



JOHN LINDER

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE FOR GEORGIA

Inside this issue:

Winter Legislative Update

1

Veteran History Project

2A

CDC Flu Recommendation

2B

Veterans Affairs Survey

2C

FEMA Flood Update

3A

Internship Opportunities

3B

Constituent Services Online

4A

Seventh District Online Office Open 24/7

Contact Information

4B

Key Addresses, Phone Numbers, Web Links

Constituent Service

4C

Outreach Schedule January -March 2010

Dear Friend,

I hope that this holiday season provided you an occasion to step away from these tumultuous times and find some peace with family and friends. As the new year begins, we are presented with the opportunity to reflect.

Since the Democrats took control of Congress in 2006, the Federal deficit has increased from \$162 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2007 to \$459 billion FY 2008, and then again to \$1.42 trillion in FY 2009. This is an increase of \$1.3 trillion or 774.7% in just two years. In nominal terms, last year's deficit was the highest in U.S. history. It beat the previous record—the \$459 billion FY 2008 deficit—by \$958 billion or 208.7%.

Federal spending is soaring. In FY 2009, the Federal government spent a record amount of \$3.5 trillion. This was an increase of \$532 billion or 17.8% compared to the previous year, and for FY 2010, we begin worse than we did FY 2009. In the first two months of FY 2010, the federal government has run up a deficit of \$292 billion, \$11 billion higher than the same period for FY 2009. Currently, the national debt exceeds \$12.1 trillion (\$39,500 per U.S. citizen). The time to start anew is now. We literally cannot afford to wait any longer.

This government seizes more of our personal freedoms every day. It is imperative that we remain vigilant and engaged in the public debate. Please know that my office is your tool to do just that.

Please visit my online office, <http://linder.house.gov>, when you are in need of direction. You can sign up for my newsletter updates, link to my YouTube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/linderje>) and view my floor statements and media appearances, view important upcoming dates, and a myriad of other opportunities that I know you will find useful.

I look to 2010 with optimism, and I hope you share this sentiment. I have watched a motivated nation begin to turn back the efforts of this Congress's intrusion into their freedoms. We will build on that success in the coming months and will ultimately prevail.

I hope this edition of the winter newsletter finds you in good health and happiness.

Sincerely,

VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

In 2000, the Veterans History Project was created by the United States Congress. The Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress honors our military veterans and preserves their stories for future generations of Americans. The stories are collected through interviews, memoirs, letters, diaries, photographs and other materials from veterans of World War I and World War II, the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf Wars, and the Global War on Terror.

I encourage you to visit <http://www.loc.gov/vets/> to read the important stories about the men and women who so bravely and honorably defend our freedoms. Also, if you have a veteran in your family or know a veteran, please encourage them to tell their story so people of all ages can learn about the people and events that made our country what it is today.

The stories told by our nation's veterans illustrate the meaning of duty, honor, sacrifice and selflessness exhibited by all of the brave men and women who are serving and have served our great nation.

NATIONAL SURVEY BY VETERANS AFFAIRS

The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched a national survey to more than 130,000 households of veterans, active duty service members, activated National Guard and reserve members, and family members and survivors to learn if they are aware of VA services. The screener will ask if anyone in the household is a member of one of the identified groups and the eligible survey participants then may be requested to participate in a full-length survey.

Participants will be able to select a preferred survey method: through U.S. mail, telephone or a password-protected Internet address. VA expects approximately 10,000 Veterans to complete the full-length survey.

This is the sixth survey since 1978. The information collected will help VA in its efforts to design and conduct outreach to Veterans. The survey will provide a clearer picture of the Veteran population's characteristics to help evaluate existing programs and policies and measure their impact.

FLU SEASON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CDC

With cold and flu season upon us, it is important for everyone to take precautionary measures, whether at home, school, or at work. While there is no way to guarantee one's health, there is much to be gained by following some basic principles detailed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) at the following web address: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/preventing.htm>. With the added concern of the H1N1 strain this year, it is as important as ever for everyone to take the time to properly educate themselves.

According to the CDC, approximately 5% to 20% of the United States population will contract the seasonal flu virus each year. This not only affects the individuals with the virus, but can also negatively impact businesses across the country. Small businesses are the cornerstone of our economy, and often the most susceptible to the negative impacts of absenteeism caused by seasonal illnesses such as the flu. The Small Business Administration encourages all small business owners to draft a written plan of action in the event of extensive absenteeism. I would encourage anyone running a business to consider such an option. If you would like to view more information on the matter, please visit www.sba.gov, as there is an abundance of information on a variety of related topics.



FEMA FLOOD ASSISTANCE

As we embark on a new year, many families are still trying to recover from the September floods that plagued much of Georgia.

For those individuals who received disaster recovery grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), it is imperative that you keep copies of your receipts for at least three years. FEMA grants are supported by taxpayer dollars, so evidence must show that the funds received were used for the intended purpose.

According to FEMA, more than \$53.2 million in grants was dispersed to families in need following the Georgia floods and below is an explanation provided by the agency that describes acceptable uses for the disaster recovery grants.

Housing funds may be used for:

Repairs to return the home to a safe and functional condition: These may include repairs to windows, doors, water and ventilation systems, or other structural parts of a home;

Reimbursement for lodging expenses directly related to the disaster: Receipts for these expenses will be requested if the home sustained damages; and,

Rental assistance: Applicants who must remain in temporary housing for a longer period than the initial assistance covers may request more assistance until their home can be re-occupied or other permanent housing arrangements can be made.

Other needs assistance funds may be used for:

Personal property, specialized tools for employment, household items, appliances, and vehicle repair or replacement; medical, dental and funeral expenses; and, moving expenses.

Please feel free to call FEMA at 800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY 800-462-7585 if you have any questions concerning what is classified as an approved disaster related expense or to update your contact information.



INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

There are many wonderful opportunities for young people to become involved in and learn about their government. One such option I am eager to offer is an internship in the Seventh Congressional District office. Over the past years, I have been impressed with the commitment, dedication and excitement these fresh faces bring to the Seventh District offices.

These internships are available in Washington D.C. and full and part-time positions are available locally in the Gwinnett District Office. Internships are open to any college student. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the political process and how Congress really works, I encourage you to contact my Washington Office at (202) 225-4272 or my District Office at (770) 232-3005.

SEVENTH DISTRICT ONLINE OFFICE

My online office, <http://linder.house.gov>, is regularly updated in an effort to provide a central location that benefits citizens of the Seventh Congressional District looking for resources, information and services. The purpose of the site is to host a true online office that provides resources and services to constituents, students and those interested in legislative activities in Congress. This site allows me to continuously update information for you – empowering my constituents, improving our democracy and providing more efficient services.

The site is designed to enhance online communication with you by providing easy access to updated legislative and constituent services information. The site has prioritized regularly requested items so that they are more easily accessible for you, and I will continue to provide updated resources and access to services around-the-clock. Please feel free to stop by the site at any time and review the resources and services it has to offer.

CONTACT INFORMATION

I always welcome comments from the citizens of the Seventh Congressional District. Please make note of my mailing address and phone numbers, or send an email through my online office.

MAILING ADDRESS

1026 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-1007

ONLINE OFFICE

<http://linder.house.gov/contactjohn>

GEORGIA OFFICE

(770) 232-3005
(770) 232-2909 (fax)

WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE

(202) 225-4272
(202) 225-4696 (fax)

OUTREACH PROGRAM

If you would like to meet with a member of my staff regarding difficulties you are experiencing with the Federal government, please contact my District Office at (770) 232-3005. My staff is also available to assist you at constituent outreach locations throughout the Seventh Congressional District at the locations and times below:

Barrow County

Piedmont Regional Library
189 Bell View Street
Winder, GA 30680

January 13 (11:30am-1pm)
February 10 (11:30am-1pm)
March 10 (11:30am-1pm)

Gwinnett County

Grayson Library
700 Grayson Parkway
Grayson, GA 30017

January 6 (4:30pm-6pm)
February 3 (4:30pm-6pm)
March 3 (4:30pm-6pm)

Gwinnett/Forsyth

Suwanee Library
361 Main Street
Suwanee, GA 30024

January 14 (5:30pm-7pm)
February 11 (5:30pm-7pm)
March 11 (5:30pm-7pm)

Newton County

Newton County Library
7116 Floyd Street, N.E.
Covington, GA 30014

January 20 (12:30pm-2pm)
February 17 (12:30pm-2pm)
March 17 (12:30pm-2pm)

Walton County

Monroe-Walton Library
217 West Spring Street
Monroe, GA 30655

January 20 (10am-11:30am)
February 17 (10am-11:30am)
March 17 (10am-11:30am)