

The enactment of 10 U.S.C. 1174(h) eliminated the percentage recoupment and established total recoupment of separation pay. The effect is to require the veteran who has paid income tax on the total separation pay to, in effect, pay that tax again, out of his disability compensation.

H.R. 3183 would correct this inequity by limiting future recoupment of separation pay to no more than 75 percent of the benefit received.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation.

RETIREMENT OF JAMES E. SULLIVAN

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 28, 1996

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate Mr. James E. Sullivan of Springfield, MA, on his retirement from the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority after more than 20 years of diligent service. Mr. Sullivan, or Jimmy, is a lifelong resident of Springfield and hails from a family with a strong tradition in public service. The youngest of five brothers, James answered the call to public service shortly after his graduation from Cathedral High School in 1949 when he joined the 104th Air National Guard. Jimmy served the Guard dutifully for 9 years, handling supplies and public relations for the 104th. Following his honorable discharge, James began a distinguished working career in a wide variety of occupations including finance, sales, media, and ultimately transportation. It was in this final area that James excelled, working his way up the ladder of the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority from a toll taker to an assistant superintendent, a position he held for the past 17 years.

In addition to his outstanding work for the MTA, Jimmy was extremely active in a host of community activities. He served as president of the Sacred Heart Holy Name Society and is currently a lecturer and a eucharistic minister at Our Lady of Hope Parish in Springfield. He was also a member of several organizations that have made tremendous contributions to the Springfield community. Among these organizations are the Knights of Columbus, the Archbishop Williams Council, and the Springfield Elks Lodge. James also served as the chairman of the Ward 2 Democratic Committee in Springfield. It was also from this position that he offered tremendous support for the many area politicians who hailed from ward 2, including myself.

In addition to these other activities, Jimmy has been tremendously active in Irish affairs both at home and abroad. As a member of the John Boyle O'Reilly Club and the host of an Irish radio program for 25 years, he is intensely proud of his Irish heritage. These two activities have provided him with an ideal vehicle to expose several generations of Irish-Americans, in the Springfield area, to the rich traditions of song and history that Ireland enjoys. He has also been a longtime advocate of the peace process and I know he has done much to promote this sentiment throughout our region.

I would like to congratulate Jimmy on a wonderful career and I wish him all the best

as he enjoys his retirement with his wife Peggy, his children Margaret, Sean, and Thomas, and his granddaughter Kaila. While this retirement is a tremendous loss for the MTA, I know that it will enable him to devote even more time to a family he cares for deeply.

I would also like to salute Jimmy Sullivan as a true public servant. His devotion to his family, his church, his job, his country, and his heritage have enabled him to enrich the lives of all who know him. As his Congressman, fellow Democrat, and personal friend, I join the citizens of the Second Congressional District in offering Jimmy our heartfelt congratulations. His life and service to his community are an inspiration to us all and I thank him for all that he has done.

GROWING SUPPORT FOR MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the last minimum wage adjustment made in 1989 has been completely eroded by inflation. However, we can learn from the experience of that last increase to help assuage the fears that another increase will be detrimental to employment opportunities.

According to analysis by Richard B. Freeman, the preeminent labor economist from Harvard University, studies done on the 1989 minimum wage increase show "that moderate increases in the minimum (wage) transferred income to the lower paid without any apparent adverse effect on employment. * * *

Translation: the 1989 minimum wage increase did not cost jobs; it did boost the incomes of affected workers.

Mr. Speaker, the 1989 increase was overwhelmingly supported on a bipartisan basis in both the House and the Senate before being signed into law by President Bush. It is time for this Congress to address the wage erosion for low-wage workers with a meaningful minimum wage increase. It is time that the people's House began addressing the real concerns of people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE WARD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 28, 1996

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, on March 27, 1996, I was unavoidably detained and missed one rollcall vote. I would like the record to show that had I been present for rollcall vote No. 94, on H.R. 1833, the so-called partial-birth abortion ban, I would have voted "no."

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AMERICAN HERITAGE CLUBS OF NORWALK-LA MIRADA AND CARSON, CA

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 28, 1996

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a special group of individuals who have generously supported the American Heritage Clubs of Norwalk-La Mirada and Carson, CA. It is through these contributions of time, energy, and unwavering dedication, that the young people of our community receive the educational opportunity they deserve. The kindness of the following individuals is greatly appreciated:

Roger Leue, for three decades of dedication to Carson's youth; Ted Kimura's support of the 1995 tour of our Nation's Capital; Dr. Caroline Hee for her continuous support and her special floral arrangement at the 1995 Luau; the leadership Elito Santarina displayed in organizing the Carson High American Heritage tour of Washington, DC; the financial support of Dr. Dhyen Lal for the 1994-95 trip; to our 1996 grand marshal, Jesse Sapolu and the fine example he sets for not only the youth of the Pacific Islands, but for all Americans; and the financial support provided by Mayor Don Dear greatly contributed to the success of the Washington, DC, tour for students of Stephen White Middle School.

In addition, we owe a debt of gratitude to Peggy Flores for her guidance and smiling face; Cheri Webster for her willingness to always rise to the challenges that the Washington tours present; Desiree Sullenger for her tireless work on numerous fundraisers; Jim and Bette Hannum, Bev Thies and Marianne Estes, your presence on the trips to Washington was immeasurable; Ernie and Jolinda Marquez and Joe and Mary Mendoza, concerned and caring parents are the foundation of the American Heritage Clubs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to these special individuals. Their commitment enables the youth of Norwalk-La Mirada and Carson to make these annual historic and educational trips to Washington, DC. The youth in our community will be forever grateful to each of these caring individuals for helping with this extremely valuable experience.

THE INDIANA REGIONAL MINORITY SUPPLIER DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL IS VERY GOOD NEWS

HON. ANDREW JACOBS, JR.

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 28, 1996

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, thank God there is good news as well as bad.

The Indiana Regional Minority Supplier Development Council is very good news because it plays a positive and effective role in building up the backbone of American enterprise, small business.

For nearly 20 years the council has brought together large majority businesses with small minority business suppliers in the State of Indiana. And the result has been a very happy one both for the large and small corporations.

In 1976 the Indiana Regional Minority Supplier Development Council was responsible for generating about 6 million dollars' worth of business between the large and small companies. By 1982 that figure had grown to \$38,800,000. All this meant expanding employment opportunities and expanding businesses which have proved their capacity to endure and continue contributing to our economy.

All Hoosiers and, in a larger sense, all Americans are the beneficiaries of this fine organization which under the leadership of Donald Jones is obviously here to stay and one more reason why the American free enterprise system is also here to stay.

CITIZENS FROM FORT WORTH EARN EDUCATIONAL HONORS

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 28, 1996

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge two outstanding citizens from the city of Fort Worth who have won national education honors and made themselves shining examples to their community.

When Shirley Knox-Benton, who is the principal of Dunbar High School in Fort Worth, first arrived at the school she encountered a situation where students were unable to learn. Gang violence was rampant, trash was everywhere, and good students were afraid to shine.

Mr. Speaker, along with the invaluable help from some dedicated parents, Mrs. Knox-Benton turned Dunbar High around. That success has not gone unnoticed, as this week Mrs. Knox-Benton was notified that she had won a 1996 Reader's Digest American Hero in Education award along with a \$10,000 check for Dunbar High and \$5,000 for herself.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Knox-Benton is the first Fort Worth winner in this 8-year program. She was chosen from a pool of 650 nominees nationwide. Her commitment to excellence, and her leadership at this critical time in our Nation's education system both deserve the highest honor.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to honor a student at Dunbar High, senior Kim Wood. Mr. Wood is the only student in the Fort Worth school district to win a National Achievement Scholarship for Black Americans.

Mr. Wood won the award by scoring in the 98th percentile among all juniors nationwide and in the top 3 percent among black students on the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test.

Mr. Speaker, by winning these national honors, Mrs. Knox-Benton and Mr. Wood have held themselves up as shining examples of what can be accomplished through hard work and a dedication to success. I wish them both the best in their future endeavors.

NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES ACT OF 1996

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 28, 1996

Mr. MILLER of California, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of the National Invasive Species Act of 1996 which is being introduced today by Congressman STEVEN LATOURETTE and Senator JOHN GLENN to establish a national voluntary ballast management program for vessels visiting U.S. ports. In addition to ballast management, this legislation will provide for research, education, and new technology to investigate and prevent species introduction in coastal and inland waters.

Aquatic species invasion is of tremendous concern in the San Francisco Bay/Delta Estuary. According to a recent report, the San Francisco Bay and the entire Delta is now considered "the most invaded aquatic ecosystem in North America."

Current estimates indicate that an average of at least one new species is established every 12 weeks in the Bay, posing serious threats to the Bay ecosystem and economy. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent on controlling introduced species, and there are other expenses, such as reduced shipping efficiency due to hull fouling species and damages to piers from wood boring species.

The most disturbing cost of introduced species is the extinction or regional eradication of native species in the Estuary through competition and predation from introduced species. Introduced species have contributed to the extinction of some species of California freshwater fish and are now strongly contributing to the further demise of some endangered marsh birds and mammals. One introduced species, the Chinese mitten crab, can multiply so prolifically that it poses a threat to the Bay-Delta Estuary's ecology, agriculture, and water agencies. The presence of this species and other introduced species have lead to increasing restrictions on channel dredging, levee maintenance, water diversions, and other economic activities in and near the Estuary, with costly implications for the whole of California's economy.

The ballast water of commercial vessels is a leading vector by which nonindigenous species enter U.S. waters. Cargo vessels arrive with thousands of tons of ballast water used to achieve the necessary trim and stability for ocean voyage. The ballast water contains eggs, larvae, and other marine organisms which are released in port depending on a vessel's cargo-loading requirements. One vessel could discharge tens of millions of viable organisms in San Francisco Bay. Hundreds of cargo vessels arrive each year in the Bay, establishing essentially a "biotic corridor" for species invasions in this coastal area. Ballast exchange can reduce the probability of ballast transfers of these non-native species.

There is tremendous support for Mr. LATOURETTE's bill among environmental groups, water agencies, and state and federal agencies in the Bay Area and throughout the country. Understanding the patterns of species invasions and reducing the occurrence of those invasions is imperative in promoting the economic and ecological health of our coastal

resources. I encourage members to join me in supporting this legislation.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF BETTY BOYER

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 28, 1996

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Betty Boyer, a legend in Illinois journalism who is retiring this month. In 1966, she started her own newspaper, the Coles County Daily Times, in Charleston, IL, because she was not satisfied with the quality of local news reporting. You can imagine what the reaction was to such an enterprise at that time. Despite her detractors, Betty not only survived, but thrived, and in the process raised the standard for news coverage in the area. I would like to congratulate her on a distinguished career, and also thank her for her contributions to the quality of life in the 19th District.

Betty started her journalism career working for the other paper in town, The Courier-News. After a couple of years with the Times, Betty purchased the competition, and in 1969 formed the Times-Courier. She sold the paper to Howard Publications in 1972, but remained there to run the show, same as before. Perhaps Betty's most extraordinary quality is her diverse character. Regarded by all as sweet-natured, she is a loving wife and mother of three, and also has six grandchildren. She is equally known for her tough stances in dealing with city officials who objected to her straight-ahead style of journalism. Add to that the talented and professional staff who worked for her, many of whom moved on to larger arenas, that still consider her a magnificent boss, if not a surrogate mother. The stories of Betty desperately seeking bank loans or saving the paper supply from a flooded basement have joined a canon that encompasses a career of over 30 years. In addition to her journalistic accomplishments, Betty was named the "Outstanding Citizen" in 1982 by the Charleston Area Chamber of Commerce and has been a patron of the local arts.

Mr. Speaker, conventional wisdom says that you cannot believe everything you read. Regular readers of the Times-Courier beg to differ. Thankfully, the quality Betty has worked so hard to achieve will be with us for a long time. It has been an honor to represent Betty Boyer in the U.S. Congress, I wish her every happiness as she enters this new stage of her life.

TRIBUTE TO LOUIS PATAKI

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 28, 1996

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, the Hudson Valley and the people of my congressional district sustained a tremendous loss this week when Louis Pataki, father of New York Governor George Pataki, passed away.

A life-long resident of the Hudson Valley, Mr. Pataki was born in Peekskill, NY, into a family of Hungarian immigrants. It was in