

cuts had been part of a planned company-wide reduction of 10,000 workers by the end of this year. And other companies are also staying, too, rather than moving to neighboring states as they had once considered. Assay Designs, Inc. will be adding 86 new jobs and investing an additional \$18 million to a new site in Washtenaw County's Pittsfield Township. Faurecia, a Michigan auto supplier, will be creating nearly 450 more jobs in Sterling Heights as part of a \$40 million expansion. Emerald Graphics Corp. will be producing an additional 347 new jobs near Grand Rapids, rather than in Texas. And with these Michigan fixtures staying, who knows what the future holds for our great State.

The significance of this private-public partnership cannot be overstated. In addition to the immediate consequence of job retention, the University of Michigan projects that the State's agreement with these companies will create an additional 1,210 jobs and generate over \$97 million in revenue for Michigan over the next ten years, with another 1,000 jobs indirectly generated at other area companies. Rather than facing the prospect of helplessly watching hundreds of families potentially flee the metropolitan area—or even the state—in search of new jobs, Michigan's economic future looks brighter with a commitment that these hard workers will remain at home and continue to contribute to the State's economy. Instead of disrupting their children's lives with moves to new schools, SBC employees will continue to root themselves in their respective local communities.

I see no reason why other States cannot create similar incentive programs to keep private sector jobs within their borders as well. The tax credits that Michigan has extended to SBC Communications, Assay Designs, Faurecia, and Emerald Graphics Corp. are just the start. My home state recognizes that corporations naturally desire to expand. And it also recognizes that the State has too many brownfields that require developing. These two are not mutually exclusive. So Michigan has decided to invest in its own future. And what will be the reward? An anticipated \$558 million in private investment! Michigan has proven that it is committed to working with labor and management. Our State has shown that it truly has an open door policy, and will meet and work with all those interested in doing business within its borders, whether your company resides there already and is looking to expand, or is looking to relocate to a local economy that suddenly has a more optimistic forecast.

I encourage my colleagues in Congress to take a close look at what Governor Granholm, SBC Communications, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and the Communications Workers of America have accomplished. I see no reason why such a success story cannot be replicated in other States as well. In closing, I commend all those parties involved; am grateful for their willingness to work together for our State's future; and hope that this is just the beginning of many success stories to come out of Michigan and America's other 49 States.

## HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PRECINCT 1 JUDGE SAUL ACEVEDO

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of Judge Saul Acevedo, of my Congressional District.

Saul Acevedo was born and raised in San Antonio and has been actively involved in the community. He is a product of San Antonio Independent School District and graduated from Jefferson High School in 1981. He earned his Bachelors Degree in Political Science in 1986 from the University of Texas at San Antonio. He then enrolled at Texas Southern University, and in 1989 earned his Law Degree.

Judge Acevedo was elected as Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace in 1998; he works constantly to ensure that the people of his community receive the services they need from local government. He is a credit to his community and a tremendous resource for his county.

During his time in office he has dedicated himself to the youth of the community. He is extremely active in District 19 little league baseball, and is a past league president. There is one role that Judge Saul Acevedo plays in the community that trumps everything; he is married to Marietta and has two beautiful children.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize Judge Saul Acevedo for his dedication and contributions to the community.

## INTRODUCTION OF ESTATE TAX RELIEF LEGISLATION

### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would repeal the estate tax for 99.7% of all estates in our country.

During my time in Congress, I have strongly supported estate tax relief for American families, farmers, and small businesses, and continue to support the ability of one generation to transfer a business and assets to the next generation. During my first term in Congress I voted to override then-President Clinton's veto of a measure that repealed the estate tax, and later voted for President Bush's 2001 tax cut package, which included a phase-out and temporary repeal of the estate tax.

Unfortunately, however, our country's fiscal situation has changed dramatically over the last several years, and while I continue to support estate tax relief, I also continue to support fiscally responsible policies that will not transfer trillions of dollars in debt to future generations. On February 17, 2004, the national debt of the United States exceeded \$7 trillion for the first time in our country's history. One year later, our national debt is \$7.8 trillion. In the past year alone, our country has added \$800 billion to our national debt. The "debt tax" that we are imposing on our children and grandchildren cannot be repealed, and can only be

reduced if we take responsible steps now to improve our fiscal situation.

This week the House is scheduled to consider a full repeal of the estate tax. Repeal of the estate tax will cost approximately \$290 billion over just the next ten years, and although I support full repeal in theory, the sad truth is that our country cannot afford the luxury of an estate tax repeal at this time.

My legislation would provide immediate relief by raising the amount of an estate exempt from any estate tax liability from \$1.5 million to \$3.5 million. Additionally, the exemption for married couples would rise to \$7 million under my bill. I believe this measure strikes an appropriate balance between the enormous cost of full repeal and the unacceptable cost of doing nothing. 99.7 percent of the estates in our country would face no estate tax liability at all under this legislation.

Further, H.R. 8, the estate tax repeal bill that the House will consider in the near future, would preserve the reinstitution of carryover basis rules that are contained in the 2001 tax law. Replacing the step-up in basis that currently exists with the carryover basis rules that used to exist in our tax code, and will temporarily reappear in 2010, would impose a very real, very significant compliance burden, and capital gains tax increase, on approximately 71,000 estates every year. By repealing the step-up in cost basis, which allows heirs to value an inherited asset at the market value of that asset on the date of a benefactor's death, H.R. 8 would force individuals and families to determine the price of a transferred asset at the date at which the asset was originally purchased. This means that a piece of property originally purchased several decades ago for \$25,000 and sold for \$325,000 today would be subject to a taxable capital gain of \$300,000. Taxable gains on transferred property are particularly burdensome in light of the unprecedented real estate boom our country has experienced over the last several years. My legislation would preserve the step-up in basis and thereby provide substantial capital gains tax relief to thousands of American families.

Full repeal of the estate tax may still be an option for future Congresses to consider, but until we are able to improve the fiscal situation of our country, Congress should attempt to strike a balance between total repeal and the status quo, which will significantly increase the estate tax burden in 2011. We need to ensure that the federal government is preparing adequately for the unprecedented demographic shift that will strain Social Security and Medicare in the decades to come. Spending nearly \$300 billion over the next ten years on full repeal of the estate tax poses a genuine threat to Social Security and Medicare and will impose an unnecessary burden on our children and grandchildren, who will be forced to pay back with interest the debt we are accumulating today.

## BACK OUR VETERANS' HEALTH ACT

### HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, since the creation of the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system, the Nation's

doctors of chiropractic have been kept outside and all but prevented from providing proven, cost-effective and much-needed care to veterans, including those among the most vulnerable and in need of the range of the health care services that doctors of chiropractic are licensed to provide. In 2002, 4.5 million patients received care in VA health facilities, including 75 percent of all disabled and low-income veterans. Although the VA health care budget was roughly \$26 billion in 2002, less than \$370,000 went toward chiropractic services for veterans. This, in a country with more than 25 million chiropractic patients and more than 60,000 Doctors of Chiropractic.

I am proud to introduce legislation—H.R. 917, The Better Access to Chiropractors to Keep Our Veterans Healthy Act (BACK Our Veterans Health Act)—that is designed to provide veterans with direct access to a Doctor of Chiropractic, if that is their choice, through the veterans health care system. In developing this bill, I have worked closely with chiropractic patients, particularly our veterans, who know the benefits of chiropractic care and bear witness to the positive outcomes and preventative health benefits of chiropractic care.

Specifically, my bill seeks to amend Title 38 of the United States Code to permit eligible veterans to have direct access to chiropractic care at VA hospitals and clinics. Section 3 of the measure states that "The Secretary [of Veterans Affairs] shall permit eligible veterans to receive needed [health care] services, rehabilitative services, and preventative health services from a licensed doctor of chiropractic on a direct access basis at the election of the eligible veteran, if such services are within the State scope of practice of such doctor of chiropractic." The measure goes on to directly prohibit discrimination among licensed health care providers by the VA when determining which services a patient needs.

Over the years, Mr. Speaker, representatives of the Department of Veterans Affairs have come before the House Veterans Affairs Committee, a panel on which I serve, and have insisted that chiropractic benefits are available to veterans and that no bias exists within the VA against the chiropractic profession. But the facts I cited above speak otherwise. For all practical purposes, access to chiropractic care has been non-existent within the VA system. Chiropractic care has so seldom been offered to veterans that it can be fairly said to be a phantom benefit—and for years, Mr. Speaker, the VA has done nothing to correct this deficiency. There is simply no evidence that the VA has ever acted proactively in any meaningful and substantive way to ensure that chiropractic care is made available to veterans—and because of that track record of neglect, the U.S. Congress felt compelled to take action.

As a result, Congress in recent years has enacted three separate statutes seeking to ensure veterans access to chiropractic care (Public Law 106–117, Public Law 107–135 and Public Law 108–170). The last of those statutes gives explicit authority to the VA to hire doctors of chiropractic as full time employees. I'm proud to have worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to help advance those initiatives—and I am hopeful that a reluctant VA has finally seen the light.

I understand that, last year, former VA Secretary Principi released new policy directives regarding chiropractic care and that we may

be on our way to seeing the true and full integration of chiropractic care into the VA. But Mr. Speaker, if the past is any guide to the future, then I must remain concerned until I see these new policies firmly in place and working well in all VA treatment facilities. To help ensure that, in the future, barriers to veterans who want and need chiropractic care are fully removed, I am pleased to introduce legislation that would require the VA to make chiropractic care available on a direct access basis to our veterans.

Perhaps my legislation will prove not to be necessary—because referrals to doctors of chiropractic will actually take place with the encouragement and support of the leadership of the VA. But as insurance, the enactment of the legislation I propose would guarantee the right of a veteran to obtain this important service without the cost and stumbling blocks of going through potentially hostile gatekeepers.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting unimpeded access to chiropractic care throughout the veterans health care system and help enact this measure, H.R. 917.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PASTOR TERRENCE K. HAYES

#### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Pastor Terrence K. Hayes of St. Paul United Methodist Church for his exceptional career in public service.

Terrence K. Hayes has served our community for over thirty years. He has provided spiritual guidance and community leadership for those who need it the most.

Pastor Hayes has served as the senior pastor of St. Paul United Methodist Church since 1996. He is a man who believes in the importance of reaching out and helping those in need. An active and passionate advocate of the people, he has held a number of leadership and community service positions.

Pastor Hayes is the recipient of numerous awards including the Outstanding Young Men of America, the National Fellowship Fund, the Earl L. Harrison Fellowship, the Henry C. Maynard Award of Outstanding Pastoral Potential, and the Who's Who in America College Students from Hampton Institute. He has written numerous publications including Collaborating in Ministry, Fundraising Resources of the United Methodist Church, and a number of short stories and newspaper articles.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the hard work and important community achievements of Pastor Terrence K. Hayes.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, on March 17, 2005, I was unable to vote on roll-call 87, the Spratt Amendment to H. Con. Res.

95. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

#### ESSEX MARINA 50-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, on April 2005, a milestone was reached by one of eastern Connecticut's finest waterfront establishments when Essex Island Marina celebrated its 50th anniversary.

A half century ago Louis Schieferdecker, the son of a German immigrant, made a small investment that would end up becoming an eastern Connecticut institution. Mr. Schieferdecker bought Essex Island in 1955 and created a tradition of service and a successful business that his family owns and operates today. Essex Island Marina began as a boat yard with several slips; today it is one of southeastern Connecticut's most picturesque places. Lou Schieferdecker had a dream and he pursued it with a positive attitude and a determination to make it work.

During the first 10 years of operation the marina added to its services and amenities and also increased the number of docks. The family installed a swimming pool, built the deck and added game rooms, a snack bar and a convenience store.

But for the Schieferdecker family the most important part of the marina is not the dock or any of the amenities or services they provide; it's the people who come and enjoy the experience. In the words of the family, "Today we see it when the grown children of past guests bring their children to share the experience. In the last 49 years a 13 acre island has been transformed from a place to 'dock your boat' to a place where memories are made."

Boaters have responded to the beautiful facility. In 2004 the readers of "Offshore Magazine" named Essex Island Marina the second "Most Welcoming Destination" in the entire northeast and voted it number one in the northeast in the "Favorite Marina For A Weekend" category.

Building a successful business and generating the kind of loyalty and appreciation expressed by the readers of "Offshore Magazine" are not the result of being lucky. It's the result of working long hours to achieve a dream and always maintaining a commitment to do nothing less than your best. For 50 years the Schieferdecker family has been devoted to the boating public and the boating public has returned that dedication to the Schieferdeckers and Essex Island Marina. I congratulate this hard working family and Essex Island Marina for the first 50 years and I am delighted that they are part of our eastern Connecticut family.

#### HONORING PASTOR JERRY DAILEY

#### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Jerry Dailey for his dedication and