

# **The Passy Press**

## **Letter to the Editor**

From: [Hcliffordws@undisclosed.com](mailto:Hcliffordws@undisclosed.com)  
To: [enpg@thepassypress.com](mailto:enpg@thepassypress.com)  
Date: January 18, 2016 at 5:38:35 PM GMT+1  
Subject: Oligarchy

Dear Sir

I am strongly in support of Joe Novitski's alarm over the unhealthy rise of an American oligarchy. Our Founding Fathers are in danger of being replaced by Funding Fathers corroding the democratic foundation of our republic.

Universal national service, military or civilian, is a worthy concept but like many such concepts is questionable when implementation is examined. While exact numbers are difficult to estimate there could be as many as ten million in any two-year cohort of those eligible and required to serve compared with the present size of 1.4 million in military service.

Let's take graduates of medical school. Following college, medical school, residency and specialization requirements and then two years of national service they could be 32-33 years old when first beginning their practice. Somewhat the same would apply to those who have pursued advanced degrees in other subjects. We need their well-educated minds.

Today we have a high tech military. A long time is required to fully train those who serve and once trained we want to retain them for as long as possible. Short term enlistments will not suffice.

Mr. Novitski's concern is well founded. His solution is problematical.

Sincerely,

Henry Clifford

Henry Clifford graduated from University of Pennsylvania then served in Korea with the Marine Corps. He has had a business career largely in investment banking and held elected and appointed positions in local government. He is the Co-founder and Chairman of the Committee for Peace in Israel and Palestine, Editor of the local monthly publication, Meadowords, and board member of Connecticut World Affairs Council. He has two children, seven grandchildren, and resides in Essex CT.