



PAUL LACHINE | NewsArt

"I am certain that our decision to establish the United States Institute of Peace will be regarded by those who come after us as one of the best investments in the future that our nation has ever made."

— U.S. SEN. JENNING S RANDOLPH

Honor Sen. Randolph's legacy:

Save the U.S. Institute of Peace

By Michael Aloï
and Charles DiSalvo

Is there a single American citizen who does not prefer, when given a choice, a just peace over war?

Probably not.

That's what makes the recent action of the U.S. House of Representatives so confounding.

The House voted to completely defund the U.S. Institute of Peace.

The Institute has performed immensely valuable service since it was brought into being in 1984 by President Ronald Reagan's signature. Take its work in bringing the best minds to bear on the thorniest problems of war and peace. It created:

- The Iraq Study Group, co-chaired

- by former Secretary of State James Baker and former Congressman Lee Hamilton.

- The Task Force on United Nations Reform, co-chaired by former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and former Sen. George Mitchell.

- The Genocide Prevention Task Force, co-chaired by former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and former Secretary of Defense William Cohen.

- The Senior Working Group on the Middle East, co-chaired by former U.S. national security advisers Stephen J. Hadley and Samuel R. Berger.

The Institute is not afraid to be in the most dangerous places in the world. It has offices in Kabul and



ALOID/DISALVO

FROM PAGE 1C

ties. It "teaches peace" by sponsoring a wide array of educational and training efforts here and abroad. And it does all this and much more on a budget of \$42 million. To put this figure in perspective, consider that we Americans spend nearly \$700 billion annually on the military and defense — more than 16,000 times more than we spend on the U.S. Institute for Peace.

The action of the House is not only confounding, but also those of us who are West Virginians find it particularly disappointing.

The person who campaigned for the Institute for years and was one of its biggest proponents in the Congress was our late United States Senator, the beloved Jennings Randolph. After serving for 14 years in the House of Representatives, Jennings Randolph, a native of Harrison County, served in the Senate from 1958 until 1985. He was succeeded by Sen. Jay

Rockefeller.

Sen. Randolph was a crusader for international peace and a strong believer in the work of the Institute. In recognition of his dedication to peace and to the work of the Institute, the Congress established the Jennings Randolph Program for International Peace as a living monument to him.

In fact, this program and the Institute that houses it constitute the only federal monument to Sen. Randolph's long and faithful service to the nation. Awarding Senior Fellowships and Peace Scholar Dissertation Fellowships, the Jennings Randolph program, since its founding, has enabled nearly 450 outstanding scholars, policymakers, journalists and other professionals to conduct research on important issues concerning peace and the resolution of international conflict.

We trust our Congressional Representatives and Senators will remember the critical role Sen. Randolph played in the creation of the Institute and will, in the cause of peace, honor his memory.