

Washington, D.C. Office
2408 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3026

Fort Lauderdale Office
1512 East Broward Boulevard
Suite 101
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301
(954) 522-1800

West Palm Beach Office
222 Lakeview Avenue
Suite 225
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401
(561) 832-3007

Internet Web Site
www.house.gov/shaw

South Palm Beach County
Toll-Free Number
(866) 673-7429



Congressman
E. Clay Shaw, Jr.



Representing Florida's 22nd District in Washington, D.C.



Rep. Shaw thanks West Palm Beach Police officers for their commitment to Homeland Security.

Homeland Security Funding Needed for Broward and Palm Beach Counties

Recently, I, along with my South Florida colleagues, Reps. Foley, Hastings, Deutsch, Wexler and Meek brought to the attention of Department of Homeland Security (DHS) an issue of great concern to Broward and Palm Beach Counties. Under the current system in place to assess security needs called the "Urban Area Security Initiative" (UASI), Broward County and Palm Beach County are not being properly represented. This results in serious under funding and lack of decision making authority for our community. When we consider the airports, seaports, and other critical infrastructure of Broward and Palm

Beach Counties that service South Florida and much of the nation, the current criteria in place for determining need is grossly out of step with our local security situation.

I brought these concerns to Secretary Ridge and eagerly await his response. In our letter, my colleagues and I expressed our unanimous desire that, based on what we know to be credible evidence and specific, vulnerable targets, DHS should designate Ft. Lauderdale/Broward County/West Palm Beach/Palm Beach County as its own region under the UASI Program, thereby making it eligible for future independent funding.

While terrorists may constantly change locations, we know critical infrastructure remains fixed. To protect our airports, seaports, and other critical infrastructure we will continue to push for our own UASI designation and will remain vigilant until a favorable solution is reached.

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




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Dear Friends,

Greetings once again from Capitol Hill. Summer is upon us as we slow down to commemorate graduations, Father's Day, 4th of July and then ultimately, back-to-school.

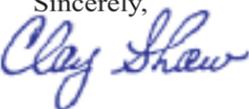
But before all that, Americans everywhere paused on Memorial Day to remember the valor, courage and sacrifice of our countless brave men and women, including the soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan who have given their lives protecting the freedoms that we as Americans cherish and hold dear. Indeed, freedom has a price and the cost is high for all Americans. We thank them for their service.

As we look back over the first half of the year in Congress, much has been accomplished. On the Social Security front, I recently introduced *The Public Servant Retirement Protection Act*, H.R. 4391, to enhance Social Security benefits for certain public employees and others who paid into a government pension plan in lieu of Social Security during their service. We want our teachers, firefighters, law enforcement agents and other public employees to be treated equally under the law.

I am pleased to report that in April and May, the House passed legislation to provide American families with continued tax relief by making permanent provisions included in the 2001 and 2003 tax cut bills signed into law by President Bush. The House is also continuing its work on legislation to providing American small businesses and domestic manufacturing with much needed tax relief to help create jobs today, while generating long-term economic growth for the future.

You may also want to note for your next trip to our nation's capital, that the new National World War II (WWII) Memorial in Washington, D.C. was dedicated on May 29, 2004. The WWII Memorial is the first national memorial dedicated to all who served during the Second World War. The memorial honors all military veterans of the war, the citizens on the home front, the nation at large, and the high moral purpose and idealism that motivated the nation's call to arms. I visited our new memorial situated between the Lincoln and Washington monuments and was deeply moved by the many notes, photographs and personal items families left behind in remembrance.

As always, I wish everyone a safe and happy summer and I hope to see you up in Washington or at home real soon. Remember, I always welcome your thoughts and comments and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


Clay Shaw
Member of Congress

Summer 2004

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Remembering Reagan



With the passing of President Ronald W. Reagan, I have been thinking a lot about the early 1980's. Mostly, I've been thinking about how different the world looks today from that period of time and how far we have come. I remember with great fondness my own beginnings in the House of Representatives in

Freshman Rep. Clay Shaw discusses legislation with President Reagan at Camp David, 1982.

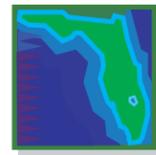
the freshman class of 1981 and the thrill of working with President Reagan, one of the most affable and down to earth men I have ever known to hold that hallowed office.

President Reagan put this very green freshman at ease as I believe he did with most everyone he met. While he held the most powerful office in the world, he never spoke down to anyone, including me when I met with him at Camp David to discuss a contentious piece of legislation. By the time I left, I saw it the President's way.

No doubt, President Reagan had strong opinions and a definite direction he wanted to see America move. He wanted less government, a stronger America and the end of the iron curtain. By the time he left office, he had accomplished these goals. Looking back at his years in office, it almost seems like history was moving on fast forward. So much was changing, history was being made every day.

Sadly, the sun has now set on a great American life. While Alzheimer's may have robbed President Reagan of his memory the last ten years of his life, America is blessed to have a long memory, one which will no doubt mark the presidency of Ronald Reagan as a remarkable turning point in our country's history.

Bumps in the Roadways



The House recently voted to approve H.R. 3550, the Transportation Equity Act, a bill which I, and the Florida Delegation, did not support. If signed into law by the President, the bill will mean a net loss to Florida's roadways in the billions.

This marks the first time in my 24 year career in the House that I have voted against a transportation bill, but I did so to protect Florida's future. We are what is called a "donor state;" a state which pays significantly more into the Highway Trust Fund than it gets back in federal highway spending.

Currently, Florida sees \$.85 cents on every dollar we send to Uncle Sam. H.R. 3550 reduces that amount to \$.82 cents on the dollar. Under H.R. 3550, Florida will send \$12 billion in federal gas taxes to Washington over the next 6 years and see only \$8.5 billion of those funds returned for our roadways. The growing inequity will most certainly become too much to bear.

The good news is you can help! I will continue to fight to keep Florida's highway revenues spent on improving roadways here at home. The transportation bill is in conference between the House and Senate and we still have time to affect the outcome. Feel free to make your opinion known to your U.S. Senators.



Rep. Shaw provides a congressional update to cancer survivors at Jupiter Medical Center.

Supporting Our Troops



Whether or not you know someone currently serving in Iraq or Afghanistan, there are many ways you can reach out to our troops and let them know how thankful you are for their service. I have included some information on how you can demonstrate your support.

Your Members of Congress also have a vital role to play for our men and women in uniform. Beyond our most visible role of funding and monitoring the progress of the ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, we are always challenged to think of alternative methods to lighten the burden of both our active duty service members and our veterans.

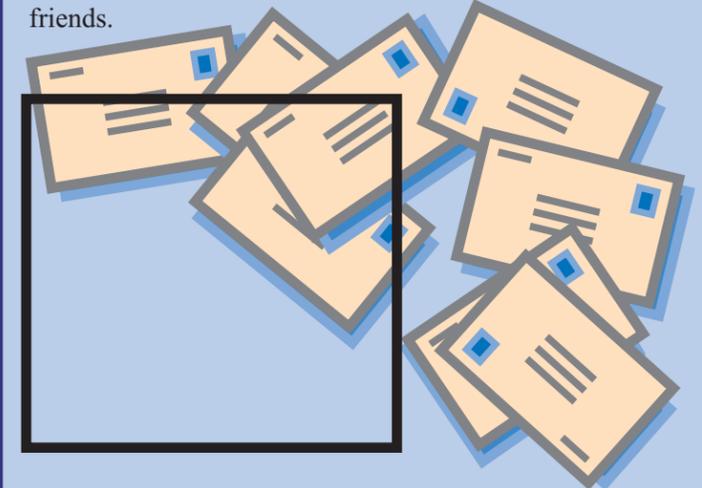
To that end, I have introduced legislation I hope will help ease the difficult financial times of many of our service members' families. In March, I introduced H.R. 3962, *The Support for Military Reserve Families Act of 2004*, a bill which would give financial assistance to Reservists and National Guard troops, with dependent families, who are called to involuntary active duty in support of a contingency operation. Payments would be given in the form of interest-free loans, up to \$500 per month, available while the Reservist/National Guard is on active duty. These loans would be available for service members who incur a financial hardship, as a result of their military salary being less than their income in civilian life. For many of our military families, this extra bit of help will help pay the groceries, rent and a little extra while their loved ones are overseas.

For our veterans, we continue to push for generous funding of all veterans' programs. In May, the House passed the FY 2005 budget with a historic \$9.4 billion increase in total veterans spending - a 11.5% increase over FY 2004. We have provided a substantial \$7.6 billion increase for veterans' entitlements, allowing veterans' programs to grow and support increased payments for disability compensation, pensions, and educational programs. We also provide \$31 billion for veterans medical care. This is a \$1.2 billion increase over and above the Administration's request to help the VA make additional progress toward eliminating unacceptably long waits and to alleviate backlog. I hope you will join me in doing your part at home to support our military.

YOU Can Make a Difference...



Every American can make a difference for our troops. Here's how: Gifts for deployed personnel are discouraged since they overload the transportation and distribution systems and offer a threat of bio-terrorism to deployed personnel. The Department of Defense urges the public **not** to send unsolicited mail, care packages, or donations to service members unless they are family members or personal friends.



In lieu of sending mail, the public may log on to the following web sites to show support:

www.defendamerica.mil/support_troops

Here you can get information on everything from sending an on-line thank you card for troops, to caring for a military pet that was left behind, to building homes for disabled troops.

<http://anyservicemember.navy.mil>

A simple note often makes a world of difference. This site will allow you to email a message to deployed troops of any Service from your home state.