

Paray, Patrick

From: Congresswoman Betty McCollum [betty.mccollum@congressnewsletter.com]
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2004 7:20 PM
To: Paray, Patrick
Subject: Congresswoman Betty McCollum

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Congresswoman Betty McCollum - Minnesota's 4th District

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Dear Friend,

This year, American taxpayers are confronted with the largest budget deficit in U.S. history -- \$422 billion. As the fiscal year ends on September 30th, I believe re-establishing fiscal responsibility must be a priority in Washington. Restoring Pay-As-You-Go fiscal policy will ensure that our children and grandchildren will not pay the bill for today's tax cuts and other government spending. [Click here](#) to read more.

This week, I joined Ranking Member Henry A. Waxman and other members of the Government Reform Committee to introduce the legislation, "Restore Open Government Act of 2004," to reverse Bush administration policies that are limiting public access to government information. [Click here](#) to read more about this legislation.

This Sunday is National POW/MIA Recognition Day, and I encourage everyone to pay tribute to all U.S. service men and women who have been listed as POWs or MIA, and to their families. You can read my statement on National POW/MIA Recognition Day [here](#).

If you have not signed up for my e-newsletter, please [click here to stay updated](#). Please visit my [website](#) for the latest information on the work I do on behalf of Minnesota families. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Congresswoman Betty McCollum
Serving Minnesota's Fourth District

Minnesota Air Force Association Honors McCollum



Major General Doyle E. Larson presents Congresswoman McCollum with a plaque in recognition of her support of our troops serving throughout the world. Representatives from the Minnesota Air Force Association were attending a conference in Washington, D.C.

The Week Ahead

Monday, September 20th

Minnesota Remembers Petty Officer 3rd Class David A. Cedergren

Tuesday, September 21st

Inaugural tour of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

News Alert:

Returning Fiscal Responsibility to Washington

Our nation is faced with an alarming record deficit of \$422 billion as the 2004 Fiscal Year draws to a close. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office confirmed last week that under current fiscal policies, the government will accumulate \$2.3 trillion in new debt over the next 10 years. It is clear that we need to return to fiscal responsibility to our federal government when the new fiscal year begins on October 1st. Unfortunately, President Bush has abandoned common sense Pay-As-You-Go fiscal policy and is proposing spending increases and more tax cuts for the wealthy in excess of \$3 trillion.

You can read more about this in the [Washington Post](#) article.

To return fiscal sanity, I join my Democratic colleagues in supporting a return to the Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) system.

PAYGO definition:
Budget rules requiring that increases in mandatory spending **AND** decreases in revenue be offset elsewhere in the budget so that they do not add to deficits.

Simply put, PAYGO puts into policy the premise that the federal government should not spend more than it brings in. Under President Clinton, PAYGO rules are widely credited with producing record budget surpluses from Fiscal Year 1998 to Fiscal Year 2001. When President Bush took office in January 2001, he inherited a projected 10-year surplus of \$5.6 trillion. The fiscal policies of the Bush administration and the Republican Congress have squandered that surplus, and now our nation faces deficits of over \$3 trillion. It is time to return fiscal responsibility in Washington.

Restoring Open Government

This week, I joined Ranking Member Henry A. Waxman (D-CA) and other members of the Government Reform Committee to introduce the legislation, "Restore Open Government Act of 2004," to reverse Bush administration policies limiting public access to government information. The Bush administration has repeatedly assaulted a cornerstone of our democracy - that government is open and accessible to the people. By rewriting our laws and changing practices, the administration is reducing public and congressional scrutiny of its activities. Policies that award multi-billion dollar, no-bid contracts to companies such as Halliburton or schemes that hide the true cost of new laws, as in the Medicare law, are attacks on the very laws that hold our government accountable to the people.

[Read more about the Restore Open Government Act.](#)

Minnesota Remembers POW/MIAs

On National POW/MIA Recognition Day, we pay tribute to all U.S. service men and women who served our country in past

Wednesday, September 22nd
Meeting with Mark Holsten, Deputy
Commissioner at Minnesota Department
of Natural Resources

Meeting with Minnesota Credit Union
Network

Meeting with African dignitaries on
HIV/AIDS

Thursday, September 23th
Government Reform Committee Hearing
on Intellectual Property Privacy.

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wars, who have been listed as POWs or MIA, and to their families. America's veterans, including those who became prisoners of war or who went missing in action, have protected freedom for America and spread freedom to millions around the world.

These patriotic men and women defended our country in hours of need, risking capture, imprisonment, and their lives to protect our homeland. Minnesota Vietnam Veterans and University of Minnesota and St. Thomas ROTC cadets gather this weekend for a 24 hour vigil at the Minnesota State Capitol to honor the sacrifices and remarkable determination of the Minnesotans captured as prisoners of war.

We also remember those who remain unaccounted for and our thoughts and prayers are with their families. Our nation will not forget these heroes, and we will not stop searching for our service members who are missing in action.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day serves as a reminder of our continued commitment to those still missing and those imprisoned while serving in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Somalia, Kosovo, Iraq and other conflicts. We are grateful for their service and sacrifice and pledge to continue to achieve the fullest possible accounting for all of our men and women in uniform still missing.

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