

June 2, 2007

Give Patriotic Government Employees the Retirement Benefits They Deserve

Dear Colleague:

I invite you to become a cosponsor of the Air America Veterans Act, H.R. 2577, which would address the issue of providing federal retirement benefits to former Air America employees. From 1950 to 1976, Air America was a government corporation owned and operated by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) that supported America's missions during the Cold War. The corporation conducted flight operations in various countries including China, Laos, Korea and Vietnam on behalf of the Department of Defense and the CIA. The CIA conducted Air America operations in secret and did not acknowledge that Air America was a government corporation. Therefore, these Air America employees have never received their government retirement benefits.

The Air America Veterans Act would require a report from the CIA on the advisability of correcting this oversight and retroactively giving these employees their fair share of Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) benefits. Air America employees served their country and they deserve these benefits.

I encourage you to cosponsor this legislation, which would allow the government to reexamine the facts and give these former federal employees another chance at receiving the retirement benefits they have earned. For more information or to sign on as a cosponsor, please contact Carrie Fiarman on my staff at 5-5965 or Carrie.Fiarman@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

SHELLEY BERKLEY
Member of Congress