"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

THANKS TO YOU and in spite of great uncertainty in Congress, we have been able to consistently secure $30 million for bomb removal and victim assistance since 2016. We work tirelessly each year to make sure Laos is not forgotten. Every year, Congress has to authorize this funding, and right now the House of Representatives is making budget decisions for 2020. We are asking for your help. Here's what you can do:

1) **Contact your U.S. Congressional Representative** and ask them to sign their name to a letter to support funding for UXO removal and saving lives in Laos. See detailed instructions below.

2) **Thank Representatives Sean Duffy and Anna Eshoo for their leadership.**

Representative Anna Eshoo (D-CA) and Sean Duffy (R-WI) are leading a bipartisan effort to gather support from their Congressional colleagues in providing no less than
$30 million for UXO clearance in Laos in fiscal year 2020. In the letter, they wrote, "This dark chapter in history continues to threaten the lives and livelihood of the Laotian people, many of whom were born two generations after the war ended."

3) Help Legacies to maintain a voice in Washington, DC by making a donation. We are working hard to make sure the UXO sector in Laos gets sustained funding needed to make Laos a place of safety and peace for its people. But we can't do it without you - help us finish the job.

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**TAKE ACTION:**
**HOW YOU CAN HELP TODAY!**

DEADLINE: MARCH 27, 2019

You have UNTIL WEDNESDAY to ask your Congress member to sign on to a letter being circulated by Representatives Sean Duffy (R-WI) and Anna Eshoo (D-CA) that seeks to secure the $30 million for UXO cleanup in Laos for fiscal year 2020 budget. The deadline is WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27th!

1. **FIND your Representative** here.

2. **CALL or WRITE** your Representative and ask to speak with the staff person who covers State Dept./Foreign aid for the congress member.

3. **EXPLAIN** to the staff that you are a constituent and that you want the Representative to sign the "Support Unexploded Ordnance Removal in Laos" Dear Colleague letter - the deadline is MARCH 27th!

Tell the staff they can contact Ryan McCormack (Rep Duffy), or Matthew McMurray (Rep. Eshoo), to add the Representative as a signatory.

4. **AFTER THE CALL** (or message), send us an email at info@legaciesofwar.org with the name of the Congress member and staff person you contacted, so that we can follow-up with their office by email.

This letter helps to ensure that sustained funding is available for efforts on the ground in Laos.

If you have any questions about the letter or how to contact your Representative, please email us at info@legacies.org.

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Sample Template for Emails or Calls

Name
Address
Phone number (optional)

Support Unexploded Ordnance Removal in Laos
Dear Representative X:

As a constituent in your district, I would like to ask for your support to save lives by supporting the effort to clear leftover U.S. bombs from Laos, which were dropped over 40 years ago. Could you please join this bi-partisan effort led by Representatives Sean Duffy and Anna Eshoo by Wednesday, March 27th. The letter is attached.

In one of the most enduring, yet least well-known, legacies of the Vietnam War, unexploded ordnance (UXO) from the nine-year U.S. bombing campaign over Laos is still endangering villagers as they go about their daily lives. Between 1964 and 1973, more than 2 million tons of bombs were dropped on Laos – more than was dropped on Germany and Japan combined during the Second World War. The U.S. flew in excess of 580,000 bombing missions over Laos, the equivalent of one bombing mission every 8 minutes around the clock for nine years. Less than one percent of the estimated 80 million leftover bombs in Laos have been cleared, resulting in over 20,000 casualties since the war ended in 1975. On a per capita basis, Laos is the most heavily bombed country in history.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support of clearing bombs and saving lives in Laos.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]