

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ROOSEVELT'S PANAMA CANAL AND TAXES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following. Disease. Death. Bankruptcy. That's how the Panama Canal got started. At the time, the nineteenth century, trade and economic activity boomed in this part of the world and with it, other nations tried to cash in. As the U.S., Britain and France competed to assert their influence in the region, they ran into one problem: land. They didn't have a way to ship goods from the Atlantic to the Pacific without making the treacherous and lengthy journey around the tip of Cape Horn in South America. All three nations knew there was a need for a shorter sea lane connecting the two oceans. Unfortunately, the French got there first.

In 1881, the French sent veteran builder Ferdinand de Lesseps, who oversaw the successful construction of the Suez Canal in Egypt, to build a canal in Panama, then a province of Colombia. In the first nine years of construction, the French spent hundreds of millions of dollars, lost 20,000 workers to malaria and yellow fever and only completed eleven miles of the canal. The project went bankrupt and failed. The dream of a connection between east and west seemed all but dead . . . then came Teddy Roosevelt. The former Roughrider knew an opportunity when he saw one and seized upon it.

The U.S. was emerging as a world power and Roosevelt saw that having a shorter route to the Pacific and beyond was a way to expand American Naval Power and Economic opportunity. Such foresight proved correct in WWII. Roosevelt quickly got to work, having his Secretary of State, John Hay negotiate the Hay-Herran Treaty to purchase land in the Colombia province of Panama. The U.S. Senate ratified the treaty. But there was a big hiccup: the Colombians wanted more money and refused to approve the treaty.

Roosevelt wasn't about to be duped and pour more money in the project, perhaps ending up like the French. He knew that the Panamanians wanted the U.S. to complete the 51-mile canal and he knew that they wanted independence. (Some claim that Roosevelt took advantage of the unrest and stirred up Panama's revolution against the Colombians, but that's for historians to debate). The U.S. did not get involved in the fight, but helped the Panamanians by sending the gunboat, the U.S.S. Nashville, and ten other warships from both the Atlantic and Pacific to show support. This is now known as "gunboat diplomacy". Panama's non-violent coup-de-tat was successful, and the nation of Panama was born. With that, the U.S. and Panama ratified a treaty and construction of the canal began. One revolution, \$700 million and ten years later the Panama Canal Zone—now U.S. Territory—was completed in 1914.

Fast forward 99 years. After President Carter returned the canal zone to Panama, it has since maintained control of the security and operation of the canal. Panama has undertaken a critically important expansion of the canal. One that will add a third channel and a new set of locks, allowing larger cargo ships to pass through. Approved in 2006, this new expansion—dubbed PanamEx—will finally completed next year. Surprisingly, no Panamanian chapter of the EPA held it up, and only a few environmental groups opposed. Perhaps it's a transportation miracle.

Of course, Panama benefits from this widening and deepening of the canal, but so will the United States. The recent implementation of the U.S.–Panama Free Trade Agreement approved by Congress, along with this \$5.25 billion canal expansion project, ensures that free trade between the U.S. and Panama will continue to grow. And, because of our geographic location, this expansion will "expand Texas' position as a global gateway for the nation," according to the Panama Canal Working Group. That means a huge increase in exports from the gulf coast and our Great State, including the Port of Houston, to countries around the world.

Trade in Texas and Houston drives our economy, and the engine for trade is ports. With that, we'll see more exports of dry and liquid bulk, agriculture products, coal, petrochemicals, military cargo, and consumer goods. Larger and wider vessels, like tankers carrying liquefied natural gas, will now be able to enjoy quick, reliable transit through the canal. That's good news for us here in Houston and good news for our State.

Next year, we celebrate 100 years since Roosevelt's dream became a reality. Thanks to Teddy's dream, the U.S. built the canal and our economy and security have benefitted from the opportunities that it created. God bless Teddy. And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE CAREER OF RICHARD EDWARDS, SR.

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and accomplishments of a distinguished member of my Western New York community, Richard Edwards, Sr.

Richard has been a lifelong resident of Amherst, New York, where he has served for over 50 years as a dedicated and valued member of Main-Transit Fire Department. During his years at Main-Transit, Richard served as the Fire Police Lieutenant and Fire Police Captain.

Richard and his colleagues are American heroes. Every day they courageously place themselves in harm's way to protect the lives and properties of others. Their sacrifices are invaluable to our community and I thank him for his half-century of service.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Richard Edwards, Sr. on his exemplary career.

HONORING THE HONOREES OF THE ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorees of the 2013 Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet Dinner. The Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce serves the people and business community of the greater Lewiston/Auburn area, working hard to strengthen economic opportunity throughout the region and the State.

Each year, the Androscoggin Chamber of Commerce recognizes local businesses, business leaders, and individuals who promote and advance a vital and healthy business environment. These individuals and businesses are committed to strengthening opportunity and prosperity in Maine.

This year's award recipients include Barbara Dagley of Carbonite Inc, recipient of Business Leadership Award for a Larger Company; Kurk Lalemand of Next Level Business Coaching and John Stass of Katahdin Furniture, recipients of the Business Leadership Awards for Smaller Companies; Larry Raymond of Issacson and Raymond, recipient of the Ray Geiger Award; Rita Dube, Julia Sleeper and Kim Pelletier, recipients of the Community Service Leadership Awards; Rick Jones of Jones Associates, recipient of the Poland Business Award; Nick Benoit of Benoit's Bakery and Wine Cellar, recipient of the Lisbon Business Award; Nancy Ricker of Ricker Hill Orchards, recipient of the Turner Business Award; Russ Barlow, Principal of the Franklin Alternative School in Auburn is the recipient of the Education Award; Sherry Spencer of Proctor and Gamble-Tambrands, recipient of the "Cool Chamber Award;" Dick Roy of Mechanics Savings Bank, recipient of the Ken Addition Small Business Advocate Award; Kim Jacques of Revelation Massage, recipient of the 2013 New Member of the Year Award; and Susan Hall of The Vault and Kevin Dean and Emil Clavet of Electricity Maine, recipients of the President's Award.

These recipients are among the best that Maine has to offer. Through their leadership and incredible commitment to their communities and the region, Maine is a better place to live and do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the Androscoggin Chamber of Commerce and these individuals on their outstanding service and achievement.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

REMEMBERING RALPH FRESE

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, last month the city of Chicago lost a legendary canoe-maker and conservationist. Ralph Frese, known as "Mr. Canoe," got his first boat when he was just 14, and spent the next 50 years championing the conservation of Chicago-region rivers.

Starting in the 1960s, Ralph was active with the Clean Streams Committee, reporting waterway conditions, pollution and blockages to government agencies. In recognition of his efforts, he was inducted into the National Rivers Hall of Fame, and in 2007 a stretch of the Chicago River was renamed "The Ralph Frese River Trail."

Ralph is responsible for introducing thousands of people to the pleasures of paddling a canoe across Illinois' waterways and loved nothing more than sharing his knowledge with other would-be conservationists.

I once had the pleasure of canoeing down the Chicago River with Ralph and learned so much during our time together. More than anything, I left fully inspired by his love for the natural world around us, even in big cities like Chicago.

We will miss Ralph cracking jokes or sharing his stories on the river trail. But his environmental legacy will live on for generations, and for that we should be forever thankful.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "TAX
CODE TERMINATION ACT"**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, our Nation watched as we recently ended another battle over our Nation's tax-and-spend policies. While many Americans are now left trying to decipher how their taxes will be changing for the coming year, all Americans are, yet again, forced to comply with a tax code that is no longer working in a fair manner for our Nation's citizens. While almost every Member would acknowledge that our tax code is no longer working in a fair manner for Americans, nothing has been done to create a more equitable tax code. So today I rise to reintroduce the Tax Code Termination Act.

The Tax Code Termination Act will force Congress to finally debate and address fundamental tax reform. This bi-partisan legislation is simple. It will abolish the Internal Revenue Code by December 31, 2017, and call on Congress to approve a new Federal tax system by July of the same year.

As recently shown, Congress will not reach a consensus on a contentious issue, such as tax reform, unless it is forced to do so. My bill will do exactly that: force Congress to finally address fundamental tax reform.

Though many questions and ideas remain about the best way to reform our tax system, I am certain that if Congress is forced to address the issue we can create a tax code that is simpler, fairer, and better for our economy

than the one we are forced to comply with today.

Whichever tax system is adopted, the key ingredients should be: a low rate for all Americans; tax relief for working people; protection of the rights of taxpayers and reduction in tax collection abuses; promotion of savings and investment; and encouragement of economic growth and job creation. Taxes may be unavoidable but they don't have to be unfair and overcomplicated.

Once the Tax Code Termination Act becomes law, today's oppressive tax code would survive for only 4 more years, at which time it would expire and be replaced with a new tax code that will be determined by Congress, the President, and the American people. This legislation will allow us, as a nation, to collectively decide what the new tax system should look like. Having a date-certain to end the current tax code will force the issue to the top of the national agenda.

America cannot continue down this path of irresponsible tax-and-spend policies. There is widespread consensus that the current system is broken, and keeping it is not in America's best interest. The American people deserve a certainty, fairness, and assurance that our current tax code cannot provide them. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and end the broken tax system that exists today and provide a tax code that the American people deserve.

HONORING BILL MCBRIDE

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and highlight the distinguished life of Bill McBride. Mr. McBride's contributions to the Tampa Bay community, the State of Florida, and the country are worthy of recognition by all.

Born on May 10, 1945, Mr. McBride moved to Florida at the age of 9 and spent most of his childhood in Leesburg, Florida where he attended high school and distinguished himself on the football field as a fullback and linebacker. While attending the University of Florida on a football scholarship, his football career was derailed by a knee injury. Mr. McBride then turned to public service, becoming an active member in Florida Blue Key honor society and president of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

At the height of the Vietnam War, Mr. McBride dropped out of law school and enlisted in the U.S. Marines. He volunteered for combat duty, rose to the rank of captain, and was awarded a Bronze Star with a Combat V for valor for his wartime service. After returning from Vietnam, Mr. McBride finished law school. At that time, he became a civic leader in such organizations as the United Way and the Florida Holocaust Museum. He also became a managing partner of Holland and Knight, one of Florida's largest law firms.

Bill McBride was a force for good in the Tampa Bay community and a strong advocate for public education and civil rights in Florida. As a gubernatorial candidate in 2002, he championed smaller class sizes, greater support for teachers, and encouraged greater in-

vestment in education. Throughout his life he promoted equality in Florida as well, advocating for the survivors of the Rosewood racial massacre, pro bono legal work, and gay rights. His mission in life was to serve Florida, and he accomplished that in innumerable ways. His selfless dedication to our community and State will be greatly missed.

The Tampa Bay community is proud to recognize Bill McBride for his lifelong dedication to improving the lives of Floridians. His outstanding commitment to the State made him an inspirational community leader. I ask that you and all Americans recognize such a remarkable citizen for his service to our community and our State.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MR. JAMES A. COOGAN**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Mr. James A. Coogan, who passed away on January 5, 2013, at the age of 73.

A resident of the city of Tonawanda for the better part of his life, James Coogan was very active in community affairs and local Democratic politics, serving the people of Tonawanda for many years.

James was a dedicated public servant who was Second Ward Alderman for the City of Tonawanda for two terms, from 1980 to 1983. In 1984, James was appointed Tonawanda City Clerk and held the position for ten years, until 1993. Additionally, James was a member of the Erie County Town Clerk's Association.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and Members of the House to express our deepest condolences to the family of the late James Coogan, and join with me in recognizing the many good works of service he performed during his long and full life.

BLACK JANUARY IN AZERBAIJAN

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 23rd anniversary of the events that marked the beginning of the end of Soviet rule over our ally Azerbaijan, an occupation that existed for much of the 20th Century.

This time period is referred to in Azerbaijan as "Black January," when violence erupted in Azerbaijan's capital city of Baku on January 19th and 20th, 1990. During the conflict, Soviet troops killed over 100 nationalist demonstrators and wounded another 700 Azeri citizens demanding freedom. Azerbaijan eventually declared its independence from the U.S.S.R. on October 18, 1991.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in commemorating—with our ally, Azerbaijan—the events of Black January in 1990, events which began in tragedy but culminated in the birth of an independent nation and ally of the United States.