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Sunday's letters: Air America retirement pay justly deserved

By Times Wire

Give heroes of Air America their due | Sept. 4, Bill Maxwell column

Retirement pay justly deserved

Bill Maxwell's opinion piece was right on. Thank you for publishing this extremely well reasoned and accurate commentary.

I agree that in these difficult economic times, funding for federal retirement benefits for Air America employees must be economically justified, above and beyond the obvious justification of the extraordinary human courage and sacrifices that were the hallmark of Air America's 25 years of service to our nation.

Some \$23 million was returned to the U.S. Treasury following the company's dissolution in the mid 1970s. In today's dollars, that is more than sufficient not only to cover all employee-employer contributions in the Civil Service retirement fund, but also to cover benefits that would be received if retirement legislation were passed by Congress.

Most, if not all, employees would gladly have contributed to the retirement fund if they had been allowed to do so during the period of Air America's operation, but they were prevented from doing so because of the company's covert nature.

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