



# Mustang News



Vol. 29 No. 2

Quarterly Newsletter of the National Order of Battlefield Commissions

Summer, 2008

Fellow Mustangs and Ladies:

I hope this spring edition of our Mustang News is being read by healthy and happy members and their families.

I take this occasion to thank the nearly 200 members who took the time to complete our short questionnaire tucked inside the spring edition of the Mustang News. Our Deputy Commander, Steve Shivers tallied the completed questionnaires and the outcomes follow:

The 2008 Convention/Reunion will be held the week of October 6. The exact dates will be announced as soon as we find out the most inexpensive three nights during the span of that week. We initially cited October 9-11 (Thursday, Friday and Saturday), but want to check with the hotels for the best rate during that week.

The location of the Convention/Reunion will be the greater Washington, D.C. Metro area. My plan calls for a hotel within walking distance of a Metro

## Commander's Message

by *Robert Evans*



station. The WWII, Korean and Vietnam War memorials, along with Arlington Cemetery are accessible from the excellent Metro system. Situating our hotel close to a Metro will certainly cut down on transportation logistics. We will have available side bus trips to, as an example, the Marine Corps Museum at Quantico.

The preponderance of respondents favor changes to our Constitution and By Laws to afford a formal memorial program to close NOBC as an active organization when the time comes. As an aside, changes to our governance documents will

additionally have to outline the decision process for determining when to formally close NOBC as an active organization.

If every one who responded to attend the Convention/Reunion in Washington, D.C. remains healthy and able to travel, we should have nearly 50 members in attendance in October.

As usual, I am asking for your support on some critical issues. As you are aware, our sitting Chaplain Warren Schilling is physically unable to actively continue. We have essentially been, with Warren's permission, dusting off his earlier messages from the Chaplain's Corner. The call is out for a chaplain to take Warren's position.

Past National Commander (PNC) Gib Bolton, our esteemed PX Officer is retiring at the October Convention/Reunion after a decade of unwavering service to NOBC. Gib's PX Officer position requires keeping the stock up, attending Conventions/Reunions and

*(Continued on page 6)*

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## Are You Excited About the Person You Are?

Millions of lives have been changed around the world by the September 11 attack and thousands died. It reminds us that life is given, death will take us. We own no "things" permanently. Life is fragile—handle it with care.



Warren Schilling

So lets look at ourselves—how should we be living? As usual I've drawn from the Bible and many authors to pull these thoughts together. One was from the late Dr. Edman, former president of Wheaton College in Illinois. He reminds us that in time of trouble "I am here by God's appointment, in His keeping, under His training and for His time. In any kind of trial always look for the blessing." Our troubles are providential, limited, instructive and temporary. That should indeed be comforting.

Do we have faith in God? "Faith is not a blind leap into nothing, but a thoughtful walk in the light we have," (Elton Trueblood). Our voluntary thoughts not only reveal what we are, they predict what we will become. Thinking about God and holy things creates a moral climate favorable to growth of faith, love, humility and reverance. Through our lives have we

struggled to obtain greatness—to be considered great by many? The Bible teaches that true greatness lies in character, not ability or position. It's not important that people care how much you know, but how much you care. A man's message will be heard in the context of his character.

Speaking to God Isaiah says "We are the clay, you are the potter, we are all the work of your hand" (Isaiah 64:8). God knows all we are going to do and say. If I spend my time trying to be someone else, who will be me?

God created me for a special purpose. God is not only preparing something for us, but preparing us for something. It may be afflictions of some kind—but ultimately Heaven if we are Bible believers.

Are you excited about the person you are? See yourself as God sees you—nothing more, nothing less. Among other things he wants you to be humble. If you would like to acquire humility the first step is to realize you are proud. If you think you are not proud, you are proud indeed. Don't be afraid to swallow your pride—it is not fattening!

Spring, 2002

## From the Hawaii Editor's Desk

by Bill "Scotty" Wynn



## Mustang News

Mustang News is the official newsletter of the National Order of Battlefield Commissions. It is edited in Kapolei, HI & printed and mailed in Anadarko, OK. Four issues per year: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter.

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## TAPS

for Mustangs answering  
their final muster:

1141-Daniel C. Clark-IN  
042L-Elmer S. Geik-MI  
484L-Edward Kellner-MD

**Note:** We depend on family members, friends and members to inform us of the deaths of our members. Please provide Stan Schmucker, Admin. & Fin. Officer, with pertinent information and details as soon as possible. Thank you.

## Taps

There will be a great encampment  
In the land of clouds today,  
A mingling and a merging  
Of our boys who've gone away.  
Though on earth they are disbanding,  
They are very close and near,  
For those brave and honored heroes  
Show no sorrow, shed no tear.  
They have lived a life of glory,  
History pins their medals high,  
Listen to the thunder rolling,  
They are marching in the sky!

--Artus Nottingham Chappus

### ***A Few Sage Comments From Will Rogers***

- *Never slap a man who's chewing tobacco.*
- *Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.*
- *There are 2 theories to arguing with a woman... neither works.*
- *Never miss a good chance to shut up.*
- *Always drink upstream from the herd.*
- *The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back in you pocket.*
- *After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him.*  
*The moral: when you're full of bull keep your mouth shut.*

### **Letters from NOBC Next of Kin**

*NOBC widows or next of kin receive a plaque and citation honoring their late husbands from Gib Bolton*

#### **Mary Clare Duhme:**

Thank you so much for your kind letter of March 10 and the handsome plaque, which I promptly hung on the wall with other memories of Ed's service on the First Armored Div. He was proud of having received a Battlefield Commission.

Thank you again.

### ***A Soldier's Lament***

When I was a boy in my early teens,  
I fostered many wonderful dreams.  
Someday I'd climb a mountain high,  
So high its peaks would reach the sky.

One minute I'd be a locomotive engineer,  
The next I'd be an aviator without fear.  
I could be anything - mom always said,  
If I worked hard - and used my head.

Maybe I'd be a cowboy star,  
Or the drive the fastest racing car.  
Perhaps I'd be a soldier bearing arms,  
Keeping my country safe from harms.

No, I never climbed that mountain high,  
Drove a locomotive - flew a plane in the sky.  
I never became a great athlete or a cowboy star,  
No did I drive the world's fastest car.

Those were the days of the Great Depression,  
When dreams were your only true possession.  
But for God and country a soldier I became  
Not famous - nor did I gain great fame.

As my life on earth dwindles away,  
I think about day dreams of a long ago day.  
But if my youth I could somehow regain,  
For God and country I'd be a soldier again.

#606 - Homer Ankrum (dec)

## *It's Washington, D.C. in October* *(Week of 6 October - dates TBA)*



**Remarks by BGen Robert E. Milstead, Jr.,  
Director, Marine Corps Public Affairs  
19 February, 2008 in Charlotte, NC.  
to the Wounded Warriors Foundation in Charlotte, NC**

Thank you and good evening. Thanks for that introduction... but to introduce me as the mouthpiece of the Marine Corps is an exaggeration to say the least. Regardless, it's an honor to be here this evening and to support such a worthwhile cause as the Wounded Warrior Foundation. Today is a very special date in the history of our Corps. Sixty-three years ago today, at 0859, the first assault waves of the 4th and 5th Marine Divisions landed on the beaches of Iwo Jima. Before that battle was over, the Marines would suffer 26,000 casualties – 6,000 Marines were killed taking that island. Twenty-two Marines were awarded Medals of Honor – the most ever awarded for a single engagement. On an island only 7½ square miles in size, almost 100,000 men were locked in mortal combat. 21,000 Japanese died in place. It is said that for every piece of terrain the size of a football field, one Marine was killed and five were wounded. But before I continue, I'd like to acknowledge Admiral Spiro, he's sitting over here. He was on a Destroyer off the coast of Iwo Jima that morning providing fire support to the Marines. Admiral, thank you for your service, especially during World War II. (Applause) Why do I begin my remarks speaking of Iwo Jima? Because it is the benchmark we Marines use to judge all other battles. Also because it speaks to valor and determination – two key characteristics we see in the young men and women serving today in this global war on terror. This is a generational conflict, and we are closer to the beginning than we are the end.

In my current assignment, I am often asked by the media and others about the health of our Corps. How do I reply? Tonight I will tell you what I tell them. We are indeed in good health. Our Corps is in the best shape I have seen during my 33 years of service. The young men and women serving today are our nation's next greatest

generation. They are taking the baton from the likes of Admiral Spiro. I have been in combat with them twice, and can say they are a national treasure, they are our future leaders and we are in good hands.

Speaking specifically about our Corps. We are the youngest of all the services. The average age is 24. Approximately 65% of the Corps is under the age of 25. Almost a quarter populates that beloved rank of Lance Corporal. We have almost 26,000 teenagers. Last year we recruited over 38,000 young men and women, 95% of them high school graduates, and every one of them joined knowing full well they will likely move toward the sound of cannons. This year we are well on our way to recruiting another 40,000. This is a generation that understands the meaning of service. As long as we continue recruiting men and women like this, our Corps will remain healthy.

Several months ago I had the privilege of being the reviewing officer for a graduation parade at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. Standing out on that parade deck were six platoons, 571 young men lean and mean after the rigors of boot camp. I asked the battalion commander who was the honor graduate. He told me it was a Lance Corporal Sanchez, from Baytown, Texas. I asked if his parents were there. Yes sir, he answered, they are in the reviewing stand behind you. I want to meet them, I said. Mr. and Mrs. Sanchez were indeed proud parents. Taking her hand in mine, I thanked Mrs. Sanchez for giving us her son and told her that although I couldn't guarantee his safety, I would guarantee he'd be taken care of. With tears in her eyes, she explained this was not her first. You see, both LCpl Sanchez's older brother and sister were already Marines, and another sister was a Navy

corpsman. I will tell you that as long as we have American families like the Sanchez family, our Corps will remain healthy.

I'll then tell of the wounded Marines I met while visiting Brooke Army Medical Center and the Army Burn Center in San Antonio. I'll tell of the young Lance Corporal who was burned when his vehicle was hit by an IED. His face is not bad at all, he looks if he merely has some road rash. But his hands are pretty badly burned and his therapy is painful. Mustering some courage, I asked him if he felt it was worth it. His reply was as you'd expect from a Marine, and I'll clean it up some, "F-ing A sir, no regrets. I'd do it again in a second." So I'll tell you that as long as we have young men like him, our Corps will remain healthy.

I'll also talk about the Corporal I met down there at the burn center. Now he was burned much worse. He still wears a protective cap and gloves and has had 37 surgeries. He tells of the time, when he could finally go out in town, of coming out of a restaurant, and a small child, as honest and straight-forth as only a child can be, said in a voice that he could hear, "look mommy, it's a monster." That child's mother, instead of whisking her son away in embarrassment, got down on a knee, and looking her son in the eyes

said, "no honey, that's not a monster, that's a very brave man who was badly hurt protecting you and me. You need to go over and thank him." And with trepidation as you can imagine, the young child walked over, and reached out his hand taking the corporal's gloved hand in his, and said "thank-you." The corporal will tell you as long as there are people like that, he can endure another 37 operations. I will tell you as long as there are mothers like that child's, our Corps will remain healthy.

As I close, I will offer you a couple of figures... There are about 1.5 million of us in the active forces that wear a uniform. If you add all the reserves and the National Guard, the total is somewhere close to 3 million. That is only 1% of our nation's population. We are a military at war, not a nation at war. Unfortunately, many Americans just don't get it. But you get it. Oh yea, you get it. If you didn't, you wouldn't be here tonight. So I'll end by saying that as long as we have folks like you, our Corps will remain healthy.

Thank you for being here tonight, thank you for your support of our brave service men and women, and especially thank you for your support of our wounded warriors. God bless you. I pledge your Corps will remain healthy, and Semper Fidelis.

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## **Commander's Message** *(continued from page 1)*

marketing/selling, along with ordering memorial plaques and citations for family members of our deceased comrades, ordering Commander's Trophies, trophies for guest speakers and the ever popular Helmet Award Trophies. PNC Bolton's PX Officer position, while it requires a certain amount of hard work, has its benefits (call me and I will tell you what they are). The call is out for a PX Officer.

Our Adjutant and Past National Commander Council Pete Armstrong has been carrying that torch for nearly a decade. Pete is formally retiring from being our Adjutant this October as well. Pete has been the exchequer of our NOBC regalia (flags, table center pieces, banners, etc.), along with the duties of Adjutant. The call is out for an Adjutant.

This is not brain surgery or rocket science, we need a full staff to continue being a viable organization. Please do consider becoming more involved with NOBC by taking on one of the open and important positions. As Steve Shivers takes the helm this October and as we conduct our Board and general meetings, we will certainly make every effort to ensure that whomever steps up to take one of the three open positions will not be expected to serve any longer than two years.

I am running out of breath and space. I wish everyone a healthy and happy summer and sincerely hope to see a large turn out in Washington this October.

## Soldiers For The Truth

*The organization was founded by Col. David Hackworth and is continuing under the capable auspices of Roger Charles, (LTC USMC Ret.), President. Roger has agreed to continue our access to the SFTT website to select articles for the Mustang News. We will continue to head this as Hack's Page in his honor.*

### **Dollars and Sense** by William S. Lind

At a recent book party for Winslow Wheeler's new history of the Military Reform Movement of the 1970s and 1980s, I was asked for my views on the prospects for genuine reform. I replied that "So long as the money flow continues, nothing will change." Chuck Spinney, a reformer who spent decades as a polyp in the bowels of the Pentagon, agreed.

Events on Wall Street suggest that the day when the money flow stops may be approaching. Despite President Hoover's assurance that "Prosperity is just around the corner," the American economy is in free-fall. After decades of frivolity, that economy now amounts to little more than a pyramid of financial pyramids, all requiring a constant inflow of borrowed money. The inflow is endangered by the developing Panic of '08, where the junk mortgage crisis and the collapse of the housing market combine to dry up lending. What happens to pyramid schemes when money stops flowing in at the bottom? Maybe a recession; maybe a depression. That's why pyramid schemes are illegal, unless the government runs them.

A tanking economy and world credit markets tighter than Scrooge's sphincter will require large cuts in federal spending. That will include the Pentagon. If a new administration were to turn to the military reformers and ask us how to cut defense spending while still securing the country, what would we advise?

Here's what I would propose:

First, adopt a defensive rather than an offensive grand strategy. America followed a defensive grand strategy through most of her history. We only went to war if someone attacked us. That defensive grand strategy kept defense costs down and allowed our economy to prosper. We do not have to be party to every quarrel in the world.



Roger Charles

Second, scrap virtually all the big ticket weapons programs such as new fighter-bombers, more Aegis ships, and the Army's Rube Goldbergian Future Combat System. They are irrelevant to where war is going.

We should not plan for conventional wars against hypothetical "peer competitors," which can only be Russia or China. We should do our utmost to make Russia an ally, and we should make a fundamental, bi-partisan national strategic decision that we will not go to war with China. Regardless of who "won" such a war, it would destroy both countries, just as the two World Wars destroyed both Germany and Britain. The world needs China to serve as a source of order in what will be an increasingly disorderly 21st century. We should welcome the growth of Chinese power, just as Britain learned (reluctantly) to welcome the growth of American power in the 20th century. It is only a threat to us if we make it one.

Third, as we cut, preserve combat units. That means, above all, Army and Marine Corps infantry battalions. Cut the vast superstructure above those battalions, but keep the battalions. Infantry battalions are what we need most for Fourth Generation wars, which we should do our utmost to avoid but which we will sometimes be drawn into, even with a defensive grand strategy.

In the Navy, keep the submarines. Submarines are today's and tomorrow's capital ships, and geography dictates we must remain a maritime power. Keep the carriers, too, though there is little need to build more of them. Carriers are big, empty boxes, which can carry many things besides aircraft. Mothball most of the cruisers and destroyers. Build lots of small, cheap ships useful for controlling coastal and inland waters, and create strategically mobile and sustainable "packages" of such ships. Being able to control waters around and within stateless regions can be important in 4GW.

Fighter-bombers are largely useless in Fourth

Generation wars, where their main role is to create collateral damage that benefits our enemies. Keep the air transport squadrons and the A-10s, and move them all to the Air National Guard, which flies and maintains aircraft as well as or better than the regular Air Force at a fraction of the cost. Reduce the regular Air Force to strategic nuclear forces and a training base.

In all the services, vastly reduce the baggage train: the higher headquarters, the development commands, the education bureaucracies and the armies of contractors. As Mark Twain said of the male teat, they are neither useful nor ornamental.

Finally, as we cut, undertake reforms that cost little but will make our remaining forces more effective. Reform the personnel systems to create unit cohesion, eliminate the surplus of officers above the company grades and reduce careerism by ending up-or-out. Reform tactics and doctrine by moving from the Second Generation to the Third, which is to

say from French attrition warfare to German maneuver warfare. This requires a change in military culture, in education and in training. The adoption of Third Generation tactics, doctrine and culture must be real, not just words on paper as it has been in the Marine Corps.

A program of military reform along these lines could give us more effective forces for Fourth Generation wars and such minor conventional wars as we might face within a defensive grand strategy than the forces we now possess. It could do so for a defense budget half or less the size of the current budget. To the reigning Military-Industrial-Congressional Complex, that potential is a threat, not a promise. When the MICC's money runs out, it will suddenly become a necessity.

*William S. Lind, expressing his own personal opinion, is Director for the Center for Cultural Conservatism for the Free Congress Foundation.*

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## ***Great Expressions on Officers' Efficiency-Fitness Reports***

*by Col. John Eichner, USA (dec)*

As military officers we have many times during our careers had efficiency/fitness reports written about our performance of duty or our writing about a subordinate's performance of duty. Most of the time these were favorable reports, with some report authors getting very creative in describing a particular talent or ability of the officer being reported on. On the other end of the spectrum we have associated with "officers" who we wondered how they ever got a commission. Writing creatively to truly describe these folks shortcomings can be an art in itself as the below true report excerpts demonstrate:

- *His men would follow him anywhere, but only out of curiosity.*
- *I would not allow this officer to breed.*
- *This officer is really not so much a has-been, but more of a definitely won't be.*
- *Since my last report he has reached rock bottom and has started to dig.*
- *The only ship I would recommend this man for is citizenship.*

- *Works well under constant supervision and cornered like a rat in a trap.*
- *When she opens her mouth, it seems it is only to change whichever foot was previously in there.*
- *He would be out of his depth in a parking lot puddle.*
- *This young lady has delusions of adequacy.*
- *She sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them.*
- *This officer should go far - and the sooner he starts the better.*
- *This man is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot.*

Ah, a time for reflection when we had the golden pen in our hand and wished we had said one of the above about a subordinate who just cannot understand the sun rises in the east and sets in the west.

*(Excerpts from the Hawaii Chapter of MOAA newsletter)*



Those who do not do battle for their country do not know with what ease they accept their citizenship in America.

*The Face of South Vietnam by Dean Brelis*

## “Hack”

By Mustang Virgil “Butch” Goewey

Col. David H. Hackworth, U.S.A (Dec.), will long be remembered for his valor on the battlefield, his leadership skills displayed on all assignments, and his continuous concern for the troops and THE TRUTH.

To me, he will always be very respectfully remembered and admired simply as “Hack.” In late July, 1959 (Lordy, 49 years ago!!) in our final week (jump) at the Army Airborne Jump School, Ft. Benning, GA, we met in a rather strange way. Please remember I am “pulling this up” from nearly half a century ago. Early Thursday morning, just after our “barely daylight” inspection, we were told to “hand loose” a few minutes. In my humble opinion, “hang loose” really meant “mill around.”

Regulations and procedures change over the years, but we wore no rank insignia, and all students, at least Capts and below, were basically recruits. This “little bit older” soldier came over and asked if I was Sgt Goewey (slightly mis-pronced). I assured him I was, and he said “I’m Hack, what name do you go by socially?” and I replied “Butch.” “Congrats, Butch, you are our class Honorman.” My surprised answer was, “How in the world do you know that, and an old man like me.” He calmly replied “I know.” Another older soldier said a bit firmly, “If Hack says you are, you are.” I said, “Fine, if I am, I would like you to certify today’s jump.” He said it would be an honor; then I added that I did not have Tues. or Wed. signed either. The older man asked if he could sign it since when gets out of this place he may never get in a plane again. Another student who had apparently been standing close behind me and listening, came along side and asked what time of “fatigues” was I wearing. I explained that they were not “fatigues,” they were Marine Corps “utilities.” He said he sure had heard a lot about U.S. Marines. I looked closer at his attire and then asked what type of utilities he was wearing. He said he was (I don’t recall for sure) like an S-3, Chief Instructor, etc., of the Canadian jump school. My amazed question was “What in the world are you doing down here in this steam oven in July?” He informed us that he and the school SgtMaj (a billet, not a rank), were ordered down to observe, exchange ideas, etc., on how each could improve their schools. But when we checked in the welcomer said, “He thought it was a great idea, but the only way to learn is from the inside out, so draw your helmets and fall out Mon. morning” I asked if he would sign my log and he said “with pleasure.”



As you can see from the copy, the first three signatures show that Ft. Benning is not only an American inter-service school, it is international. The first and fifth signer was my company XO, now a retired colonel. As surprising as it was to me, at the after lunch formation I was declared the Honorman, and so Hack signed that one. So on Fridays “Graduation” jump, I had the white tape around my boots and, as per log book, led the “stick” out. The photo is from our official graduation ceremony.

Two years later I was returning to Camp Pendleton from a “recruiting” trip from the Comm-Elect Bn at MCRD, San Diego and stopped for a coffee break. A very neatly dressed and sun tanned man came over and asked if he could speak with me a minute as I looked very familiar. Naturally, my answer was “by all means, please sit down.” At that time, we still wore the little Army wings. He said he thought he had seen me at “jump” school. In a couple of minutes it was clear we had been in the same class. He was now serving in an east coast Army Airborne unit. After a few minutes of “chat,” he asked if I had heard of classmate Capt Hackworth. I informed him of our 4-5 minutes chat but that I also had his signature. He then explained that the Capt was pretty well known in the Army. He had suffered multiple wounds, received several decorations, and was battlefield commissioned. I honestly said that I had never heard of anything like that. We talked a few more minutes, and he tried to answer my question of why all the “old” officers were in our class.

All the services were still in a tight money crunch, but mostly recovered from the slight depression under President Ike. So the Army was having its officers (at least Capt and below) prove their “mettle” by attending other schools, doing a tour of duty under a different MOS, etc. If you note in Hack’s great book “About Face,” he does not mention attending parachute school, but later he served with an airborne unit.

TYPE	CERTIFYING OFFICER	WINGS	REMARKS
Qual	[Signature]	Capt	Individual Tap-Out
Qual	[Signature]	Capt	" "
Qual	[Signature]	Capt	Mass Exit
Qual	[Signature]	Capt	" "
Qual	[Signature]	Capt	Mass Exit w/Equip
D-T-E	[Signature]	Capt	Parachute Demo w/RA Pl



Doing a good job around here is like wetting your pants in a dark suit.

It gives you a warm feeling, but nobody notices!



Bob Evans

During the lame duck and primary season, very little is conducted on Capitol Hill. This affects TMC. The report this quarter is very skimpy for that reason.

The Military Coalition testified in front of the House Armed Services Committee on April 16. The testimony focused on pay, retirement, and health care going

forward. The Senate Armed Services Committee budget mark up is scheduled for the end of April. The Senate Armed services Committee budget mark up is scheduled for early may.

The co-chair of The Military Coalition spoke to the American Medical Association (AMA) at a Capitol Hill press conference in early April, opposing the 10.6% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors, which is scheduled to take effect on July.

In the news and supported absolutely by The Military Coalition is Senator Webb's Educational Assistance Bill (S.22). The Bill essentially reflects the GI Bills post WWII, Korea and Vietnam. The current Montgomery GI Bill was designed to entice enlistment and was enacted during peace time. With the advent of the Global War on Terror and our troops fighting on two fronts, the existing Montgomery GI bill falls far short of providing a realistic return for the sacrifices of combat. Below is a brief overview of Senator Webb's Bill:

The bipartisan Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act (S.22), is designed to expand the educational benefits that our nation offers to the brave men and women who have served us so honorably since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The bill would closely resemble the educational benefits provided to veterans returning from World War II. A bipartisan House companion bill, H.R. 5740, was introduced on April 9, 2008.

## BACKGROUND

Our country has a tradition – since World War II – of offering educational assistance to returning veterans. In the 1940s, the first “G.I. Bill” helped transform notions of equality in American society.

The World War II G.I. bill paid for veterans' tuition, books, fees, a monthly stipend, and other training costs. Approximately 7.8 million veterans used the benefits given under the original G.I. bill in some form, out of a wartime veteran population of 15 million. For every dollar invested in veterans, seven dollars were generated.

Over the last several decades, Congress passed a number of other G.I. bills that also gave educational benefits to veterans. However, benefits awarded under those subsequent bills have not been as expansive as our nation's original G.I. bill. Currently, veterans' educational benefits are administered under the Montgomery G.I. Bill. This program is designed for peacetime – not wartime – service.

## MAJOR PROVISIONS

- Increased educational benefits would be available to all members of the military who have served on active duty since September 11, 2001, including activated reservists and National Guard. To qualify, veterans must have served at least three to thirty-six months of qualified active duty, beginning on or after September 11, 2001.
- The bill provides for educational benefits to be paid in amounts linked to the amount of active duty served in the military after 9/11. Generally, veterans would receive some amount of assistance proportional to their service for 36 months, which equals four academic years. Veterans would still be eligible to receive any incentive-based supplemental educational assistance from their military branch for which they qualify.
- Benefits provided under the bill would allow veterans pursuing an approved program of education to receive payments covering the established charges of their program, up to the cost of the most expensive instate public school, plus a monthly stipend equivalent to housing costs in their area. The bill would allow additional payments for tutorial assistance, as well as licensure and certification tests.
- The bill would create a new program in which the government will agree to match, dollar for dollar, any voluntary additional contributions to veterans

from institutions whose tuition is more expensive than the maximum educational assistance provided under S.22.

- Veterans would have up to fifteen years, compared to ten years under the Montgomery G.I. Bill, after they leave active duty to use their educational assistance entitlement. Veterans would be barred from receiving concurrent assistance from this program and another similar program.

## KEY POINTS MADE BY SENATOR WEBB

- **Currently, veterans' educational benefits are administered under the Montgomery G.I. Bill—a program designed primarily for peacetime – not wartime – service.** With many of our troops having served two, three or four tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is past time to enact a new veterans' education program modeled on the World War II era G.I. bill. These individuals have a short window of time in which to take advantage of an educational benefit after serving, and with six years already passed since 9/11, that window is now closing for many.

- **The G.I. Bill of the World War II era sparked economic growth and expansion for a whole generation of Americans; a more robust G.I. bill holds the same potential for today's economy.** The

United States has never erred when it has made sustained new investments in higher education and job training – and its veterans. Educated veterans have higher income levels, which in the long run increases tax revenues. Approximately 7.8 million veterans used the benefits in some form, out of a wartime veteran population of 15 million. For every dollar invested in WWII veterans, seven dollars were generated.

- **A strong and reliable G.I. bill will have a positive effect on military recruitment.** Better educated veterans also have a **more positive readjustment experience** and lower levels of post-traumatic stress disorder.

- **The education of our nation's veterans is a cost of war.** A very small percentage of Americans have

stepped forward to serve our country through military service; they have earned the right to have a bright future when they have completed their service. A G.I. bill that properly rewards honorable service is the right thing to do. **The estimated \$2 billion a year needed for the program equals less than one week of war in Iraq.**

- Three former Presidents, a dozen U.S. Senators, three Supreme Court Justices and fourteen Nobel Prize winners went to school on the G.I. bill. Under today's Montgomery G.I. Bill, these same leaders would receive only a fraction of the money necessary to get the same level of education.



## More Will Rogers

*Speech to International Bankers Association 1922*

Loan Sharks and Interest Hounds, I have addressed every form of organized Graft in the U.S. except Congress. So it is naturally a pleasure for me to appear before the biggest. You are without doubt the most disgustingly rich audience I ever talked to, with the possible exception of the Bootleggers Union Local No. 1 combined with law enforcement officers. I see where your convention was opened by a Prayer, and you had to send outside your ranks to get somebody who could pray. You should have had one Creditor there, he would have shown you how to pray. I noticed that in the prayer, the Clergyman announced to the Almighty that the Bankers were here. Well it wasn't exactly an announcement, it was more in the nature of a warning... You have a wonderful organization, I understand you have 10 thousand here and with what you have in the various Federal prisons brings your membership up to around 30 thousand. So Goodby Paupers, You are the finest bunch of Shylocks that ever foreclosed a Mortgage on a Widows home.



"If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me won't amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, 10 angels swearing I was right would make no difference."

*Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)*

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