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Dear Friend.

I successfully passed four amendments on Wednesday that will bring accountability to the Department of Veterans Affairs and improve veterans' health care. Ensuring timely care for our veterans is one of my top priorities, so I was appalled to hear recent reports about neglect, and even malfeasance, at the VA in terms of treating sick veterans. As I told you in a previous newsletter, the House Veterans Affairs Committee is conducting an investigation into the matter and so far has found that as many as 40 veterans may have died waiting for treatment at the Phoenix VA. These amendments will prevent such atrocities from occurring again, will increase transparency and, most importantly, will ensure our nation's heroes receive critical health care.

Specifically, these amendments prohibit the VA from keeping unofficial records in order to conceal lengthy wait times; cut bureaucratic waste at the VA and redirect those resources toward reducing wait times; prohibit bonuses for senior VA officials; and ensure adequate funding for the investigation of the Phoenix VA. Click <u>HERE</u> or below to watch my remarks on the house floor about the importance of one of these amendments.



Our veterans fought to protect us and our freedoms. The least we can do for them now is make sure they receive the health care they earned. Click <u>HERE</u> to read more.

A Select Committee for Benghazi

Yesterday, House leadership announced that they will hold a vote on establishing a select committee on the September 11, 2012 terrorist attacks in Benghazi. Congress has been investigating these terrorist attacks for almost two years but the Obama administration's stonewalling and refusal to release pertinent information has left us no option but to create a select committee. It's ridiculous that we have to create a select committee in the first place but the administration is more interested in covering their own a**es and protecting the President than telling the American people the truth.

Several unanswered questions remain, such as "What was the President doing while the consulate was under attack? Why did he not take action or issue any specific orders? Why did Hillary Clinton refuse to ask the military for assistance? Why was Susan Rice sent out to lie about the causes of the attack instead of Secretary Clinton? Why did the President repeat this lie long after it was exposed? What is Jay Carney's role in fabricating the Internet-video lie?" and "What other documents have been withheld from Congress?"

On Thursday, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, of which I am a member, held a hearing on Benghazi. Click <u>HERE</u> to watch me questioning witnesses at the hearing.

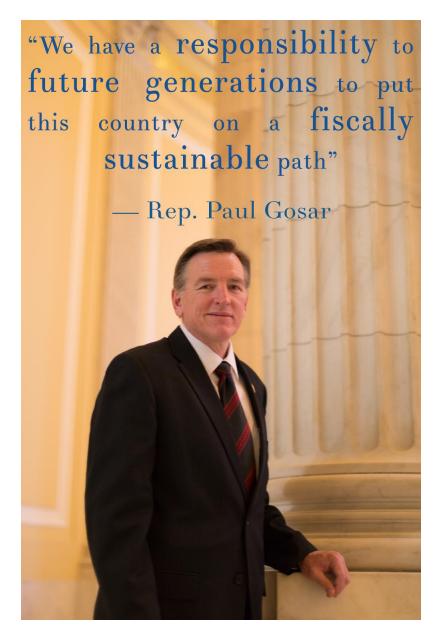


I'm proud that over a year ago I co-sponsored H.Res.36 calling for a select committee on Benghazi. The House Oversight Committee and I, in our role as the chief watchdog body in Congress, have continued to push for justice on this matter through multiple oversight hearings. I'm pleased that House leadership has finally recognized the importance of this issue and have announced they will schedule a vote to establish a select committee on Benghazi.

I am committed to uncovering the whole truth about what happened in Benghazi and to holding the Obama administration accountable for the lack of a response and the subsequent cover up. Americans and the families of the four brave men who died in Benghazi deserve the whole truth, not the lies spewed by the administration.

Cutting Waste

As you know, one of my top priorities is eliminating waste fraud and abuse in the federal government. On Thursday, the House passed two of my policies that cut needless spending and prevent hard-earned taxpayer money from being wasted on a costly vegetative roof and on completely unnecessary life-size printings of photographs. At a time of soaring deficits and with a federal debt in excess of \$17 trillion, such expenditures are especially wasteful. We have a responsibility to future generations to put this country on a fiscally sustainable path, which is why I'll continue to cut wasteful spending wherever I can find it in the bloated federal government. Click HERE to read more.



Bringing Transparency to the Endangered Species Act

I co-sponsored four commonsense bills this week that increase transparency, save taxpayer money, ensure local involvement in species conservation and the designation process, limit the hourly rate attorneys can charge the taxpayers for Endangered Species Act lawsuits and require the federal government to make available to Congress and the public any data it uses to determine which species to list as endangered. These bills address serious deficiencies in the Endangered Species Act.

For far too long, the federal government has been making listing decisions based on secret science and pseudo-science, including studies that do not allow for peer-review of the underlying data. Even more troubling is the fact that attorneys have been making millions of dollars based on frivolous lawsuits associated with

the Endangered Species Act and that the federal government doesn't even know how much money has been paid out. The government shouldn't have anything to hide if these listings are indeed based on the best available science and there should be local involvement in this process. Most importantly, attorneys shouldn't be getting rich at the expense of hardworking taxpayers. Click <u>HERE</u> to read more.

Importance of a Skilled Workforce

I questioned Mike Rowe, former host of the Discovery Channel's Dirty Jobs, at a Natural Resources Committee hearing on Tuesday about the importance of a skilled workforce. Skilled trades jobs are essential for ensuring America's energy future. Unfortunately, many of these high-paying jobs are left unfilled because we don't have the skilled workforce to fill them. I was pleased to have the opportunity to discuss this problem with former Dirty Jobs host Mike Rowe. He provided some valuable insights for addressing this problem moving forward. Click <u>HERE</u> to watch my exchange with Mike Rowe.



(Rep. Gosar and Mike Rowe, former host of the Discovery Channel's Dirty Jobs, April 29, 2014)

You be the Judge

You have the opportunity to pick the winner of the 2014 District 4 Congressional Art Competition People's Choice Award. To vote, click <u>HERE</u> and follow the instructions. There are some really amazing pieces of art that talented students from across District 4 submitted for the competition, so it's worth your time to take a look.

Government Waste of the Week

\$11.2 billion: the amount of your money lost by the U.S. government on the bailout of General Motors. Click <u>HERE</u> to read more.

Congressional District 4: Did You Know?

Sharlot Hall, as the territorial historian, was Arizona's first female public official. She was also a poet who published a widely circulated poem, called *Arizona*, that satirized a proposal to admit Arizona and New Mexico as one state into the Union. The Prescott Historical Society changed their name to the Sharlot Hall Historical Society in 1945. She is buried in Prescott's Pioneer Cemetery.



(Sharlot Hall circa 1911; image courtesy Wikimedia Commons)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Monday, May 5, 2014

San Tan Valley Office Hours

TIME: 1:00PM-4:00PM

LOCATION: Rep. Gosar's San Tan Valley Office

270 E Hunt Highway, Suite 12 San Tan Valley, AZ 85143

Click **HERE** to view the event flyer.

Saturday, May 10, 2014

2014 Congressional Art Competition Award Ceremony

TIME: 2:00PM-3:00PM

LOCATION: Desert Caballeros Western Museum

21 N. Frontier St. Wickenburg, AZ 85390

Click **HERE** for more information.

Monday, May 12, 2014
Prescott Office Hours
TIME: 9:00AM-12:00PM

LOCATION: Rep. Gosar's Prescott Office

122 N Cortez St, Suite 104

Prescott, AZ 86301

Click **HERE** to view the event flyer.

As always, you can follow everything I am working on in Arizona and Washington, D.C. through my website (http://gosar.house.gov) on Twitter @repgosar, or through Facebook at Representative Paul Gosar.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S. Member of Congress

To unsubscribe from these newsletters, please click <u>here</u>.

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