

ARKANSAS

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Boozman Bulletin: Merry Christmas



It is easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season. We are frantically baking cookies, making last minute shopping trips and writing our annual Christmas cards to show our family and friends the love we have for them. The thing they most cherish is our time.

While many of us will celebrate Christmas with our loved ones, many families will have an empty seat at the table. Remember our men and women in uniform who won't be with their families this year. Let us offer a prayers of thanks, as well as prayers for their safety and well-being, for our military personnel, who along with their families here at home, sacrifice so much to enable us to celebrate Christmas in a free country.

I had the opportunity to participate in Holiday Mail for our Heroes, an American Red Cross program that sends thousands of cards to our troops. I joined several of my colleagues in thanking our members of the Armed Forces for their service and sacrifice this Christmas season. I encourage you to keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Quick Takes:

Fiscal Cliff – We need a responsible plan to put our country on the path to fiscal accountability and responsibility. That needs to include a [pro-growth plan that tackles the issue of tax reform](#). In a recent floor speech, I highlighted the difficulty Arkansas farmers, ranchers and small businesses have when passing on farms and businesses to the next generation because of the [death tax](#). This tax is set to increase unless an agreement is made during the fiscal cliff talks. We need to find common ground to reach an

agreement. Listen to where I believe we should start in this episode of [‘From the Mailbag.’](#)

Regulation Nation – Arkansas and Mississippi Senators teamed up to introduce legislation that would protect farmers and sportsmen from [burdensome rice regulations.](#)

Open for Business - Arkansas companies and farms exported \$56 million worth of goods to Russia in 2011. Now, we have a chance to make further inroads in a growing market of 140 million consumers through a [new bill expanding trade with Russia](#) that President Obama recently signed into law.

Stop the Nuclear Option - At a time Congress needs to be working together, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid is attempting a power grab by [squashing the voice of the minority in the Senate](#) by trying to overturn decades of precedence established in the chamber.

Supporting A Free and Open Internet - United Nations member countries met to consider a treaty that would give the body more control over how the Internet operates and impose limitations on user’s freedoms. While 89 member countries agreed to it, the U.S. and 53 other nations rightly walked away from the negotiations. I am a [co-sponsor of the Senate passed resolution](#) that keeps the Internet free and open and I am proud the House also passed this commonsense resolution.

Remembering SGT Joseph Richardson – SGT Richardson, a graduate of Booneville High School, gave his life in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. [We thanked him for his selfless service and sacrifice on the Senate floor.](#) Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

Nominate Someone for Citizen Service Before Self Honor — Is there someone in your community that is deserving of a unique honor for their selfless service to others? [Learn about Citizen Service Before Self Honors and how you can nominate someone](#) with an inspirational story in your community for the 2013 honors.

Protecting our Children – I have long been a supporter of National Child Protection Training Center facilities like that at Northwest Arkansas Community College in Bentonville. That’s why I was proud to join with Senator Pryor and Minnesota’s Senators to [introduce a bill that aims to improve child abuse training programs](#) and enhance child protection nationwide.

Rewards for Justice – A group of Arkansans recently visited my Washington office to discuss the ongoing efforts to capture Joseph Kony, the war criminal and Lord’s Resistance Army leader who is responsible for human rights violations against thousands of Africans. Senator John Kerry and I are working to increase pressure to find Kony through the [State Department’s Rewards for Justice program.](#)

On the Radio - I talked with KASU radio in Jonesboro recently about a variety of subjects including the fiscal cliff and proposed military cuts. [You can listen to the interview here.](#)

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