



The REGISTER

Selective Service System

THE REGISTER


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House and Senate Vote to Fund Selective Service in FY 2002

On Aug. 2, 2001, the Senate passed H.R. 2620, the FY 2002 VA, HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Bill. The bill contains \$25.003 million for the Selective Service System (SSS), which is the full amount requested in the President's Budget. The House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the bill containing the same amount for SSS on July 31, 2001. This is surprising considering that last year the House voted to fund the Agency at \$1.48 million less than requested, and two years ago the House VA, HUD and Independent Agencies Subcommittee voted to slash the Agency's budget to \$7 million and terminate SSS operations...a decision that was later reversed in conference with the Senate.

This year there were concerns that amendments would be introduced during the floor debate to slash or eliminate the SSS appropriation, but the hostile amendments never materialized.

The legislative action on the Agency's FY 2002 Budget is now effectively at an end, because both the Senate and House versions of the bill agree on the amount of SSS funding. In September, a House/Senate Conference Committee will resolve differences between versions of the bills; however, the SSS portion will not be subject to change in Conference.

Assuming Conference work on H.R. 2620 is completed in September, and the resulting Committee Report signed into law by President Bush, the Agency will receive \$25.003 million to spend for Fiscal Year 2002, which starts on Oct. 1, 2001. 



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Registration Reminder Message Reaches Millions

Families in many American homes had something in common this summer: one or more young people who would be high school sophomores, juniors, or seniors this fall. Because most high school students in the U.S. make plans to attend college, and because costs of attending college are steadily increasing, preparing financially for a college education can be a challenge. Wouldn't it be a good idea to provide college financial aid information to these families? And wouldn't including an attention-getting message in that package be a convenient way of reminding young men that they must be registered with Selective Service?

That is exactly what was done in August, and at no cost to the Selective Service System, thanks to the U.S. Department of Education (DoE). Taking an innovative approach to getting out their message using direct mail, DoE worked with a Massachusetts-based marketing company to develop a "Federal Student Financial Aid Planner." Then, in a unique, money-saving arrangement between government and industry, the cost of designing, printing, and distributing this booklet, which provided tips and suggestions for parents and students, was not borne by the American taxpayer. Instead, the mailing was underwritten by several commercial sponsors.

More than seven million American homes received the mailing, which also contained "coupons" from advertisers promoting products of potential interest to high school and college-bound students (school supplies, on-line reference libraries, test preparation classes, etc.). The Selective Service System got

involved in the project early by providing a colorful public service "ad" for insertion into the package. The ad was printed on the inside of the wrapper containing the sponsors' coupons. It explained the connection between SSS registration and Federally-backed student loans and grants. Additionally, DoE's "Planner" booklet featured a checklist of things a man must do to qualify for Federal student financial aid. A reminder to register with the SSS was included prominently on that list.

"The postage alone for this mass mailing cost a few million dollars," noted Lew Brodsky, the SSS Director of Public and Congressional Affairs, "yet, thanks to the cooperation of DoE and the commercial sponsorship of the mailing, we were able to place the Selective Service registration reminder message directly into more than seven million homes without spending a dime." 

Men! ...

to be eligible for student financial aid, you must be registered with Selective Service.

IT'S THE LAW!



If you are 18 through 24 years old, register on-line now at www.sss.gov. If you are at least 17 years old, you can submit your registration early.



Some Ways a Young Man Can Register With Selective Service

- On the internet at www.sss.gov
- By Answering "yes" to Questions 27 and 28 on the FAFSA form
- By returning a mail-back registration card he may receive in the mail
- By touch-tone telephone, if he receives a registration reminder card with instructions and a PIN number in the mail
- By obtaining, completing, and mailing an SSS registration form at any post office

Registration is quick. It's easy. And, it's the law!

SSS "ad" featured in a Department of Education mailing to more than seven million U.S. homes.

South Carolina Congressman Floyd Spence Dies

Floyd Spence, 16-term Republican congressman and long-time proponent of the Selective Service System (SSS), died on Aug. 16, 2001, a week after surgery to remove a blood clot from the surface of his brain. Spence died surrounded by his family at St. Dominic-Jackson Memorial Hospital in Jackson, Miss. He was 73.

Spence, former chairman of the House Armed Services Committee (1991-2001), was a staunch advocate of increased military spending and a strong supporter of the SSS. "I make no bones about the fact my No. 1 priority is defending this country," he said in a 1998 interview.

In August 1999, he authored a "Dear Colleague" letter informing Members of Congress of the importance of the SSS and urging continued funding for the Agency. For his unwavering support of the Agency and his distinguished contributions to military preparedness, Spence was recently presented with the Selective Service System Exceptional Service Award, with Silver medal.

A native of Columbia, S.C., Spence was a Korean War veteran and a Navy Reservist from 1947 to 1988. He began his political career in 1956 when he was elected to the South Carolina State House of Representatives as a Democrat. He became a



Spence receives SSS Silver Medal. Left to right: Maj. Gen. Earle E. Morris, Jr. (ret.), South Carolina State Director; Congressman Floyd Spence, R-S.C.; Col. Keith Scragg, Region II Director.

Republican in 1962 and lost his seat to a Democrat in a closely contested race. He was elected to the State Senate four years later and served in this capacity until 1970 when he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. He served South Carolina's 2nd Congressional District until his death, making him one of the longest-serving Republicans in the House of Representatives.

Spence is survived by his wife, Deborah Ellen Williams Spence, of Washington, D.C., and Lexington, S.C., whom he married in 1988; and four sons, David, Zack, Benjamin, and Caldwell, from his marriage to his first wife, Lula Spence, who died in 1978.

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The Register welcomes any news of interest to the Selective Service System employees. Deadline is the 20th of the month, one month prior to publication.

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Viewpoints herein do not represent official policy.



Happenings at National Headquarters

On Aug. 7, 2001, Mr. Isaac Ieng Kit Lai from Macau, China, visited the Selective Service System National Headquarters in Arlington, Va. Like Hong Kong, Macau, a one-time Portuguese colony, is today a Special Administrative Region of China. Under the sponsorship of the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Program, Lai, the Director of the Identification Department for the Government of Macau, was briefed by the Selective Service on its programs and operations.

Lai was very interested in the Agency's registration and compliance programs, specifically its identification and tracking abilities. Administration of Lai's program is considerably easier than the Selective Service's because Macau has a population of less than 500,000 and national law requires all residents age five and older, to have an identification (ID) card. Citizens and residents of Macau must show the ID card to receive many benefits and to conduct social transactions. It must be renewed after five or, in some cases, ten years. Lai was very pleased with his visit. Lew Brodsky, Director of Public and Congressional Affairs, Dick Flahavan, Chief of Governmental Affairs, and Col. Rick Moore, Manager



Deputy Director of Selective Service, Willie L. Blanding, Jr. (left), and Issac Ieng Kit Lai.

of the Registration Division, explained Agency procedures. Macau joins a long list of foreign governments interested in the Selective Service System and its programs. Previously, the Agency played host to government officials from Russia, Taiwan, Italy, Croatia, Guatemala, Slovenia, and Lithuania, to name a few. **SSS**



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