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Blunt's Staff to Host Mobile Office

JANUARY 22ND 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

Blunt's Staff to Host Mobile Office

*Submitted by
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor*

Dexter, Missouri - U.S. Senator Roy Blunt's staff will host a Mobile Office on Monday, January 27th, 2014 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm at Bootheel Regional Planning Commission.

Mobile Offices are opportunities for Missourians to discuss their questions or concerns with the federal government one-on-one with members of Senator Blunt's staff.

Senator Blunt's Jefferson City office also extends one-on-one service to all Missourians who have an issue with a federal agency or need additional assistance.

To reach the Senator's Office of Constituent Services, please call at (573) 634-2488 or send a letter at 308 E. High Street, Suite 202, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.

What: Senator Blunt's Staff Hosts Mobile Office

When: Monday, January 27th, 2014 from 1:00pm to 2:00pm CT

Where: Bootheel Regional Planning Commission
105 E. North Main
Dexter, MO

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Kent Hampton's Capitol Report January 20, 2014

JANUARY 22ND 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

Kent Hampton's Capitol Report January 20, 2014

Martin Luther King Jr. - A Powerful Orator

On January 15, 1929, [Martin Luther King Jr.](#) is born in Atlanta, [Georgia](#), the son of a Baptist minister. King received a doctorate degree in theology and in 1955 helped organized the first major protest of the African-American [civil rights movement](#): the successful [Montgomery Bus Boycott](#). Influenced by [Mohandas Gandhi](#), he advocated civil disobedience and nonviolent resistance to segregation in the South. The peaceful protests he led throughout the American South were often met with violence, but King and his followers persisted, and the movement gained momentum.

A powerful orator, King appealed to Christian and American ideals and won growing support from the federal government and Northern whites. In 1963, Bayard Rustin and A. Philip Randolph led the massive [March on Washington](#) for Jobs and Freedom; the event's grand finale was King's famous "I Have a Dream" address. Two hundred and fifty thousand people gathered outside the Lincoln Memorial to hear the stirring speech. In 1964, the civil rights movement achieved two of its greatest successes: the ratification of the 24th Amendment, which abolished the poll tax, and the [Civil Rights Act](#) of 1964, which prohibited racial discrimination in employment and education and outlawed racial segregation in public facilities. Later that year, King became the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize. In the late [1960s](#), King openly criticized U.S. involvement in Vietnam and turned his efforts to winning economic rights for poor Americans. He was assassinated in Memphis, [Tennessee](#), on April 4, 1968.

As with the classic western "High Noon", the second session of the 97th general assembly reconvened at noon on Wednesday, January the 8th. After the initial rituals of beginning another session, the Speaker laid out priorities for this year. They included education, energy, economic development and reducing taxes. No doubt some of the same issues that surfaced last session will return and could enter into the fray as priorities this year. Many pre-filed bills were filed the beginning of December in anticipation of allowing committees to start meeting and moving bills forward to the floor for floor debate. To back up for a moment in my mind, this session as with so many others started with "a prayer service" for Missouri government leaders, hosted by Missouri Baptist Convention's, Christian Life Commission, The Pathway, and hosted at Concord Baptist Church. After the breakfast the service was held with Mrs. Gail McWilliams as the guest speaker, and presenting "the charge to the general assembly". Her testimony was very uplifting as well as inspiring. Afterwards different pastors prayed for different branches of you state government. The next morning January 9th, started with the annual Governor's Prayer Breakfast. A choir from Columbia's Hickman High School sang two inspiring hymns, and then Hal Donaldson, cofounder of Convoy of Hope inc. was the guest speaker. He informed us how this group of meeting needs across the US was formed, and encouraged us to remember others in times of need or those that are less fortunate. In closing your state government has begun efforts attempting to work for the betterment for the state of Missouri and its citizens. I would encourage you to pray for your government and its leaders.

As always, it is an honor to serve you in the Missouri House. If you would like to discuss any issue, please call 573-751-3629. You can also email me at kent.hampton@house.mo.gov. I look forward to hearing from you.

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Russ Oliver Announced He Will Seek Reelection

JANUARY 21ST 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

Russ Oliver Announced He Will Seek Reelection

*Submitted by
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor*

Stoddard County, Missouri - Stoddard County Prosecuting Attorney Russ Oliver announced today that he will seek reelection to his current position.

“We are very proud of the accomplishments of the Prosecutor’s Office over the last 3 years” Oliver stated. “Every jury trial we conducted resulted in a guilty verdict, we obtained a 50 year sentence for Rape and Burglary against Moses Grayson, we protected the rights of Conceal Carry Permit holders against the encroachment of the Department of Revenue, we ended the synthetic drug epidemic in Stoddard County, and I am honored to be the first area prosecutor to receive an award from the Drug Enforcement Administration for our work on synthetic drugs which ultimately lead to Operation Log Jam which resulted in a nationwide sweep that seized 5 million packets of synthetic drugs and \$36 million of drug money”

In each and every jury trial conducted during his term, Oliver obtained a guilty verdict from the jury. “Russ’ jury trial track record has established a reputation for the Prosecutor’s Office in the legal community that not only is Russ willing to try cases to a jury, but should a case go to trial everyone knows that the State will be represented by a competent and effective litigator that can win cases,” said Dexter Attorney Brad Jarrell.

Of all the cases that were submitted to a jury during his term in office, Oliver says the most important was the conviction of a Dexter man, Moses Grayson, who was found guilty of burglarizing a woman’s home in the middle of the night and forcibly raping her. The Defendant was sentenced to 50 years. Oliver said of the verdict and sentence, “Mr. Grayson has two prior victims that he sexually assaulted ten years ago and this case is his third sexual assault victim. There is no question that our community is safer due to the results of this trial”

During his term as Prosecutor, Oliver was appointed by the Speaker of the Missouri House to serve on the House Bi-Partisan Investigative Commission concerning the Missouri Department of Revenue’s violation of Conceal Carry Permit holder’s privacy rights.

The Speaker of the Missouri House, Tim Jones, said of Oliver, “Russ’ efforts exposed the violation of the privacy rights of Conceal Carry Permit holders, as well the rights of all other Missouri citizens, by the Department of Revenue. His work on the Investigative Committee was invaluable and his efforts helped us to pass legislation to protect Conceal Carry Permit holder’s rights in the future.”

Oliver is also pleased with the results of his office’s efforts to end what was described as a ‘synthetic drug epidemic’ that Stoddard County began to experience early in his term of office. Oliver said “we took bold decisive action to eradicate Stoddard County of these synthetic drugs and to send a message that it was not going to be tolerated in this county.” As a result, area law enforcement reports that they only rarely see synthetic use in the county, “we will have the occasional person who is passing through our county that has some of these substances on their person or in their car, but we certainly no longer see the overwhelming influx of these drugs like they have seen in other counties. I think folks know that Stoddard County is just not the place to be doing that stuff” said Stoddard County Sheriff Carl Hefner.

Oliver says that his office worked hand-in-hand with Drug Enforcement Administration in their efforts to combat synthetic drugs. “When we executed the search warrants on Kevin Bay and his businesses in Columbia Missouri, DEA was with us and help put the cases together. The DEA agents saw the impact that these efforts were having on the industry and they began them looking at their options.”

“It was the snowball that got it all started for DEA,” said Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Regional Supervisory Special Agent Michael Scalise. “Russ’ work was one of the catalysts that initially got DEA’s attention and eventually lead to ‘Operation Log Jam’ in which a nationwide sweep of convenience stores and ‘head-shops’ netted millions of dollars in federal property seizures and thousands of pounds of synthetic drug product.”

Ultimately 11 individuals and 4 businesses were federally indicted as a result of the synthetic drug cases that started in Stoddard County, including Kevin Bay and Bocomo Bay. Nearly \$2 million in drug money was seized from Kevin Bay during the execution of a search warrant in Columbia Missouri based on the Stoddard County investigation.

Russ’ wife Jennifer said of the last 3 years, “our family has had to make some sacrifices to allow Russ to serve as prosecutor. But I know that he is making Stoddard County a safer and better place for our two kids to grow up in. His results speak for themselves and I know he is making a real difference.”

Photo is Oliver accepting DEA Award. From left to right (then State Senator Rob Mayer, DEA Regional Supervisory Special Agent Michael Scalise, Oliver, & former Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson. The photo was taken in Cape Girardeau in front of the Federal Courthouse

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Jason Smith's Capitol Report - Military Pension Cuts

JANUARY 12TH 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

Jason Smith's Capitol Report - Military Pension Cuts

*Submitted by
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor*

8th Congressional District - Missouri - As your voice in the halls of Congress, one of the obligations I take most seriously is taking care of our veterans. The brave men and women of our Armed Forces who volunteer to protect our freedoms deserve not only our respect, but also action from Congress that shows true appreciation for their sacrifices.

Shortly before Christmas, Congress passed a budget compromise bill that contained a provision that will reduce the cost-of-living increases for retired military personnel under the age of 62. This provision amounts to a \$6 billion cut in military pensions. I voted against the budget compromise. Chief among my reasons for opposing the bill is the change to military pensions. Simply put, it is wrong for Congress to try and balance the budget by breaking promises made to members of our nation's military.

Worse yet, military retirees are the only group affected by the budget compromise. Changes made to federal civilian retirement programs only apply to future federal civilian employees, not to current federal civilian employees. Cutting

veteran's pensions, while funding pensions for civilian federal employees, is a slap in the face to members of our military and their families who have sacrificed so much while defending our freedoms at home and abroad.

Congress can find better ways to save money. I am cosponsoring H.R. 3788, which will repeal the changes to military retirement programs and replace those changes with a requirement that taxpayers provide a valid Social Security number in order to be eligible for tax refunds under the child tax credit. This loophole allows individuals, some of whom are in the country illegally, to fraudulently claim child tax credits.

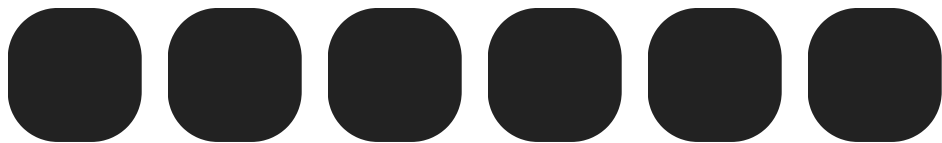
This reform will save roughly \$7 billion over 10 years, which is more than the changes to military pensions are forecasted to save over the same time. This sensible step to stop fraud and abuse in the federal government is a much better option than cutting the pensions of military retirees.

Our men and women in uniform deserve unwavering support from every Member of Congress and all Americans. It is wrong to balance budgets on the backs of troops who voluntarily put themselves in harm's way so that we can all be free. I will continue efforts to restore veteran's pension benefits. The livelihood of our troops should not be negotiable.

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Jason Smith's Capitol Report - Honoring Fighter Aces

JANUARY 03RD 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

Jason Smith's Capitol Report - Honoring Fighter Aces

*Submitted by
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor*

Honoring America's Fighter Aces

8th Congressional District - Missouri - America's veterans make tremendous sacrifices to defend our liberties and freedoms. Recently, I had the honor of cosponsoring HR 565, the American Fighter Aces Congressional Gold Medal Act to recognize America's Fighter Aces. This legislation ensures that Fighter Aces, 51 of whom are from Missouri, will forever be distinguished for their valuable contribution to our War efforts in World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

To be a Fighter Ace, an individual must shoot down five enemy planes in aerial combat, a feat that has not been accomplished by an American since the Vietnam War. Of the over 1200 Americans who qualified as fighter aces, less than 115 remain alive today. Our Eighth Congressional District is home to three individuals who earned the Fighter Ace distinction. I want to share a little about each man from short biographies compiled by the American Fighter Aces Association.

1. **First Lt. Ralph "Kid" Hofer from Salem, MO**, Ralph Hofer scored 15 aerial victories as a World War II Fighter Ace flying the P-47 Thunderbolt and the P-51 Mustang in the Army Air Corps. Ralph flew with the famed 4th Fighter Group, 334th Fighter Squadron based at Debden, England. The 4th Fighter Group started to receive their P-51 Mustangs in February, 1944 and Ralph called his "Salem Representative" from his hometown of Salem, MO. His last combat mission came on July 2nd, 1944 when on a bomber escort mission en-route to Budapest, Hungary he was attacked by German and Hungarian Bf-109's and eventually fell to Earth near an airfield in Yugoslavia where he was found dead inside the wreckage of his P-51 Mustang. He was buried in a grave near this

airfield but was transferred back to the U.S. in 1950 and is buried in a grave at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis.

2. **Lt. Colonel John England from Caruthersville, MO.** John England scored 17.5 victories as Fighter Ace in World War II and Korea. John was accepted into aviation cadet training and was sent to Yuma, Arizona where his flight instructor was future U.S. Senator and presidential candidate Barry Goldwater. John flew the P-51 Mustang throughout his World War II combat tour with the famed 357th Fighter Group based at Leiston, England. John was one of the highest scoring Mustang Aces of World War II and among the highest scoring Air Force Fighter Aces of all time. In 1954, John was returning from a practice mission when weather conditions deteriorated. He attempted to land but ran out of fuel and was headed for a barracks. John purposely crashed his F-86 Sabre jet to avoid hitting the barracks. England Air Force Base in Alexandria, LA is named in his honor.

3. **Captain Raymond Littge from Altenburg, MO.** Ray scored 10.5 aerial victories flying the P-51D Mustang in World War II flying with the 352nd fighter group. Raymond scored his first aerial victory in 1944 downing two German Bf 109's after becoming involved in a furious aerial dog fight with experienced German pilots. Through 1945 he continued to add to his score until he reached 10.5 aerial victories on March 25th, 1945. Ray was well respected by his men of all wars and an excellent leader. He would never back down from a fight in the air! He joined the Regular Air Force in 1946 and was sent to the 78th Fighter Group as Executive Officer based at Hamilton Field California flying the F-84 Thunderjet. He was en route to an air show at Coulee Dam, Washington on May 20th, 1949 when his oxygen supply failed and he crashed to his death.

Ralph Hofer, John England and Raymond Littge earned the Fighter Ace status for their bravery and skill in the air. It is fitting for these men, and America's other Fighter Aces to be recognized through the American Fighter Aces Congressional Gold Medal Act. So much of what happens in Washington is divided by ideological boundaries. Honoring America's Fighter Aces goes far beyond party politics to highlight the selfless service of our nation's greatest fighter pilots.

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