

BARBARA LEE
9TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS
Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Subcommittee on
Financial Services and General Government



**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0509**

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June 18, 2012

Legacies of War
1628 16th Street NW, Third Floor
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to serve on the honorary committee for tonight's Legacies of War reception.

It is past time that we commit the modest resources necessary to clean up the dangerous ordnance we left behind in Southeast Asia.

Since Legacies of War began its important work eight years ago, they have done a tremendous job raising awareness of the history of the U.S. bombing of Laos. I would like to particularly recognize Legacies Executive Director Channapha Khamvongsa for her tireless work as an advocate for increased resources to clear unexploded ordnance (UXO). Your work as an advocacy organization is critical to making a bomb-free Laos a reality via legislation in Congress.

Let me say that this issue is close to the hearts of many my Lao and Hmong constituents in California's 9th Congressional district, including Oakland, who have fled the bombings or who have family members still living among UXO in Laos.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I have supported effort to ensure that at least \$10 million be dedicated for UXO programs in Laos in for the next fiscal year, and I am pleased to see that our colleagues on the Senate Appropriations Committee have also adopted this measure.

These resources are modest in relation to our federal budget, but they will lead to a safer, more peaceful future for the people of Laos, as well as for stronger relations between our two countries.

Thank you all for supporting the crucial work Legacies does every day to remedy the lingering effects of the war in Southeast Asia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Lee".

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress