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Dear Friend,

Yesterday, President Obama ostensibly forced Secretary Shinseki to resign over the scandals and systemic failures at the Veterans Administration. I appreciate the President and Secretary Shinseki heeding my call, and those of my colleagues, to resign.

But I say accountability ends at the President's feet. As the sign on President Harry Truman's desk in the Oval Office stated, "The buck stops here." The resignation of Secretary Shinseki sends the right message that there has to be accountability, but more is needed. The problems must be addressed and the President needs to step up and set a better example of leadership. I have led several legislative efforts to provide accountability and make much-needed reforms to the VA. To read more about them, click [HERE](#).



(Photo courtesy of the freebeacon.com)

Regarding General Shinseki, I would hope that he be denied any benefits or pensions stemming from his tenure as Secretary, and only be afforded those from his military service. The same goes for those employees found to be complicit in these scandals. Further, after the VA Inspector General and the House Veterans Affairs Committee reports are complete, I believe we will likely need to initiate civil and criminal proceedings against those in the VA who are deemed responsible for this negligence and malfeasance. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

Gosar Amendments Pass House of Representatives:

This week, Congress continued its most important function which is to establish a budget and properly appropriate taxpayer money. The appropriations process is a primary component of Congress returning to regular order. It is through this process that Congress must evaluate each government program for its efficacy. It is our duty as representatives to cut those programs which are wasteful and inefficient, bolster those that are necessary and serve the public, and given the \$18 trillion federal debt, to cut spending overall. Since Republicans took back the House in 2011, we have restored regular order in our chamber, reduced spending, and evaluated programs properly. Unfortunately, the Democrat-led Senate continues to balk and only wishes to maintain the status quo and increase spending.

On Thursday, the House considered the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015. The bill appropriates resources for law enforcement activities, trade and patent offices, and scientific programs like NASA. I introduced and passed three amendments to this bill to execute the mission of prioritization of resources.

My first amendment cut \$4.25 million from the Office of Justice Programs Research, Evaluation, and Statistics budget, which was the total increase that program was set to receive over last year's funding levels. Those monies were re-directed to the Byrne-Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne-JAG) program to bolster law enforcement nationwide. Law enforcement officers in Arizona always tell me how important the JAG program is, so I wanted to make sure a good program that protects citizens receives the resources necessary to lower crime—as opposed to a questionable program getting an unneeded increase. Click [HERE](#) to see the text of the amendment, and click [HERE](#) to read my remarks before the House.

My second amendment cut \$6 million from the mismanaged Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATFE)—the agency that perpetrated Operation Fast and Furious—and reprogrammed that money to go to the Veterans Treatment Courts program. This program has proven results in helping Veterans get back on track after minor legal troubles. Click [HERE](#) to see the text of the amendment, and click [HERE](#) to read my remarks before the House.

My third amendment cut \$8 million from Department of Justice bureaucrats and transferred that money to bolster the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. Prescription drug abuse is increasing and leading to higher rates of heroin use and other drugs. This is one area that needs more attention for the sake of our families and communities. Click [HERE](#) to see the text of the amendment, and click [HERE](#) to read my remarks before the House.

Continued Opposition to Wasteful Earmarks and Pork Barrel Spending:

On Thursday, I joined Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK) and 33 other bipartisan members of the House and Senate in asking Congressional Leadership to continue the moratorium on earmarks in spending bills. Washington has racked up trillions of dollars in debt, much of which stems from wasteful programs, special interests, and pork barrel projects. Ending these practices and this wasteful spending are the primary reasons I came to Washington. Thankfully, House Leadership has indicated that it intends to keep the moratorium in place for the foreseeable future. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to follow their lead. To view the text of the letter, click [HERE](#).



Waste Fact of the Week:

A new report issued by the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) revealed Medicare made \$6.7 billion in improper payments in 2010. Read the summary or the entire report by clicking [HERE](#).

Congressional District 4: Did You Know?

Watson Lake at Granite Dells, North of Prescott, is 100 years old this year. Construction on the Granite Creek Dam began in 1914 and was delivering water via 40 miles of earthen canals by 1916. The construction of the dam and canals was carried out by the Arizona Land and Irrigation Co., whose principal investor, Senator James Watson of Indiana, is also the lakes namesake.

Although the lake is 100 years old, the Dells themselves are much, much older. The Dells' granite has been dated at 1.4 billion years old. The beautiful and unusual rock formations that characterize the Granite Dells was formed by chemical weathering at different rates along the joints of stone formations.



(Photo courtesy of rav4adventures.blogspot.com)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Monday, June 2, 2014

Joint Field Hearing on EPA Overreach

TIME: 10:00AM-1:00PM

LOCATION: Arizona State Capitol

Senate Hearing Room 1

1700 W Washington St

Phoenix, AZ 85007

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Tuesday, June 3, 2014

Kingman Staff Office Hours

TIME: 1:00PM-4:00PM

LOCATION: Kingman District Office

220 N 4th St

Kingman, AZ 86401

Please note that I will not be in attendance.

Click [HERE](#) to view the event flyer.

Wednesday, June 4, 2014

Forest Health Town Hall

TIME: 3:00PM-4:30PM

LOCATION: Messinger Funeral Home

901 S. Westerly Rd.

Payson, AZ 85541

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

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