

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT SPADA

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend and constituent Albert Spada for his distinguished professional career and impressive record of community service. Al retired earlier this year as Ulster County Clerk, a position he has held since 1967. I would like to recognize and thank him for his outstanding leadership in Ulster County both as an elected official and an active and dedicated member of the community.

Al was elected to the office of Ulster County Clerk at the age of 34, the youngest county clerk in New York at the time. Prior to his election, Al served as Deputy Clerk for Ulster County and legislative aide to New York State Assemblyman Kenneth Wilson and New York State Senator E. Ogden Bush. Prior to that, Al served in the United States Air Force during the Korean Conflict as a Staff Sergeant. After serving as chief of the Air Force supply depot in Japan, he received an honorable discharge from military service.

For more than 35 years, Al served the people of Ulster County with distinction and honor. His responsiveness and accessibility to county residents defined his tenure in office. Al established himself as the preeminent advocate for Ulster County residents on matters pertaining to the functions of his office and other county government business. Over the nearly 4 decades that he was in office, Al's personal efforts have positively affected the lives of countless Ulster County residents. All of these attributes contributed to Al being the longest serving County Clerk in Ulster County since George Clinton held the position in the late 18th century.

Al has received numerous honors over the years including the Lifetime Achievement Award from the New York State Association of County Clerks and the Man of the Year Award from the local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Al has been a member of the New York Association of County Clerks since 1966 and has served on the boards of Benedictine and Kingston Hospitals, the New York State Advisory Board of Public Works and the Kingston Housing Authority, where he currently sits as chairman. He has served on the Heritage Advisory Committee, the New York State Sports Authority and the Ulster County United Way. Most notably perhaps, Al has been a lifetime member of the Glasco Volunteer Fire Department.

In addition to the many accomplishments and accolades that Al has received over the years, he is widely regarded as a friend to many people throughout the community. His loyalty and generosity, as well as his extraordinary sense of humor, have endeared him to countless Ulster County residents and while his presence in the county building will be greatly missed, we will all take comfort in knowing that he will remain an active member of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to congratulate my friend Albert Spada and his family on the occasion of his retirement after so many years of dedicated service to the residents of Ulster County. I offer him my warmest personal wishes for a healthy and happy retirement along

with my deep appreciation for his friendship and his longstanding commitment to public service.

A TRIBUTE TO THE BERKSHIRE JUVENILE COURT

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize and honor the Berkshire Division of the Juvenile Court Department of the Trial Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on this, National Adoption Day, for their dedication to the hundreds of children in foster care in Berkshire County, Massachusetts, and for their promotion of adoption, which allows over 30 children per year to enter into loving and nurturing families.

Today, in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, sixteen adoptions will be performed in honor of National Adoption Day and in recognition of November as Adoption Awareness Month throughout the United States.

I want to thank the Berkshire Juvenile Court, under the guidance of the Honorable First Justice Paul E. Perachi, for their dedication and commitment to the children and families of Berkshire County, Massachusetts.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING EFFORTS OF BALTIMORE FIRE CAPTAIN KENNETH HYDE, SR.

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize the outstanding efforts of one heroic individual who has greatly impacted the safety of the Baltimore community. He stands by 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in case of emergency. Whether he's disturbed from his slumber or called away from a family dinner, Baltimore Fire Captain and Riviera Beach Fire Chief Kenneth Hyde, Sr. readily awaits his next call to action.

Mr. Hyde holds two very demanding positions as he is the Baltimore City Fire Captain and the head of the Riviera Beach Volunteer Fire Company. That means he rarely enjoys a day of rest. However, he never complains, and neither do his crews. He has participated in the rescue of passengers of the water taxi, Lady D which overturned last year in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. He has assisted with the recent Hurricane Katrina cleanup, as well as countless other disasters.

While he primarily focuses on local mishaps, his interest lies in terrorism preparedness. He develops strategies for possible attacks, and devotes many of his weekends to either attending or conducting training sessions.

Mr. Hyde comes from a long line of firemen; his father, both grandfathers, brother, and now son, are all firemen. In addition, his wife is a dispatcher for the Baltimore City Fire Department, and his sister is in charge of the cadet program for the Riviera Beach Fire Department. It's obvious the Hyde family is dedicated to the safety of the citizens of Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you rise with me today to applaud the incredible efforts of Mr. Kenneth Hyde in his unselfish commitment to protecting the people of the United States.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, there is so much wrong with this legislation that I do not know where to begin.

This "deficit reduction act" is a tool for the majority party to justify their tax cuts that are poorly timed and do not benefit the American citizens who need help the most. It is irresponsible to cut funding for vital programs in order to make up for lost revenues due to tax cuts that benefit the wealthy. If we do not fix this deficit, we are forcing future generations to pay for Congress's fiscal irresponsibility. There are no useful deficit reduction measures in this bill.

This budget reconciliation bill cuts essential government programs that serve the most vulnerable members of our society. Society and government are judged by how we take care of those in need and we must do better. All totaled, the bill cuts spending by \$53.9 billion dollars which includes cuts to Medicaid, Food Stamps, student loans, and child support.

The cuts to the Medicaid program total \$11.9 billion or 22 percent of all of the cuts in this legislation. These cuts will result in premium increases for all participants and a reduction in benefits that will cause millions of children to lose some preventative and treatment services. At a time when health concerns are at the forefront of many people's minds, we should not be making cuts to Medicaid that will make it harder for people to afford the care they need.

The cuts to the Food Stamp Program total \$844 million dollars. These cuts would be the result of new limitations on who is qualified to receive food stamps. Under this legislation, some families receiving other types of federal assistance would be ineligible to receive food stamps. It is outrageous that we are cutting this and other programs that have been proven to help those who are the most in need.

The reductions in funding to child support programs total \$4.9 billion or 9 percent of all of the cuts in this legislation. This is just plain wrong. States rely on this funding to aid their efforts in establishing and enforcing child support orders; orders that are necessary if families and children are ever going to receive the support owed to them.

According to the Census Bureau for the most recent year that data is available (2001), only 45 percent of custodial parents have received the full amount of child support owed to them. There are an estimated 13.4 million parents with custody of 21.5 million children under age 21 whose other parent lives elsewhere. About 5-in-6 of those 13.4 million parents are mothers.

Twenty-five percent of single mothers with children in the United States are below the poverty level. We must do all that we can to

help mothers and their children receive the child support that is owed to them. Cutting funding to States for child support enforcement is obviously moving in the wrong direction.

As Members of Congress we cannot continue to allow ill-timed and badly targeted tax cuts for the wealthy while at the same time cutting government programs that help people improve the quality of their lives and their wellbeing.

If we continue along this path we will be shortchanging our children, our grandchildren and their children to come. They will inherit a government and a country that turned its back on the people who needed them most and they will be forced to pick up the pieces.

We cannot let this happen. I am committed to serving the people of the Second District of Maryland and I will not support legislation such as this that will negatively impact my constituents or the United States as a whole.

This legislation is just plain wrong and I urge my colleagues to oppose the bill.

VETERANS DAY COMMEMORATION AT DODONA MANOR

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I was honored to participate in Veterans Day observances held at the George C. Marshall International Center at Dodona Manor in Leesburg, Virginia.

The commemoration was organized by U.S. Army retired Colonel Gerhard L. Jacobson and featured U.S. Army retired Lieutenant General Frank A. Camm as the keynote speaker. I would like to share for our colleagues the stirring remarks by General Camm.

VETERANS DAY SPEECH

NOVEMBER 11, 2005

Thank you, Jake . . . Mr. Price, fellow veterans and American citizens . . . as a descendant of the Rector family on nearby Goose Creek, I am proud to join you here at Dodona Manor, the home of one of our greatest veterans, General George Marshall, in paying tribute to the service of America's veterans.

This is the day we remember our debt to those who've worn the uniform of the United States. This is the day we thank and honor ALL who have served honorably in the military—in wartime or peacetime. We honor them for their patriotism, their love of country, and their willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. And we thank them for their service, expressing our appreciation of their contributions to national security, and recognizing that all who served have sacrificed and done their duty. Today, all veterans can be certain that the Nation they served and the people they defended are grateful.

It is appropriate, indeed, to observe Veterans Day here at Dodona Manor, the home of General Marshall, who was born just 125 miles from here on New Year's Eve 125 years ago. . . Having lived next door to General Marshall in Washington in 1938, having seen him speak at West Point, and having served in the Army's War Plans Division that he had headed 20 years before, I've been inspired by numerous accounts of this man whom President Roosevelt considered to be the Pershing of World War II and whom Presi-

dent Truman said was the greatest military man the Nation ever produced.

General Marshall's 50 years of public service epitomize the selfless service so distinctive of our veterans. . . After serving General Pershing in and after World War I, General Marshall commanded troops in China, revamped officer training at Fort Benning, became Army Chief of Staff and exemplified selfless service in his gracious acceptance of President Roosevelt's keeping him in Washington during World War II instead of according to his desire to command troops in Europe. . . He gave selfless service again when heading toward well-deserved retirement in 1945. . . He had just entered Dodona Manor when a telephone call came from President Truman asking him to forego his first vacation in years and devote many months as a special presidential envoy to China. . . He extended his selfless service again and again when he became Truman's Secretary of State from 1947 to 49 creating the Marshall Plan. . . and when he shortly thereafter accepted President Truman's request to take over the American Red Cross. . . After the Korean War began in 1950, President Truman interrupted General Marshall's vacation at a Michigan fishing camp to call him back to further selfless service in Washington as Secretary of Defense. . . Meanwhile, Senator Joe McCarthy was castigating George Marshall for treason, calling him a man (quote) "guilty of an immense conspiracy" and making (quote) "common cause with Stalin"—General Marshall refused to respond, saying, (quote) "If I have to explain at this point that I am not a traitor to the United States, I hardly think it's worth it." . . Shortly after retiring again to Dodona Manor in 1951, he agreed to chair the American Battle Monuments Commission. And in 1953, upon becoming the first professional soldier to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, he typically credited it to others, telling reporters it was a tribute (quote) "to the American people." . . . Indeed, all of us veterans are proud to count General Marshall as one of us!

Our veterans have borne the cost of America's wars and stood watch over America's peace. Among the 42 million veterans of American wars, over 600 thousand died in battle and over 2 million were wounded. Today some 20 million living Americans wear the proud title of veteran. They include a few dozen survivors of World War I, over 3 million of World War II, 3 million of the Korean War, 8 million of the Vietnam War, and 2 million of the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Fortunate to have a number of veterans with us here today, I want to acknowledge them. . . so I ask all veterans present to please stand for us to recognize you? . . . (APPLAUSE). . . Thank you. . . Like Henry the Fifth in Shakespeare, we vets have a special bond with those with whom we've served. . . Trapped and outnumbered by the French army, Henry spoke to his men before the battle. His address is a classic in military legend: "For he today that sheds his blood with me shall be my brother" . . . And laying into slackers who'd avoided serving, he declared, "and gentlemen in England now abed . . . shall think themselves accursed they were not here." . .

Today, our soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen serve in 120 countries throughout the world during our ongoing conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. And the legacy of our veterans continues to inspire each of them to answer the call of duty. As we join in thanking our veterans for their service, let's applaud them not only for their past service, but the example they set for our current and future military. . . After the Korean War, our veterans returned home to a country indifferent to their service. . . After Vietnam,

our military faced scorn from some circles. . . Indifference and scorn have no place in our heroes' homecoming. . . Instead, let's show our gratitude by welcoming all of our heroes when they return to the cities and towns they have so bravely defended.

Now with the Global War on Terrorism, we cannot take our past peace and prosperity for granted. Our veterans know that freedom isn't free and that eternal vigilance is the price we must pay for our liberty. We must resolve to keep faith with our veterans as this nation fights and wins the Global War on Terrorism.

We must resolve to thank and support all our veterans for their outstanding and selfless service to our nation and to thank them not only today, Veterans Day, but every day. Remember our veterans and the price they paid physically, financially, and emotionally to keep this nation safe. . . And remember our troops, America's future veterans, sons and daughters, who have selflessly made the decision to defend our count and all it stands for.

Additionally, let's remember that veterans' families and military families have also paid the price for freedom. Though we may not be able to adequately thank our veterans, our soldiers, and their families, . . . we must always support them.

With your support, our soldiers, America's future veterans, will continue to honor their sacred duty of protecting our nation, our fellow citizens, and the freedoms we hold so dear.

Remember the Biblical questions: "Whom shall I send? and Who will go for us?" . . . And whoever answers with the Biblical reply of "Here am I. Send me" . . . will return a veteran. Let us honor that veteran and resolve on this Veterans Day to remember that he or she goes for us and deserves our support and respect.

TRIBUTE TO CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER AWARDEES

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand before you today on behalf of one of my district's premier human service organizations, the Child Advocacy Center of Genesee County. On Thursday, November 10, the Center will hold its inaugural Awards Dinner, where they will acknowledge several individuals who have shown tremendous courage, kindness, and selflessness through acts of goodwill toward our young people.

Polly Sheppard will have the distinction of being awarded the first Volunteer of the Year Award.

The honor of the Mental Health Therapist of the Year Award will be presented to Penny Lantz.

The cooperation between the CAC and the Michigan Department of Human Services will be shown, as Linda Crouch and Director Denise Chambers will receive DHS Worker of the Year awards.

The CAC will recognize its friends in law enforcement, as Detective Matt Bade of the Burton Police Department, and Detective Diana Mills of the Mt. Morris Police Department will be honored as Police Officers of the Year. John Greene and Marcie Mabry will be honored as Prosecutors of the Year.

The Sponsor of the Year Award will be presented to the Ruth Mott Foundation.