

THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker



Funding Bill Will Advance Trump Agenda

Redirecting Obama-Era Spending Priorities

Congress has passed legislation to fund the government through September. This is a major achievement for President Trump, and I support his efforts. Without this bill, we would be continuing the spending priorities of the Obama era. The comprehensive Fiscal Year 2017 appropriations bill also demonstrates how Republicans are committed to making the tough choices that need to be made to control federal spending. This bill adheres to the 2015 "Budget Control Act" and, at \$1.1 trillion, continues a downward trend in discretionary spending. For example, the federal government is spending less than it did in 2010, when discretionary funding amounted to \$1.3 trillion. This trend should continue.

The bill, negotiated by the Trump White House, also seizes an opportunity to strengthen our defense and our border security – two key components of President Trump's agenda. That would not have happened by kicking the can down the road and passing another extension of funding set during the Obama Administration. Rather, the appropriations bill sets into motion:

More defense spending. Congress met President Trump's request for more defense funding to keep our troops prepared and to defeat the Islamic State. Republicans achieved these increases without sending any additional dollars to the Environmental Protection Agency or the Internal Revenue Service – refusing Democrats' demand that military spending increases be matched with non-military spending increases.

More dollars for border security. Republicans have accomplished the largest spending increase for border security in nearly a decade. That includes funding for border infrastructure and surveillance technology. Immigration and Customs Enforcement will also have more resources to target and prosecute those who come to America illegally.

Support for educational success. By restoring year-round Pell Grants, Congress is equipping students with more resources to get their degrees quicker and enter the workforce. Lawmakers are also reaffirming the importance of school choice, increasing funding for charter schools and advancing the "Every Student Succeeds Act," one of the largest transfers of power back to states, school districts, parents, and teachers in years.

Support for medical breakthroughs. The appropriations bill includes additional funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as well as funding for the implementation of the "21st Century CURES Act." Under the "CURES Act," NIH can conduct prize competitions for curing some of the most devastating and complicated diseases – an approach I have championed in the fight against Alzheimer's.

Cuts to government programs. Congress has taken a step forward in eliminating bureau-

cratic excess – a major priority for President Trump. The appropriations bill cuts or consolidates more than 150 redundant programs or initiatives.

Protections for the unborn. The bill directs no appropriations to Planned Parenthood. It also ensures that the Hyde Amendment remains in place, banning any taxpayer dollars

from funding abortions.

Defunding parts of Obamacare. The bill defunds some of the law's most onerous provisions, including the bureaucratic Independent Payment Advisory Board, which would control health-care decisions for our seniors. It also prohibits funds from going to insurer bailouts and includes no new funding for Obamacare.

All of these reasons reaffirm why Congress was right to pass this appropriations bill. It marks a new chapter, in which the spending priorities of the Obama era are left behind and the Trump Administration's agenda can move forward. This change was what Americans voted for in November.



Holmes County Chamber of Commerce President Charlie Joiner (pictured at right) presented the 2016 Holmes Community College Bulldog Football Team with the Excellence in Athletics Award for being the NJCAA Graphic Edge Bowl Champions during the 28th Annual Holmes County Chamber of Commerce Membership/Awards Banquet that was held at the Carroll Cafeteria on the campus of Holmes Community College in Goodman on Thursday, April 13. Pictured above is (from left) Holmes County Chamber of Commerce Past President Robin McCrory, Holmes Community College President Jim Haffey, HCC football player and Pickens native Martavius Adams, HCC Head Football Coach Jeff Koonz and Joiner.

(Photo by Matthew Breazeale)



Davian Powell (pictured center) was awarded the Community Service Award by Holmes County Chamber of Commerce President Charlie Joiner (pictured at right) during the 28th Annual Holmes County Chamber of Commerce Membership/Awards Banquet that was held at the Carroll Cafeteria on the campus of Holmes Community College in Goodman on Thursday, April 13. Powell accepted the honor for being named as one of Mississippi's top two honorees in the 2017 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program. Powell is flanked by Holmes County Chamber of Commerce Past President Robin McCrory.

(Photo by Matthew Breazeale)

**In Loving Memory of
Georgia Greer Clark
Happy Birthday and
Mother's Day**

Many a day your name is spoken,
Our heartfelt family bond shall never be broken.
Thou we no longer can physically see or touch,
Know that we celebrate you and will always love you much.
Your children and family.



A collaborative effort for garbage and trash clean-up near and around the Goodman exit on US Highway 55 was conducted on Friday, April 28. Groups involved were Holmes Community College, Holmes County Chamber of Commerce, Keep Mississippi Beautiful, MDOT, Holmes County Sheriff's Department, Holmes County Supervisor James Young and WM, PTK, MO-SAIC, HCC Gaming Club, and the Holmes Community College Ambassadors.

(Photo by James Thompson)

Staying focused, dedicated and disciplined

By Gary Andrews

gary@gadevotionals.com

If you look around you, you are going to see many, many people thriving off of what others are doing for them.

There are so many people who act like leaches and suck the life blood out of a situation without the blood, sweat, and tears needed to earn their own way.

This is not to say these people are dumb, because they are not. They may not be self-motivated and wait for someone else to put forth the extra effort to make an idea work.

There is an old saying, "No horse gets anywhere until he is harnessed. No life ever grows great until it is focused, dedicated, disciplined."

Stop and think about what this is saying. This is probably one of the best statements I have ever seen, and unless we are willing to put forth the "extra" in "extraordinary," we will never be a leader or a person others want to work with.

1 Corinthians 9:24-25 says, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown

that will last forever."

In everything that we attempt or do we should go into it with our hearts and minds set to do our very best. Even if we do not understand the full scope or magnitude of what we are doing, we should study and train to become the very best at anything we attempt.

Whether we are working or playing, the game is all the same. Don't play off of someone else's hard work when you are not willing to put forth the effort to be on top. Keep a positive attitude and allow God to lead you. Then and only then will you finish with a crown and become the person that God

wants you to be.

Prayer: Father I give you all the praise and glory for this life on earth. Lead me in the direction that I can serve you and only you. Give me wisdom and strength to do what is right. Amen.

Suggested daily Bible readings: Sunday - 1 Corinthians 9:19-27; Monday - Exodus 32:22-35; Tuesday - Colossians 1:9-12; Wednesday - 1 Chronicles 21:13; Thursday - Psalm 89:30-33; Friday - Proverbs 5:11-14; Saturday - 1 Timothy 4:11-14.

Gary Andrews is the author of Encouraging Words: 30-days in God's Word. To obtain a copy go to his website www.gadevotionals.com.

DO ALL THINGS CHILDREN'S CIRCLE
is now accepting
SUMMER PROGRAM ENROLLMENT
for Project Elevation
"Mentoring through the Performing Arts"

Children Ages 7-17

Registration: (4-6 p.m.)

Wed., May 10

Fri., May 12

Mon., May 15

Registration Fee:

June \$25.00

July \$25.00

VOLUNTEERS

ARE NEEDED

**Located at:
The Holmes County
Arts Council
Building**

E. China St. • Lexington

Modeling/Talent

Pageantry/Social Etiquette

Greek Stepping/Drama/Theatre

FOR MORE INFO. CONTACT:

ARNITA KNIGHT @ 601-660-2207

EMAIL AT:

doallthingscc@gmail.com

**Sweethome
Water & Sewer District
Board of Commissioners**
will hold their

**Annual Membership Meeting
Tuesday, May 23, 2017 @ 5 p.m.
at 201 Spring Street, Lexington**

All members are encouraged to attend. All personal matters should be addressed at regular Board Meetings held the 1st Monday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Business Office at 201 Spring Street in Lexington.

LaPlause Polk - Chairman
Robert Seals - V. Chairman
Mary Archer - Secretary
Austry Kirklin - Commissioner
Peggy Mayfield - Commissioner

"Working together for a Better Sweethome"