

During the occasion of Taiwan's forthcoming National Day we therefore celebrate our friendship with Taiwan. We must continue to cultivate an ever close partnership with Taiwan. I commend Taiwan on its leadership, friendship, and close relationship.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore congratulate Taiwan on its accomplishments and join in celebration on Taiwan's forthcoming National Day.

FILIPINO VETERANS SSI
EXTENSION ACT, H.R. 4716

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 4716, the Filipino Veterans SSI Extension Act.

At the start of the 105th Congress, I introduced H.R. 836, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act, a bill which would have provided full veterans benefits to those veterans of the Commonwealth Army of the Philippines.

Although hearings were held earlier this year, the prospect of legislative action on H.R. 836 appears unlikely. Therefore, I am offering this measure in order to provide some relief for those Filipino veterans residing in the United States who currently receive Supplemental Security Income benefits.

Under current law, individuals who receive SSI benefits must relinquish those benefits if they choose to leave the country. This bill would permit those who were members of the Filipino Commonwealth Army and recognized guerilla units during World War II to continue to receive SSI benefits if they elect to return to the Philippines.

These benefits would be reduced by 25 percent if the individual veteran returned to the Philippines, to reflect the lower cost of living and per capita income of that nation.

It is estimated that several thousand veterans would be affected, many of whom are financially unable to petition their families to immigrate to the United States. Should this bill be adopted, these veterans would be able to return to their families in the Philippines while bringing a decent income with them.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this worthwhile measure.

H.R. 4716

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PROVISION OF REDUCED SSI BENEFIT TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS WHO PROVIDED SERVICE TO THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE PHILIPPINES DURING WORLD WAR II AFTER THEY MOVE BACK TO THE PHILIPPINES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 1611(b), 1611(f)(1), and 1614(a)(1)(B)(i) of the Social Security Act—

(1) the eligibility of a qualified individual for benefits under the supplemental security income program under title XVI of such Act shall not terminate by reason of a change in the place of residence of the individual to the Philippines; and

(2) the benefits payable to the individual under such program shall be reduced by 25 percent for so long as the place of residence of the individual is in the Philippines.

(b) QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In subsection (a), the term "qualified individual" means an individual who—

(1) as of January 1, 1990, was eligible for benefits under the supplemental security income program under title XVI of the Social Security Act; and

(2) before August 15, 1945, served in the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines while such forces were in the service of the Armed Forces of the United States pursuant to the military order of the President dated July 26, 1941, including among such military forces organized guerrilla forces under commanders appointed, designated, or subsequently recognized by the Commander in Chief, Southwest Pacific Area, or other competent military authority in the Army of the United States.

RECOGNIZING THE HAYS COUNTY
4-H ANNUAL DINNER, DANCE
AND AUCTION

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the Hays County 4-H will hold their annual dinner, dance and auction on Saturday, October 10, 1998. This is a very important event Mr. Speaker, as it recognizes 90 years of 4-H in Texas. For those of us who were raised on farms and who represent agricultural communities it is well known how important an organization 4-H truly is.

Head, Hand, Hearts and Health, these are the "4-H's" and they are truly indicative of what this organization is all about. One of the primary missions that this organization undertakes is agricultural education. Earlier this year I introduced a bill which would exempt the sale of livestock by those involved in educational activities such as FFA and 4-H from federal income taxation. By making young men and women who participate in these activities hire a group of tax accountants and attorneys we are sending the wrong message. Young people who sell livestock at county fairs and the like should be rewarded for taking self initiative and allowed to keep the money they've earned to help pay for their education or to re-invest in other animals to raise. My bill would eliminate the current policy of forcing these youngsters to visit the tax man.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the young people of Hays County's 4-H, as well as their parents and sponsors, for continuing the fine traditions of this truly great organization.

A TRIBUTE TO THE SHEET METAL
WORKERS, LOCAL NO. 20

HON. PETER VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate some of the most dedicated and skilled workers in Northwest Indiana. On September 18, 1998, in a salute to

their workers' durability and longevity, the Sheet Metal Workers, Local #20, of Gary, Indiana, honored their members of fifty years, forty years, and twenty-five years continued service. These individuals, in addition to the other Local #20 members who have served Northwest Indiana so diligently for such a long time, are a testament to the proto-typical American worker: loyal, dedicated, and hard-working.

The men and women of Local #20 are a fine representation of America's union men and women; I am proud to represent such dedicated men and women in Congress. The Sheet Metal Workers Constitution states, ". . . to establish and maintain desirable working conditions and thus provide for themselves and their families that measure of comfort, happiness, and security to which every citizen is entitled in return for his labor, from a deep sense of pride in our trade, to give a fair day's work for a fair day's pay." For fifty years, the following individuals have followed this creed: John Bitner, Alan Bradford, Henry Eckstein, Clem Gora, Arthur Kekels, Raymond Klodzen, Ton Mason, Andrew Mushinsky, John Piecuch, Joseph Pollock, Allen Tucker, and John Wesbecher. In 1958, Eugene Bitner, Harold Couma, John Downing, Harry Hamilton, Franklin Klee, Ralph Lasky, and Frank Macewicz, Arthur Panek, Willie Peters, Levi Richmond, Thomas Schaeffer, George Sweat, and Jack Teitge began their own forty years of service to Northwest Indiana and membership in the Sheet Metal Workers trade union. In addition to the great service and dedication displayed by the fifty and forty-year continued service members, the members with twenty-five years of continued service were honored. They are Robert Allen, Howard Alward, Keith Benson, Joseph Bloomfield, Robert Bonner, David Condon, Henry Cook, Benjamin Dear, Randall Hamilton, Terrence Henney, Arthur Herr, Donald Hill, David Hoffman, Kevin Hoffman, Clifford Hynd, David Jorgenson, John Klein, James Knapik, Carlton Kobe, Jerry Krachinski, Thomas Labney, Gerald Levendouski, Raymond Levendouski, Dan Londacre, John McShane, David Masterson, Gus Martakis, Richard Mendez, Earl Miller, Marty Mushinsky, Floyd Nelson, John Oros, Joseph Poropat, Rocky Richardson, Joseph Ring, Steven Sasko, William Schaeffer, Michael Shammert, Louis Schest, Jacob Sherwood, Eugene Skalba, Charles Spicker, Robert Swisher, Michael Switt, Larry Tayler, Walter Thomas, Charles Thompson, Robert Vaughn, Frank Vidimos, Wayne Werdin, Roger Wright, and Paul Zander.

As Orville Dewey said, "Labor is man's greatest function. He is nothing, he can do nothing, he can achieve nothing, he can fulfill nothing, without working." The men of Local #20, in addition to all of the local unions in Northwest Indiana, form the backbone of our economy and community. Without their blood, sweat, and tears, Indiana's First Congressional District would not be a place of which to be proud, it would not be the place I love, nor would it be my home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated, upstanding members of Local #20, in addition to all the hard-working union men and women of America. Their hard labor and dauntless courage are the achievement and fulfillment of the American dream.