

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.