

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I commemorate April as the Child Abuse Prevention month and to inform my colleagues of a quiet but devastating situation that continues to plague our nation: that of child abuse and neglect. In this time of prosperity we are leaving needy children behind.

More than 1 million children are reported abused and neglected in this country each year. This is an amazing statistic, especially when most cases of neglect and abuse are not reported.

In Virginia, according to the American Humane Association's Children Division in 1997, there were 11,792 confirmed reports of maltreatment to children.

The situation, as it exists right now, simply cannot go on. These children need and deserve our help, and Congress can and must step in if we are to begin to better tackle this public health epidemic and national tragedy. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support vital federal programs that seek to address this problem through improved preventive and early intervention services.

The effects of child abuse are felt by communities as a whole and need to be addressed by the entire community. All citizens should become more aware of the negative effects of child abuse and its prevention within the community. All citizens should become involved in supporting vulnerable and at risk parents to raise their children in a safe nurturing environment. This is why it is important to recognize April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

All citizens, community agencies, religious organizations, medical facilities, and businesses should increase their participation in our efforts to prevent child abuse, thereby strengthening the communities in which we live.

Child maltreatment has ramifications far beyond the actual physical and psychological harm done to the child. It also affects school readiness, juvenile crime and poor health outcomes. We simply must do more.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that I can count on my colleagues to recognize this month as Child Abuse Prevention Month and give strong support of these and other measures so that we can seek to put an end to what can only be called a national epidemic.

TAXPAYER BILL OF RIGHTS 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am in strong support of H.R. 4163, the Taxpayer Bill of

Rights 2000. I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this important legislation.

H.R. 4163 is a bipartisan bill designed to provide further protections to taxpayers from regulatory abuse by the Internal Revenue Service. In recent years, the Congress has adopted several of these taxpayer bill of rights, which have done much to reign in some of the more outrageous abuses heaped on taxpayers, who, by no fault of their own, have run afoul of overzealous IRS personnel.

This legislation offers a number of important protections for those individuals who have been unable to pay their taxes on time and thus have incurred additional interest and penalty charges. Specifically, the bill repeals the present day penalty for failure to pay tax, for those taxpayers that have entered into installment payments with the IRS to repay large outstanding balances.

Additionally, this bill: Expands circumstances where interest on underpayment of taxes may be abated, simplifies estimated tax calculations, limits taxpayer exposure to underpayment interest through the use of qualified reserve accounts, and tightens the privacy rights of taxpayers through limiting disclosure options open to the IRS.

Mr. Speaker, similar bills in the past have done much to provide protection to taxpayers from overbearing Federal agencies with regulations that have had unintended consequences in their implementation. This legislation continues that tradition by offering important protections to have, for whatever reason, made under-payments on taxes owed and are subsequently trying to make good on any overdue balances.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support this worthy legislation.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING COLONEL ROBERT N. CLEMENT

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that our colleague in the House of Representatives, Colonel ROBERT N. CLEMENT, will retire from the Tennessee Army National Guard on April 30, 2000, after more than 31 years of exemplary military service.

Colonel CLEMENT began his career as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve. In January 1969, he entered active duty for his Officers Basic Course in the Adjutant General's Corps. Upon completion of the school at Fort Benjamin Harrison in March, he attended Middle Managers training at Fort Gordon, Georgia. Colonel CLEMENT remained at Fort Gordon to serve as the Assistant Adjutant at the United States Civil Affairs School, where he received a Certificate of Achievement for his performance. He completed his active duty service with the Army Forces Entrance and Examination Station at Nashville,

Tennessee. During this time, he earned promotion to first lieutenant and received the Army Commendation Medal.

Colonel CLEMENT joined the Tennessee Army National Guard in January 1971 when he became a Personnel Management Officer in the 530th Administration Company. He was promoted to Captain while serving as a Special Services Officer in that unit. In 1975, he became an Assistant Information Officer in the 118th Public Affair Detachment. Shortly thereafter, Colonel CLEMENT was reassigned as a Race Relations and Equal Opportunity Training Officer in the Headquarters, Tennessee Army National Guard, Nashville, Tennessee. He then served the Headquarters as Race Relations and Equal Opportunity Officer for the next six and one half years. He was promoted to Major during this assignment.

In 1983, Colonel CLEMENT was named Chief, Enlisted Personnel Branch, Headquarters, State Area Command, Tennessee Army National Guard. After receiving significant experience in personnel actions over the next three years, he became a Selective Service Officer and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. His next assignment was as a Plans and Operations Officer in the Plans, Operations and Training Division. After completing four years in this assignment, he was promoted to Colonel and detailed as a Special Plans and Operations Officer. In July 1995, Colonel CLEMENT became the Deputy Director, Plans, Operations and Training Division. One year later, he was assigned as the Senior Medical Operations Support Officer in support of MEDIGUARD Operations and served admirably in this assignment until his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, Colonel CLEMENT has dedicated over 31 years to the military, serving with honor and distinction. I wish him all the best in the days ahead as he continues his public service by representing the people of the state of Tennessee. I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to this fine officer.

HONORING MS. MITZI STITES OF SPRINGFIELD, TN, ON THE OCCA- SION OF HER RETIREMENT AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ROBERTSON COUNTY CHILD AD- VOCACY CENTER

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Ms. Mitzi Stites of Springfield, TN, on the occasion of her retirement as Executive Director of the Robertson County Child Advocacy Center and her tireless efforts on behalf of Tennessee's children.

Ms. Stites was named the first and only Executive Director of the Robertson County Child Advocacy Center in Springfield in 1993. Mitzi immediately put her energy to work for the

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