

Army Alliance Annual Luncheon, March 13, 2019 at the Bayou Restaurant, Havre de Grace.



The Army Alliance featured speaker was Bob Livingston. Bob is pictured above with Tom Albro, President of the Army Alliance and Jill McClune, President Emeritus and Legislative Lead for the Army Alliance.

Bob Livingston is a distinguished former Republican Member of Congress from Louisiana. He was elected to the US House of Representatives in a special election in 1977 and was re-elected to 11 successive two-year terms. Throughout most of his two-decade tenure in Congress, he served as a member of the Appropriations Committee, and for the maximum period of six years, he served on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Bob is a founding Partner of The Livingston Group. The Livingston Group is the Army Alliance representative in Washington, D.C.

Highlights from his presentation:

- The Livingston Group (TLG) has been working with the Army Alliance for ten years. TLG has found it easy to help solve the issues the Army Alliance has identified. That is due to a great Maryland delegation which works well together. It hasn't mattered which party they were in, as long as it benefits Maryland, they pitch in and get it done. It has also been easy due to the great Army Alliance Board of Directors.
- TLG is now actively working on the priorities Army Alliance identified for FY20:
 - o Ensuring continued funding to support the decommissioning, decontamination and demolition of 63 remnant production plant slabs and 50-year old laboratories in the Edgewood area of APG.

- Workforce recruitment issues
- Increases to Facilities, Sustainment, Restoration, Modernization (FSRM) funding
- Funding to increase Energy Resilience at APG
- In his opinion, Immigration is a problem, and has been a problem for 30-40 years. He feels the nation needs to stop the illegal entries into the country. For those already here, we should turn a blind eye, unless they are breaking the law. If you break a law, you need to leave. It is too expensive to deport those that are here and not breaking the law. It costs \$50K per person to deport and there are over 2 million here illegally.
- The national debt could be a problem. In 1999 there the nation had a 5 Trillion Debt. End of Bush, it was \$10 trillion, end of Obama, it was \$20 trillion. The national debt is currently at \$22 trillion. If we get into an environment with high interest rates, the interest of the debt will surge, cutting away at the discretionary budget. That will hurt APG. We can't continue to expect to have the same funding plus a percentage more. He hopes we will look for ways to cut back.
- Earmarks work, and it will help if they come back. You can use an earmark to sweeten the pot and get votes from those on the far right or left. They help to get the budget under control.
- His thoughts on next elections: Senate majority may change hands. If Biden gets into Presidential race, that will be the best threat to beat Trump. If the democratic candidate is Sanders, Trump will win.
- In order to preserve our National Defense, we need to preserve our economy. One political party cannot do that on their own. The current political environment isn't working. We have 24-hour cable and social media. If a democrat shared a drink with a republican, it would be on social media immediately and folks would be in an uproar. We need the two parties to talk and work together. When he served, he had great friends on the other side of the aisle, and they socialized, and they also got things done in Congress.