



The REGISTER

Selective Service System

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Bill to Abolish Selective Service Derailed

A House bill, H.R. 621, filed this year by Rep. Mike Coffman (R-Colo.) originally proposed the complete abolishment of the Selective Service System and registration. It was later revised to essentially put the agency in deep standby. The revised version of H.R. 621 also proposed that the registration requirement be terminated, Reserve Force Officers assigned to the Selective Service System be returned to their parent Services, that the Selective Service civilian staff be cut by 50 percent, and that all local and appeal boards be abolished.


From mid-March to late April, Public and Intergovernmental Affairs had visited the offices of more than 40 Congressmen and Senators. All such visits were to key members of the Appropriations and Armed Services subcommittees who have oversight of Selective Service. The meetings were to educate lawmakers and staff about the value of Selective Service and the consequences of abolishing it or placing it in deep standby.

Various veterans and other patriotic organizations were deeply concerned about the consequences of H.R. 621. Their questions were all addressed. Several of these organizations such as the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars either have standing resolutions in support of Selective Service and its programs or had drafted resolutions updates intended for U.S. Senators and Congressmen. (See "Resolution Selective Service System" sidebar on page 2.)

H.R. 621 was finally "derailed" in a dispute over which Congressional committee has jurisdiction and the true costs of a shutdown of the Selective Service System. According to Director Lawrence Romo, "More likely, Rep. Coffman was surprised by the strength of public opposition, and by the fact that he couldn't get even one colleague to co-sponsor his bill."



Rep. Mike Coffman (R-Colo.)

Rep. Coffman then requested a General Accountability Office (GAO) study of the need for conscription. Naturally, Selective Service will assist GAO in its study as it has done in the past. The GAO report is expected next spring. 


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Selective Service Remembered

Again this March, the Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans in Canada—United States (ANAVICUS) Unit held its induction of new members and scholarship award. Director Lawrence Romo gave the remarks at a 7:00 AM breakfast at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, DC. These activities were followed by the traditional gravesite wreath-laying for General Lewis B. Hershey at Arlington National Cemetery. This annual tradition honoring General Hershey began many, many years ago by the American Legion members who were also employees of the Selective Service System. There was also an additional connection between Selective Service and ANAVICUS. General Hershey served as President of the Veterans Association for many years and both Director Romo and



Left to right: Director Lawrence Romo, Dominion President Eric McNeil, and U.S. ANAVICUS President Jake Comer.

Richard Flahavan, Associate Director for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, are current members of ANAVICUS. 

Resolution Selective Service System (Sidebar to Cover Story)

Editor's note: The following is an American Legion resolution submitted to the Department of Oregon by the Chairman of National Security Foreign Relations/Homeland Security Commission for favorable consideration and submission to the 2011 National Convention.

WHEREAS, The Nation is well served by keeping the Selective Service System as an inexpensive insurance policy – in a still dangerous and uncertain world – against underestimating the number of military needed to fight and win a future crisis; and

WHEREAS, the cost of keeping the Selective Service System at the ready is miniscule at \$24 million annually when measured in the context of the overall defense budget, making it one of America's best national security bargains; and

WHEREAS, as a visible symbol of national resolve to America's potential adversaries, this small Agency is the only time-proven means of mobilizing America's manpower for a significant crisis in a timely, orderly manner; and

WHEREAS, the Selective Service System and the program of draft registration for America's 18-year-old men ensure that any future draft, if needed, would be fair and equitable; and

WHEREAS, since 1980, the Nation's young men are overwhelmingly complying with the requirement to register, with 91 percent of men 18 through 25 registered; and

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Selective Service Welcomes New Employees

Barbara S. Dunford, Financial Management

Selective Service has a new addition to the Financial Management Directorate. Ms. Barbara S. Dunford has joined the Directorate to serve in the capacity of the budget officer.

Having held a number of key budget positions with various agencies, she brings with her over nine years of service in the federal government and over ten years of contracting experience. She started her government career as a budget analyst in the Veterans Health Administration (VA/VHA) Division supporting over 25 programs with both budget formulation and budget execution.

After the VA/VHA, she took a budget officer position at the Inspector General's Office in the Department of Commerce where she provided budget formulation and execution support to five main divisions (Investigations, Audits, IT, Human Resources, and the Budget Office).

Dunford has a bachelor's degree from Marymount University of Arlington, VA.

Welcome, Barbara.



Janice Kim, Summer Intern

Janice Kim is an intern this summer with the Alternative Service Program (ASP) in the Operations Directorate (OP) at National Headquarters.


Born and raised in the New York-New Jersey area, she will be a sophomore at George Washington University's the Elliott School of International Affairs majoring in conflict resolution, with a minor in criminal justice.

Kim's first love was music.

She said that since the third grade she "live and breathed to become a cellist." But teaching English one summer for a church in South Korea broadened her interests.

"Now, after a year at the Elliot School, I've already learned so much about international affairs," she said, "and I'm excited to think that I can be a part of changing the world."

So far this summer Kim has learned about Selective Service in general and its role in the national security structure. Her supervisor, Cassandra Costley, credits Kim with completing an ongoing ASP database project and adding to the information on organizations involved in the ASP. Costley has assigned Kim the task of culling OP's holdings in the agency's storage unit and developing content for a proposed ASP web site. To broaden her perspective, Kim will also serve short stints with the Information Technology (IT) and Public and Intergovernmental Affairs (PIA) Directorates.

Kim loves to read, and remains interested in music. She hopes for a career in Washington, DC, ideally at a government agency. 

Romo is Guest Speaker at Memorial Day Event



Director Lawrence Romo was an invited guest speaker at Celebration, FL, 2011 Memorial Day event held on May 28 at Veteran's Park, organized by the Veterans Club of Celebration. Dick Wells was Master of Ceremonies; Justin Nickerson led the National anthem. Lieutenant Colonel William Breazeale gave the invocation and benediction. Florida Selective Service Director, Lieutenant Colonel Douglas Maddox, Jr., also participated with Director Romo. The Celebration Community Chorus, directed by Kristopher Schave, sang a series of military songs, plus a second series titled "Spirit of Freedom." Boy Scout Troop 125 and Cub Scout Troop 125 retired the colors.

Celebration is a unique, neo-traditional community located in Central Florida and patterned after the vision developed by Walt Disney. Photos by Jim Siegel this page and next. [SSS](#)





Board Member Hayes Completes 20-Year Term



TWENTY-YEAR LOCAL BOARD MEMBER HONORED — A certificate and medal award are given to volunteers who reach the 20-year mark on local boards during their retirement ceremony. Left to right: State Selective Service System Director Colonel Everett Bonner, Local Board Member Glenn Hayes, and Army Reserve Major Brett Williams.

Glenn Hayes, of Jefferson Parish, LA, has stepped down as a Selective Service board member upon the completion of his 20-year tenure. Federal law defines the period for serving on a local board.

Anytime during his 20 years of service, had the Congress and the President activated the military draft, Hayes and four others on the Jefferson Parish draft board would have heard claims from men seeking valid exemptions from being drafted into military service. He would have decided, for example, if a man could be granted status as a conscientious objector, and instead serve in an alternative service program.

“It has been an honor to serve in the local system, as it is the heart of the Louisiana Selective Service agency,” Hayes said in a statement released by the Jefferson Parish Chamber of Commerce, for which he is president and chief executive.

Hayes “has displayed a strong sense of dedication in serving the community,” Bonner said.

“Mr. Hayes has been an excellent board member each year by affording us office space for training and recruiting civic-minded citizens of Jefferson Parish to serve in this great capacity,” Williams said.

The job does not come with pay, but it requires initial training followed by annual training.

The United States hasn’t drafted anyone since 1973. During the Vietnam War, 1.8 million people were ordered into the military, according to federal statistics.

“I remember sitting at school listening to the draft lottery numbers being called, seeing my friends join and wanting to get involved,” Hayes said of his recollections of the Vietnam War era.

Since 1973, the nation has relied on an all-volunteer military, but 2,000 local boards are maintained in the event Congress and the President reactivate a draft to meet manpower needs of the U.S. Armed Forces. Rumors persisted nationally in recent years that the draft would be reinstated in light of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Men must register for the draft when they reach age 18, and before age 26. Last year, Louisiana was one of 15 states with a 99-percent compliance rate, according to the Selective Service System. Draft registration is required in Louisiana before a person can get a driver’s license or attend a state school, according to the Selective Service System. [SSS](#)

Resolution

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WHEREAS, any reductions in the size of the Active and Reserve Components of the Armed Forces reinforce the need to preserve the historic link between the volunteer military and society-at-large; and

WHEREAS, the Selective Service System directly supports daily all-volunteer recruiting as a part of its draft registration program by informing America's young men that they can serve America today in the U.S. Armed Forces;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Legion urges the Congress and the Administration to continue the current registration program, provided necessary funding for operating the Selective Service System at its current level of service, continue its partnership with the Department of Defense, and maintain its present reduced state of readiness as an important part of a cost-effective overall national security strategy.

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, That The American Legion will also encourage all citizens to support the Selective Service System through participation on local selection service boards and encouraging all young men to enroll in the Selective Service System on their 18th birthday.

Paul B. Trueax
Chairman
National Security Foreign Relations / Homeland Security
Commission 



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The Register welcomes any news of interest to the Selective Service System employees. Send article submissions to Editor, *The Register*, Selective Service System, National Headquarters, Arlington, VA 22209-2425.