



# THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

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*In Week Eight, the House addressed a number of federal issues that impact the lives of Floridians. The weakening of the nationwide economy has been caused by the mentality in Washington and elsewhere that we can spend more than we can afford and not worry about future tough times – exactly the mindset that I have been fighting in Tallahassee to avoid.*

*That irresponsible, old way of short term thinking and planning only thru the next election which is so prevalent in Washington has failed this country! By calling for a Constitutional Amendment to balance the Federal budget, the House is urging Congress to adhere to the same standards we, as citizens, must abide by in our daily lives.*

*- Rep. Debbie Mayfield*

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## BALANCING THE FEDERAL BUDGET

Last Thursday saw the adoption of House Memorial (HM) 1583 in the Florida House. This measure, of which I am a co-sponsor, urges Congress to reign in out-of-control spending and runaway deficits by balancing the federal budget. The current national debt is over \$13 trillion and growing at an alarming rate! In 2008, the U.S. government spent over \$400 billion on interest alone - nearly 10 times the amount spent on the Department of Homeland Security.



The federal budget deficit has had a detrimental impact on the nation's financial health and has impeded investment productivity and growth. Credit agencies have begun to warn that America may lose its AAA credit rating because of the size of the deficit. The U.S. government will spend about 7% of its federal revenues just to make interest payments on its debt in 2010; and almost 11% in 2013. 49 of the 50 states are constitutionally and statutorily required to balance their budgets and hold themselves to the same fiscal standards to which their citizens must adhere. Similarly, the federal government must learn to plan and spend within its means.

While Floridians are struggling to make ends meet, we cannot pass the burden of these out of control spending habits on them by raising taxes. This legislation would require Congress to make the tough choices that we as a state and Florida families are struggling to do every day, to live within its means. It is no longer acceptable for Congress to use its spending power to coerce state action and increase state budgets, resulting in higher taxes for Floridians. In 1995, a Constitutional Amendment to require a federally balanced budget narrowly missed going to the voters for approval by one vote. It is past time to reign in federal spending of both parties for the health and security of this nation.



Florida's Old and New Capitols

Should you have any state constituent issues, please do not hesitate to contact Sandi Harpring in my Vero Beach office at (772) 778-5077.



It is crucial that every person residing in Florida is counted during the 2010 Sunshine Census. When the census first began in 1790, its sole purpose was to determine the number of seats each state had in the U.S. House of Representatives. Today, in addition to this purpose, the U.S. Census also affects the amount of federal funding received by the states, counties, and cities.

#### Technology Corner:

##### Twitter

I will be posting updates on my Twitter account and you can stay up to date by following me at [www.twitter.com/debbie\\_mayfield](http://www.twitter.com/debbie_mayfield)



## SAVING THE SPACE PROGRAM



Since 1961, Florida has enjoyed a robust role as the launch pad for NASA missions. But cost and timing issues with the shuttle program's successor, Constellation, have forced Florida's aerospace workers to brace for significant layoffs. More recently, President Obama's announced cancellation of Constellation and a shift toward reliance on commercial spaceflight companies have raised more questions about how Florida's economy and workforce will be affected.

HM 1187, of which I am a co-sponsor, requests that U.S. Congress take a number of actions to support an American space exploration program. It asks Congress to appropriate more funding to NASA for specified uses; support life sciences research into human space flight; and find ways to utilize Florida's unique aerospace workforce.

## LOCAL GIRL SCOUTS GO FOR THE GOLD

On April 30<sup>th</sup> the Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida will honor six exceptional young ladies from my district with the 2010 Gold Award. The Gold Award is the highest honor a Girl Scout can achieve. For many, the leadership skills, organizational skills, and sense of community involvement that come from "going for the Gold" set the foundation for a lifetime of active citizenship.

Please join me in congratulating Indian River County recipients, *Shelby Ball, Amber Barnett, Rachael Cinalli, Lindsey Goldstein, Debi Gray* and *Jordan Neely* on their perseverance and dedication to service. I share the pride of their family and friends in this special achievement.

## ENEMY COMBATANTS

HM 1609 urges the U.S. Congress to use its Constitutional authority to prevent the trial of the "Gitmo 5" or any other enemy combatant from taking place in a civilian courtroom passed the House last week.

The Obama administration's initial recommendation to bring alleged Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed to New York to face charges in a civilian federal court ignores the fact that we are a nation that is at war against terror and should treat enemy combatants as such. Trying any terrorist in a civilian court would award the foreign terrorists all the constitutional rights due a citizen accused of an ordinary crime. People who kill innocent American civilians should not be afforded the opportunity to hold a media circus to espouse their views. This memorial makes clear that enemy combatants should be tried in a military tribunal.

