TRIBUTE TO GLEN A. KEHREIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Davis) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Glen Kehrein, a neighbor, a good friend, and one of the most dedicated, committed, and focused individuals that I’ve ever known. He was founder and CEO of Circle Urban Ministries in Chicago, Illinois. A few days ago, Glen Kehrein passed away, but he leaves a legacy that will live for many, many years to come.

More than 30 years ago, Glen and his family and a circle of a few friends moved into the Austin community of Chicago which was undergoing rapid change from a predominantly white community to what is now a more than 95 percent black, or African American, community. With his circle of friends, Glen organized Circle Urban Ministries, which has lasted for more than 30 years and has become one of the most effective faith-based urban redevelopment organizations in the Nation.

Under Glen’s leadership, programs in health care, legal assistance, housing rehabilitation, management, youth outreach, leadership development, homelessness, ex-offender reentry, food distribution, and education are bringing hope and help to thousands of people each year.

Glen coauthored an award-winning book with a black minister and friend of his, William Washington, entitled “Breaking Down Walls,” a model of reconciliation in an age of racial strife. He has traveled extensively to speak on the topic of racial reconciliation and has been a frequent guest on television and radio. He has been a contributing author of three other books about inner-city life and work, and has written many other articles for publication.

Glen is a legend in our community. His family, neighbors, friends, and community will truly miss him; and may he rest in peace.

PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL ABUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Rush) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month some of our darkest fears came to light. As parents and mentors of young children, we were horrified to hear and read about news allegations of a sexual abuse scandal involving the Penn State University football program.

In piecing the news together, there were clues and red flags along the way, suggesting that the allegations are regrettably and probably true. Based on what is now known, it is also not inconceivable that the horrible actions alleged to have occurred at Penn State could have just as easily occurred at any other major collegiate sports program in the country.

What this sad and tragic episode affirms is that the abuse of children is real and alive in the sports world today. It is also real and alive in collegiate sports as it could be in any institutional system that has commonalities with big-time college sports.

A little more than a week ago, even before the news of this scandal broke, I hosted two collegiate sports roundtables here in our Nation’s Capital. I invited sports journalists, economists, parents of former big division athletic scholarship recipients, and current professionally qualified basketball players to discuss the student athletes to speak openly.

They were asked what they thought about some of the NCAA’s new proposed reforms, like compensating student athletes with a stipend and increasing academic accountability of student athletes who play in Bowl Conference Series tournaments. The roundtables dispelled some of the widely held myths about the manner in which the colleges go about recruiting high school athletes. They also corrected some persistent misunderstandings about what and how much NCAA athletic scholarships and medical insurance cover. And they did an excellent job of exposing hardships that student athletes and their families face for being unable to come up with the extra money to pay the differences in the medical costs and the costs of these athletic scholarships.

As part of its core purpose, the NCAA says its mission is to “integrate intercollegiate athletics into higher education so that the educational experience of the student athlete is paramount.” But, unfortunately, I must say that I am highly suspicious of this creed, in that the NCAA system culture has increasingly become more shadowy and exceedingly exploitative. Exploitation maximizes revenues for colleges and conferences. Exploitation also helps member conferences and athletic programs hide behind flimsy excuses that doing more to support student athletes financially would be unprincipled and unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, as a Nation, we must hear the voices of young victims, pray for their healing, and dedicate ourselves to doing all that we can to end outrageous abuse of vulnerable children. We, as Members of Congress, have two primary responsibilities: one, to protect our Nation against foreign enemies; and two, to protect our children.

God bless America, and God bless our children.

THE FAIR TAX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Woodall) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, it’s always nice to come to the House floor after someone has just said “God bless America.” It makes me feel good, sir, and I want to associate myself with those remarks.

Candidly, I’m a little worried about what we’re doing here. Mr. Speaker, I know you have the pleasures I do of seeing all the folks from across America who come here to see the procedures that go on here on the House floor, and I know folks often wonder and probably ask you, Mr. Speaker, what’s going on? Well, of course, with the exception of those of us on the House floor, everybody is in their office watching on the
closed-circuit TV so you can multitask and do it all. I came down here to bring words to those folks who are watching on TV.

But really, Mr. Speaker, it’s about the youngest folks we have in the country. The economy that you and I are going to leave to the next generation of Americans. And we can do things here in this House today that guarantee a better economy in the years to come. Right now—right now—I don’t tweet. I don’t use Twitter. I’m not going to tell you that I have something to say to folks every moment of the day, but if I were tweeting, I would say that right now in the Joint Economic Committee there’s a hearing on fundamental tax reform, asking the question can tax reform boost investment and job creation? And the answer is absolutely, it can.

Here, in this country, what we tax, we destroy. Think about that. The power to tax is the power to destroy.

Mr. Speaker, when I go to speak to high school students, I say, okay, I’ve got a $20-an-hour job working in my congressional office. Who wants to come work for me? Everybody raises their hand. I said, I’m going to need to tax you about $1 an hour on that, so you’re only going to get to take home 1. Who wants to come work for me? And all the hands go down. The hands go down because they don’t want to work for $1 an hour. They want to keep what they earn.

The power to tax is the power to destroy. Today, in this country, we tax income. We are the only Nation in the OECD that does not have a consumption tax. We tax income. And when you tax income, which is productivity, you destroy productivity.

I have a proposal that is the most widely cosponsored fundamental tax reform proposal in either the House or the Senate, and it’s called the Fair Tax. It’s on the House floor. And I have the great pleasure of working with so many of my colleagues to push that bill forward. It abolishes the income tax in favor of a consumption tax.

Now, when we’re in a tough economy like this, folks say, But Rob, I’m cutting back on my consumption. Would we still be able to bring in the revenue that we need with a consumption tax? Well, I bring charts. What you see here in the red line is personal consumption, and what you see in the red line is personal income. The red line represents what we tax in the income tax, and the blue line represents what we would tax in the consumption tax. And what you see are two things. Number one, they are roughly the same—roughly the same.

Yes, we can tax consumption and bring in the same revenue we get today by taxing income, but when they’re different, it’s because the volatility of the income is greater than the volatility of consumption. When you tax income, all you get to tax is income. When you tax consumption, you end up taxing income, plus savings people are spending, plus borrowing that they’re doing. It’s a much more stable tax.

Why is that important? Mr. Speaker, what you know in your time here in the House, as I know from my time here in the House, is that if you give this House more money, we’re going to spend it. I don’t want to spend it. I wish we wouldn’t. And I’m going to vote “no,” but I’m going to lose.

If you tax something that’s volatile, in the boom years, the money comes pouring in. Do you think we save it for a rainy day? We don’t. We spend it. And then when the down year comes, folks are accustomed to a high spending level. What do we do? We borrow it from our children and our grandchildren and spend it anew.

Having a stable income stream that doesn’t have the highs and doesn’t have the lows will lead to a better Federal budgeting process. And taxing consumption, which is what we take out of the economy, instead of taxing the income, which is what we put into the economy, will grow it.

Mr. Speaker, a few years ago, the Joint Tax Committee here did a study and said, How would we evaluate consumption tax? We don’t even have a model for it. How would we do it if we did away with the income tax and brought in the consumption tax? They brought in economic groups from the left and the right. Of course they disagreed about absolutely everything, those groups from the left to the right, all the way across the spectrum, except for one thing, Mr. Speaker. Every single economic model and group agreed that if we moved to a consumption tax from today’s income tax, America’s economy would grow faster.

Mr. Speaker, every dollar we can grow, every job we can create, they matter today. And I encourage folks to take a look at H.R. 25, the Fair Tax, as a mechanism for making that happen.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o’clock and 30 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. The Pledge of Allegiance is as follows:

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal of the day.

WELCOMING REVEREND MARTIN R. SPRINGER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JOHNSON) of the House, is recognized for 1 minute.

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our guest chaplain, Pastor Marty Springer, who has served as both an example of his faith and civic duty.

Pastor Springer was raised in southern California, the youngest son of Marshall and Doris Springer. After graduating from high school, he worked in a bank while attending junior college and joined the United States Air Force in December of 1982. During his time serving on active duty, he was selected for the honor of serving in the Office of Presidential Protocol at Andrews Air Force Base during the Presidency of Ronald Reagan.

He entered the Air Force Reserve in 1986 and also took a civil service position at Scott Air Force Base where he was the director of personnel for an Air Force telecommunications agency responsible for all aspects of manpower, personnel, and training. During Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield,