I CAN SAY YOUR LEADERSHIP ARTICULATES YOUR CONCERNS AND YOUR AGENDA WITH CLARITY, ENTHUSIASM AND PROFESSIONALISM.

AS YOU MAY KNOW, I'M THE FIRST NEW JERSEY CONGRESSMAN TO SIT ON THE VETERANS' COMMITTEE SINCE 1974. AS SUCH, I CONSIDER IT MY ROLE AND DUTY TO FIGHT FOR THE MORE THAN ONE MILLION VETERANS IN OUR STATE.

PERHAPS IT WAS PRESIDENT LINCOLN WHO SAID IT BEST.

IN HIS SECOND INAUGURAL ADDRESS, DELIVERED IN 1865, LINCOLN SAID, "LET US TEND TO HIM WHO HAS BORNE THE NATION'S BATTLES, AND TO HIS WIDOW AND ORPHAN".

THAT, IN ONE SHORT SENTENCE, IS THE DUTY OF THOSE OF US WHO SERVE ON THE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, AND I MIGHT ADD, IS A DUTY OF ALL AMERICANS. ALL OF US WHO LIVE IN FREEDOM IN THIS GREAT LAND ARE INDEBTED TO YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND SACRIFICE.

LADIES & GENTLEMEN, IN THE SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME I HAVE WITH YOU TODAY, I'D LIKE TO SHARE SOME OF MY CONCERNS ABOUT ISSUES FACING THE VETERANS OF OUR STATE AND OUR COUNTRY.

LET ME BEGIN BY SAYING THAT I'M ESPECIALLY CONCERNED WITH THE PROBLEMS OF OLDER VETERANS. AS YOU MAY KNOW, NEW JERSEY'S POPULATION OF OVER 65 VETS HAS GROWN BY A MASSIVE 117% SINCE 1975. OLDER VETERANS HAVE A GREATER NEED FOR HEALTH CARE. SPECIFICALLY, THERE IS A NEED TO EXPAND NURSING HOME FACILITIES. AND, IN THE NEAR FUTURE, THERE'LL BE A GREATLY EXPANDED NEED FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS SPECIALIZING IN GERIATRIC MEDICINE.

ALTHOUGH I WAS A STAUNCH ADVOCATE OF THE CAMDEN VA HOSPITAL AND FOUGHT TO KEEP IT -- I'M SORRY TO SAY THE HOSPITAL WAS SCRAPED. HOWEVER, I HOPE WE WILL BE ABLE TO OPEN SOME OF THE MILITARY HOSPITALS, SUCH AS THE ONE AT FORT DIX, TO THE VETERANS. FROM MY CONVERSATIONS WITH SCORES OF VETS IN NEW JERSEY, I KNOW THIS WOULD BE A REAL HELP AND ASSISTANCE.

AS YOU MIGHT HAVE GUESSED, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE HAVE STAYED VERY BUSY ON THE VETERANS COMMITTEE, JUST AS THE CONGRESS HAS STAYED BUSY. PRESIDENT REAGAN'S AMBITIOUS PLANS TO RESTORE OUR WELL-BEING AND ECONOMIC HEALTH HAVE CAUSED THIS TO BE THE MOST ACTIVE CONGRESS IN YEARS. THE FLOOD OF MAIL FROM CONSTITUENTS SHOWS THE INTEREST AROUSED; THERE WAS MORE MAIL THE FIRST MONTHS OF THIS 97TH CONGRESS THAN IN ALL OF 1980!

ALTHOUGH THIS IS A YEAR OF BUDGET REDUCTIONS, I AM PLEASED TO INFORM YOU THAT WHEN CUTS OF OVER \$800 MILLION IN VETERANS FUNDING WAS PROPOSED - I WAS ONE OF A FEW IN COMMITTEE WHO VOTED AGAINST THE CUTS. AFTER CONSIDERABLE EFFORT, WE WERE SUCCESSFUL IN RESTORING \$463 MILLION IN THE VETERAN BUDGET WITH MOST OF THE ADD-BACKS EARMARKED FOR MEDICAL SERVICES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS I HAVE ALSO BEEN VERY ACTIVE WORKING ON LEGISLATION DESIGNED TO AID AND ASSIST OUR VETERANS.

ONE OF THE BILLS I'VE COSPONSORED AND ONE OF THE FIRST MAJOR PIECES OF LEGISLATION WE SENT TO THE FLOOR -- WHERE IT PASSED -- WAS A NEW G.I. BILL OF RIGHTS, THE VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1981.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS ACT IS TWO-FOLD: TO ENCOURAGE ENLISTMENTS FOR OUR ARMED FORCES, AND TO RETAIN TRAINED PERSONNEL. THE ACT GIVES EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS SIMILAR TO THOSE GIVEN TO THE VETERANS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR, KOREA, AND VIETNAM.

BASICALLY, THE NEW G.I. BILL PROVIDES UP TO \$300 A MONTH IN EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS FOR ANYONE SERVING THREE YEARS OR MORE IN THE ARMED FORCES, OR TWO YEARS ON ACTIVE SERVICE AND FOUR YEARS IN THE RESERVE. THERE ARE ALSO INCREASED BENEFITS FOR THOSE WHO STAY IN AND THEN CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION. THESE BENEFITS CAN BE TRANSFERRED TO OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS.

THIS SORT OF LEGISLATION HAS BEEN DISCUSSED FOR A LONG TIME. CERTAINLY, IT IS ONE OF THE THINGS NEEDED TO AID OUR ARMED FORCES. SECURING WELL-MOTIVATED SKILLED PERSONNEL IS, I THINK, A GREAT CHALLENGE AND ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY FOR A VIABLE DEFENSE. THIS IS THE CHALLENGE WE HAVE TO MEET, AND THE G.I. BILL HELPS ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE.

WE, IN THIS CONGRESS, WILL ALSO ENACT A PAY RAISE FOR THE MILITARY. THIS, COUPLED WITH OUR NEW BENEFITS STRUCTURE, WILL HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON RECRUITMENT. ALREADY THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE RE-ENLISTMENT RATE THIS YEAR HAS INCREASED, NOT AS MUCH AS WE WOULD LIKE BUT WE'RE FINALLY MAKING STRIDES IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

ON APRIL 26, AS YOU KNOW, WE COMMEMORATED VIETNAM VETERANS REMEMBRANCE DAY. THIS COMING JULY 18 IS POW-MIA MEMORIAL DAY, A DAY WE CAN RECALL---AND---HONOR---THOSE OF OUR SERVICEMEN WHO SUFFERED THE ANGUISH, HEARTBREAK, AND CRUELTY OF CAPTIVITY. WE ALSO REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE MISSING---OF WHOM WE KNOW LITTLE OR NOTHING.

THE FIRST SPEECH I GAVE ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WAS ON THE POW/MIA QUESTION.

SOME 2500 SERVICEMEN ARE NOT ACCOUNTED FOR FROM THE VIETNAM CONFLICT. EVERY NOW AND AGAIN WE GET REPORTS FROM VIETNAM OR LAOS SAYING SOME OF OUR MEN ARE STILL ALIVE AND LIVING IN THAT PART OF THE GLOBE. THE VIETNAMESE AND LAOTIAN AUTHORITIES OWE US A FULL ACCOUNTING, INCLUDING ALL THE RECORDS THEY HAVE ON THESE MEN. I'VE BEEN PRESSING THIS CAUSE IN CONGRESS -- AND I WILL NOT FORGET THIS MATTER UNTIL ALL THE FACTS ARE IN AND A FULL ACCOUNTING OF THESE MEN IS RECEIVED.

MY FRIENDS, MOST OF US ON VETERANS' COMMITTEE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GET ASSISTANCE FOR OUR VIETNAM VETS. SEVERAL SECTIONS OF THE VETERANS' HEALTH CARE ACT OF 1981 -- CONCERN THESE VETS. HOSPITAL CARE IS BEING PROVIDED TO VIETNAM VETERANS EXPOSED TO HERBICIDE DEFOLIANTS SUCH AS AGENT ORANGE. THIS IS INTENDED AS AN INTERIM MEASURE WHILE THE FULL INVESTIGATION OF THE EFFECTS OF AGENT ORANGE IS TAKING PLACE. BUT IT IS A POSITIVE STEP TOWARD

HELPING THESE MEN. AND I'VE ALSO COSPONSORED LEGISLATION THAT WOULD PROVIDE A PRESUMTIVE DISABILITY TO THOSE SUFFERING FROM THE EFFECTS OF AGENT ORANGE.

IN ADDITION, WE'VE EXTENDED "OPERATION OUTREACH", THE READJUSTMENT COUNSELLING PROGRAM. THIS HAS BEEN ONE OF THE BEST AND MOST COST-EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS EVER AND HELPS VIETNAM ERA VETS READJUST. THE 91 OUTREACH CENTERS PROVIDE FIRST RATE PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING TO VETERANS WHO DIDN'T RECEIVE A HEROS WELCOME WHEN THEY RETURNED -- BUT WERE OFTEN MALIGNED -- AND AT THE VERY BEST, FORGOTTEN.

AS YOU KNOW, SOME TWO AND A HALF MILLION MEN PASSED THROUGH THE CRUCIBLE OF VIETNAM. OVER 57,000 OF THEM DIDN'T MAKE IT BACK. WE CAN'T FORGET THESE MEN. THEY CAN'T BE SWEEPED UNDER THE RUG. THEY SERVED THEIR COUNTRY WELL SO WE SHOULD GIVE THEM THE RECOGNITION THEY DESERVE. AMERICANS ARE IN THEIR DEBT, JUST AS THEY ARE IN THE DEBT OF ALL WHO HAVE FOUGHT, AND BLED, AND DIED.

TO BE SURE VETERANS AFFAIRS ARE THE AFFAIRS OF A GRATEFUL NATION, VETERANS, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE, ARE CRUCIAL TO OUR DEFENSE.

AND, OF COURSE, IN THESE TROUBLED TIMES THE QUESTION OF DEFENSE IS VERY MUCH ON OUR MINDS. WE ARE BEING ASKED TO SPEND WELL OVER A TRILLION DOLLARS BETWEEN NOW AND 1986 TO REBUILD OUR ARMED FORCES. I HAVE SOME DISAGREEMENT ON HOW THAT MONEY SHOULD BE SPENT MOST EFFECTIVELY, HOWEVER, I HAVE NO DISAGREEMENT THAT WE MUST REPAIR THE DAMAGES DONE TO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS.

LOOK AT SIMPLE FIGURES. IN 1962, JOHN F. KENNEDY ALLOCATED 44% OF HIS BUDGET TO NATIONAL DEFENSE -- AND I AM ADJUSTING HIS BUDGET TO THE WAY WE FIGURE BUDGET EXPENDITURES NOW, WITH SOCIAL SECURITY, AND OTHER PROGRAMS INCLUDED. IF PRESIDENT REAGAN GETS ALL HIS BUDGET REQUESTS APPROVED, WE WILL STILL ONLY BE SPENDING 32% OF THE BUDGET ON DEFENSE BY 1986. IN FISCAL YEAR 1981, 4.9% OF THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT WAS ALLOCATED TO DEFENSE; UNDER THE REAGAN PLAN THAT WILL TOP OUT AT 5.6% OF GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT.

AS WE ALL KNOW, THE UNITED STATES IS NO LONGER THE UNDISPUTED TOP MILITARY POWER IN THE WORLD. AT BEST THERE'S A MURKY EQUALITY WITH THE SOVIET UNION. AND, IN MANY WAYS, THE SOVIET MILITARY HAS SURPASSED US.

CONSIDER THESE SOBERING STATISTICS, AS OF JANUARY 1, 1980, THE U.S. HAD 1,054 ICBMs; THE SOVIETS HAD 1,398.

- THE U.S. HAD 2,154 WARHEADS; THE SOVIETS HAD 4,306.
- THE U.S. HAD 1,650 MIRVs, THE SOVIETS 3,452.
- THE U.S. HAD 41 BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINES, THE SOVIETS HAD 85.
- THE U.S. ARMY HAD 758,000 PERSONS IN UNIFORM, THE SOVIETS HAD TWO AND A HALF MILLION.
- THE U.S. NAVY HAD 491 SHIPS, THE SOVIETS HAD 660.
- THE U.S. WAS OUTSPENT 2 TO 1 BY THE SOVIETS OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS AND SERIOUS GAPS HAVE DEVELOPED THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WHILE I WOULD CAUTION AGAINST AN EXTREMIST ARMS BUILDUP - I DO BELIEVE THAT WE CANNOT ALLOW OURSELVES SUCH A MARGIN OF INFERIORITY THAT THE SOVIETS WILL BE TEMPTED TO ADVENTURISM. INDEED, IT WAS THAT PERCEIVED INFERIORITY AND A SLIPSHOD FOREIGN POLICY IN THE MID AND LATTER SEVENTIES THAT SAW THE SOVIETS ESTABLISH THEMSELVES IN ANGOLA, ETHIOPIA, AND SOUTH YEMEN. BASICALLY, THE SOVIETS ARE DOING WHAT THEY HAVE DONE SINCE 1945; TESTING THE UNITED STATES, TESTING OUR WILL AND DETERMINATION. IF THERE IS SIGNIFICANT RESISTANCE, THE SOVIETS WITHDRAW. IN A VACUUM, THEY ADVANCE.

THE PROBLEM WITH ANY AMERICAN WEAKNESS IS THE TEMPTATION THE SOVIETS HAVE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT. AND LET ME REITERATE THIS: THE DETERRANT MUST DETER. IF NOT, IT IS WORTHLESS TO US.

THERE ARE ALSO SOME FRIGHTENING FACTS CONCERNING OUR CONVENTIONAL FORCES. SIMPLY PUT, THE SOVIETS HAVE US AT A DISADVANTAGE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE NATO ALLIES HAVE 3,000 TANKS IN EUROPE AS OPPOSED TO ABOUT 7,000 SOVIET TANKS. THERE ARE SOME 10,000 SOVIET FIGHTER AIRCRAFT AIMED AT NATO FORCES, WHILE NATO POSSESSES 6,000. AGAIN, OUR OBJECT HERE IS NOT TO START A WAR. IT IS TO DETER AGGRESSION, BY SHOWING WE CAN WIN. DREW MIDDLETON OF THE NEW YORK TIMES HAS WARNED THAT A SOVIET OFFENSE WOULD BE ACROSS THE RHINE IN 72 HOURS AND ON THE ENGLISH CHANNEL IN A WEEK. THIS IS VERY ENCOURAGING NEWS TO THE KREMLIN -- DISCOURAGING TO US -- AND IS CERTAINLY DOESN'T PERSUADE THE SOVIETS TO PURSUE A PEACEFUL COURSE.

WHILE I AM TALKING ABOUT EUROPE AND THE SOVIET CHALLENGE THERE, LET ME SAY SOME THINGS ABOUT OUR COMMITMENTS AND ALLIES.

WE ARE MEMBERS OF SEVERAL ALLIANCES. THE DAY WE COULD REMAIN IN COMPLETE ISOLATION IS OVER.

THAT'S THE WAY THINGS MUST BE IN THIS WORLD, I GUESS. THE GLOBAL THREAT TO FREEDOM IS GREAT. WE SHOULDER THE BURDEN OF DEFENDING FREEDOM.

BUT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE CAN'T DO IT ALONE. OUR ALLIES HAVE PRESSING RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROVIDE FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE.

ONE OF THE THINGS I HAVE BEEN DOING SINCE ELECTED TO CONGRESS IS TO FIND OUT WHY THE NATO COUNTRIES AND JAPAN AREN'T DOING MORE. I HAVE ASKED THAT QUESTION TIME AND AGAIN, AND RECEIVED A LESS THAN SATISFACTORY ANSWER.

LAST MONTH, FOR INSTANCE, JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER SUZUKI WAS HERE. PRESIDENT REAGAN PRESSED HIM FOR INCREASES IN THE JAPANESE DEFENSE BUDGET. MR. SUZUKI INDICATED JAPAN WOULD DO SOMETHING, WOULD PUT MORE INTO DEFENSE.

NOW, THIS VERY WEEK, HIS DEFENSE MINISTER DECLARES JAPAN WILL NOT ADD ANYTHING, NOT A DIME TO THE DEFENSE BUDGET.

HERE WE ARE, WITH TOYOTAS, HONDAS AND DATSUNS PILING UP ON OUR DOCKS, AND JAPAN SAYS IT WILL NOT DO MORE TO DEFEND HERSELF. THEY CERTAINLY CAN AFFORD IT. JAPAN IS NOT BEARING ITS FAIR SHARE. ON A PER CAPITAL BASIS, WE SPEND 8 TIMES MORE THAN THEY DO ON DEFENSE.

WE OUGHT TO REMIND THE JAPANESE THAT THEY HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO APPROPRIATE SUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR THEIR OWN DEFENSE, TO GUARANTEE THEIR OWN LIBERTIES AND FREEDOM.

UNFORTUNATELY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WESTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS HAVE NOT FARED MUCH BETTER. LAST YEAR THE NATO COUNTRIES ACCEPTED THE NEED FOR A 3% INCREASE IN DEFENSE SPENDING. WHAT'S HAPPENED? DENMARK IS ACTUALLY REDUCING SPENDING. BELGIUM HAS NOT MET ITS GOAL.

NOW THE BRITISH ARE DISCUSSING PLANS TO CUT DEFENSE SPENDING BY TWO BILLION DOLLARS -- AND WILL COME NOWHERE NEAR THE 3%.

GREAT BRITAIN HAS ITS PROBLEMS. BUT LIKE ALL NATIONS OF THE WEST, THE U.S. IS STRUGGLING WITH ITS OWN BULGING BUDGET BUT THAT DOESN'T ALLOW US TO SHIRK OUR RESPONSIBILITY.

INDEED, WEST GERMANY AND JAPAN'S ECONOMIES ARE IN BETTER SHAPE THAN OURS. THEY HAVE LOWER RATES OF INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT AND THEIR PRODUCTIVITY IS HIGHER. IT CERTAINLY DOES MAKE YOU WONDER ABOUT THEIR PRIORITIES.

BACK IN 1792 GEORGE WASHINGTON, COMMENTING ON THE NATION'S FIRST MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, TOLD CONGRESS, "ETERNAL VIGILANCE IS THE PRICE OF FREEDOM. "THOSE WORDS ARE ETERNAL. UNLESS WE ARE ON OUR GUARD, WE MAY LOSE MOST PRECIOUS GIFT.

AFTERALL, WORLD WAR 1 WAS SUPPOSE TO BE THE WAR TO END ALL WARS. AS OPTIMISTIC AND REASSURING AS THAT THOUGHT MIGHT HAVE BEEN, IT WAS DANGEROUSLY NAIVE!

WE MUST NEVER FORGET THE LESSON OF PEARL HARBOR WHEN WE BASKED COMFORTABLY IN THE BELIEF NO ENEMY COULD REACH OUR SHORES. WE KNOW NOW HOW FALSE THAT WAS!

YOU AS VETERANS KNOW WELL THE PRICE OF FREEDOM. YOU HAVE PAID THAT PRICE. MANY OF OUR COMRADES HAVE PAID THE LAST, FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION. SUCH SACRIFICE IS FOREVER ENSHRINED IN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS.

MY SERVICE OF THE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IS PREDICATED ON THE SACRED TRUST OUR GRATEFUL NATION HAS FORGED WITH ITS VETERANS. THIS TRUST IS A BOND FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION -- A BOND WITH THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO ANSWERED THE CALL OF THEIR COUNTRY.

THE FLAG THAT FLIES OVER THIS LAND IS THE NOBLE BANNER OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE FOR ALL. AND I'M SURE NOONE IN THIS ROOM WOULD DISAGREE THAT ...

FREEDOM AND JUSTICE ARE PRECIOUS.

FREEDOM AND JUSTICE ARE INVALUABLE.

FREEDOM AND JUSTICE ARE WORTH LIVING FOR.

FREEDOM AND JUSTICE ARE WORTH FIGHTING FOR.

FREEDOM AND JUSTICE ARE WORTH DYING FOR.

THANK YOU.