

HONORING RALPH BENSON

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 11, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Congressman JARED HUFFMAN, to honor Ralph Benson upon his retirement as Executive Director of the Sonoma Land Trust.

For the past twelve years, Mr. Benson has worked tirelessly to guide, expand and strengthen the Sonoma Land Trust, enabling the organization to better fulfill its goal of protecting and conserving our lands for generations to come. During his time as the Executive Director, Mr. Benson increased the Sonoma Land Trust's budget from \$1 million to \$5 million, doubled its staff and more than doubled its membership. During his tenure, the Sonoma Land Trust acquired 5,630 acres in the Jenner Headlands and opened the Baylands Center at Sears Point Ranch for use as an environmental education center. Under his leadership, Sonoma Land Trust is currently working on a tidal wetlands restoration project and trail expansion along San Pablo Bay and Highway 37.

Mr. Benson's impressive work to grow his organization and take on sizable projects has bestowed tremendous benefits upon our community. The Sonoma Land Trust now protects 48,000 acres of land, up from 15,000 acres, and has attracted outside capital to the County of Sonoma that amounts to more than \$80 million.

Mr. Benson's colleagues credit his success to his ability to foster enduring and productive partnerships and connections. A true leader, Mr. Benson inspired others to believe in his vision of what the Sonoma Land Trust was capable of achieving and with hard-work and his can-do attitude, made his vision a reality.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Mr. Benson for his invaluable contributions to land conservation in Sonoma County. On behalf of a grateful community, we wish him a most enjoyable retirement.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL (RET) ROY  
GEORGE PLUMMER**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 11, 2014*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding citizen, leader, pastor and inspiration to the Columbus, Georgia community, Colonel (Ret) Roy George Plummer. Colonel Plummer will be retiring as JROTC Director of Army Instruction of the Muscogee County School District in Columbus, Georgia. A retirement dinner in celebration of Colonel Plummer will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2014 at the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia.

A native of Jamaica, Colonel Plummer enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in several military assignments in the United States and Germany. He completed his Active Duty Army career as Chief of Chaplains at Fort Benning.

He currently serves as the Chaplain for Rotary International District 6900, The State of Georgia.

As JROTC Director, he was responsible for eight high school JROTC programs and four other county JROTC programs. Since 1998, he has worked to create a successful district-level JROTC program which has grown from 400 cadets to an outstanding current operating enrollment of 1200 cadets. Under Colonel Plummer's leadership, the Muscogee County School District JROTC has earned GHSA State Rifle Championships, state-level awards in drill team and raider competitions, and honorable recognition in the annual JROTC Academic Bowl.

Always pressing towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, to better improve the craft of Christian ministry and discipleship, Colonel Plummer has been the Senior Pastor and CEO of Faith Tabernacle Community Church, Inc. in Columbus, Georgia since he founded the church in 1994.

A shining light in the Columbus community, Colonel Plummer has played a leading role in several other religious-affiliated and community-based organizations, including the St. Francis Hospital Foundation, Columbus Hospice, United Way, Boy Scouts of America, and the Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

To top off his diverse portfolio of service, Colonel Plummer served as an Assistant Professor at Columbus State University in the Department of Counseling Graduate Studies. He has earned a baccalaureate in Biblical Literature, Master of Arts in Human Relations and Group Process, Master of Science in Guidance and Counseling, Master of Divinity in Pastoral Care, and Doctorate in Divinity. This solid educational background coupled with his compassion and leadership inspired Colonel Plummer to create the Plummer Home for homeless and disenfranchised military veterans.

Colonel Plummer has achieved numerous successes in his life, but none of this would have been possible without the grace of God and his four daughters and seven grandchildren. He lives by Psalm 27:1, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?"

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Colonel (Ret) Roy George Plummer on the occasion of his retirement as JROTC Director of Army Instruction and recognizing him for his many great contributions to the people of Columbus, Georgia and the United States and for his life of selfless service to God, the church and to humankind.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TAX  
REFORM ACT OF 2014**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 11, 2014*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of H.R. 1, the Tax Reform Act of 2014. This bill—which formalizes, without modifications, the tax reform discussion draft I released publicly on February 26, 2014—reflects the years of work undertaken

on this critical issue by the Committee on Ways and Means during my time as chairman. I want to thank the members of our committee, on both sides of the aisle, for their tireless efforts and for their outstanding contributions to this legislation and to the transparent, inclusive process that produced it. While I will not be returning to the House of Representatives next year, I very much look forward to watching the ongoing work of our great committee as the tax reform debate continues to unfold in the 114th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, the urgent need to fix our broken tax code—and the incredible progress we've made toward making tax reform a reality for the first time since 1986—has already been well documented, and I will not seek to recount all of that background and history here today. But I do hope that, going forward, Congress will continue to focus on the twin goals that have guided the tax reform process thus far—strengthening the economy, and making the tax code simpler and fairer for all Americans.

When I set out to produce a comprehensive tax reform bill, I wanted to do it the right way. So, over the last four years, the Ways and Means Committee held over 30 public hearings, including the first joint hearings with the Senate Finance Committee on tax policy since World War II. Ways and Means Ranking Member SANDY LEVIN—my home state colleague—and I formed 11 bipartisan working groups to tackle different areas of the tax code. In that time, I also launched TaxReform.Gov, which received more than 14,000 public comments and suggestions, while Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT) and I left the confines of Washington, DC to talk with taxpayers all across the country. I am proud to say that we have done this in the most open, transparent, and bipartisan way—getting input from all sides. Now, the debate about whether to do tax reform is over; the only debate now is about how.

At its core, the Tax Reform Act of 2014 is about making the tax code simpler and fairer for hardworking taxpayers. I believe every taxpayer should be able to do his or her taxes without fear that someone with better accountants or lawyers is getting a better deal. This legislation does that by ensuring that virtually all taxpayers would pay the least amount of taxes without having to keep track of every receipt and record and live in fear of an IRS audit. This legislation makes the Code more effective and efficient by getting rid of narrowly targeted provisions to lower tax rates across the board. This will enable small and large businesses alike to expand operations, hire new workers, and increase benefits and take-home pay.

The proposal flattens the rate structure by reducing rates and collapsing today's seven individual rate brackets into two brackets of 10 and 25 percent for virtually all taxable income, ensuring that over 99 percent of all taxpayers face rates no higher than 25 percent. The plan also reduces the corporate rate to 25 percent.

By making America's corporate tax rate more competitive and by modernizing our anti-competitive international tax rules, which have not been reformed since the 1960s, we would encourage companies to keep their headquarters in the United States, so they can grow, invest, and hire here, instead of moving overseas in search of a better tax environment. We need a real solution to this growing problem, and I believe a significantly lower

corporate tax rate and a more competitive tax system is just the solution we need.

Independent economists agree: Tax reform results in stronger economic growth, more jobs, and higher wages. In fact, the independent, non-partisan Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) estimates that this plan could increase the size of our economy by \$3.4 trillion—that's equivalent to 20 percent of today's economy. Based on that stronger economic growth, we could see nearly two million new jobs created. JCT also estimates that this proposal could generate up to \$700 billion in additional Federal revenues that could be used to lower tax rates even further or to reduce the debt. Indeed, based on calculations using data provided by JCT, the average middle-class family of four could, under this proposal, have an extra \$1,300 per year in its pocket from the combination of lower tax rates in the plan and higher wages due to a stronger economy. This is the kind of growth America needs, and these are the kinds of policies that can produce a stronger, more robust economy that benefits all Americans.

Before concluding, Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the countless hours devoted to this effort by the Ways and Means Committee staff and the staffs of the Joint Committee on Taxation and the Office of Legislative Counsel. A project this large—on an issue of this magnitude—simply could not be undertaken by this institution without the dedication, the policy know-how, and the technical expertise of the professional staff. We owe all of them our sincere thanks. Indeed, their contributions to this proposal extend not just to the legislative language of the bill itself, but to a set of helpful explanatory materials as well. For those who are looking for a fuller description of the legislation I am introducing today as H.R. 1, a section-by-section summary of the proposal prepared by the Ways and Means Majority Tax Staff is available at: <http://tax.house.gov/>. Similarly, JCT's technical explanation of the proposal—along with JCT's revenue estimate, distributional analysis, and macro-economic analysis of the proposal—has been published as JCS-1-14, available at <https://www.jct.gov/publications.html?func=startdown&id=4674>.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I close by urging my colleagues who will be returning in January for the 114th Congress to keep pushing forward and to see this tax reform process through to a successful conclusion. It would undoubtedly be easier for Congress to hang its head and say that the problems with the current tax system are just too big, and that the work of tax reform is just too hard. But nothing worth doing is ever easy, and tax reform is even more necessary now than it was back in 1986. Indeed, today's generation of tax reformers should remember how the headline in the Washington Post captured the moment when the 1986 Act finally made it over the finish line—it called tax reform the "impossible that became the inevitable." I would like to see that headline again, and with today's formal introduction of the Tax Reform Act of 2014, we take another important step down that historic path.

I thank the Speaker for reserving the bill number H.R. 1 for this legislation, and I hope that the formal introduction of this proposal in the House today will help spur further action on this critical issue in the 114th Congress.

HONORING CHIEF MICHAEL HOLUB  
FOR MORE THAN FOUR DECADES  
OF SERVICE TO OUR NATION  
AND COMMUNITIES

### HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor La Grange Police Chief Michael Holub for his more than four decades of service dedicated to protecting and serving our nation and our communities. At the end of this year, Holub will be retiring as Chief of Police.

Chief Holub is a native of Berwyn, Illinois, and attended Morton West High School, graduating in 1970. From there he joined the Army and served with the Official Ceremonial Unit and Escort to the U.S. President, which is known as the Old Guard because it is the oldest active duty regiment in the Army. After serving his country, Holub returned to serve his community and joined the Stickney, IL Police Department in 1974. He spent the next twenty years with the Stickney Police Department, rising through the ranks to become Chief of Police. He subsequently served as Chief of Police for the Village of Palos Park, IL, and as the Chief of Police for the Village of River Forest, IL, before coming to La Grange.

Chief Holub has highly valued education throughout his career. He earned his Bachelor's Degree from Lewis University in Romeoville, IL, as well as his Master of Arts Degree in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration. While Chief of Police, Holub continued to serve for 15 years as a member of the adjunct faculty of Triton College in River Grove, IL, teaching courses to undergraduate students in criminal justice. Chief Holub always challenged his officers to get their degrees so that they could move forward, as his mantra has always been "to always be prepared for the next level."

In addition to being Chief of Police, Michael Holub has always shown a deep commitment to his community in many other ways. He is a fixture at community events and is active with the American Legion, always helping with charity events and aiding the men and women in our armed forces as well as fellow veterans.

Today I express my admiration for Chief Michael Holub's lifelong dedication to our nation and our communities. I ask my colleague to join me in honoring his lifetime of service and wish him the best in his retirement.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF DR. MICHAEL MCCALL TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

### HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Dr. Michael B. McCall, the Founding President of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS). Dr. McCall has announced that this will be his last year as System president and will be retiring in January.

Under the leadership of Dr. McCall, KCTCS has served as the major gateway to post-secondary education across the Commonwealth. Since his appointment in December 1998, Dr. McCall has achieved many successes, such as merging the 28 community and technical colleges into 16 individually accredited comprehensive community colleges and leading KCTCS to its position as the largest provider of post-secondary education in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Because of his leadership, KCTCS currently serves over 92,000 students and represents over 47% of all undergraduate college students. Perhaps most importantly, KCTCS has dramatically increased participation in postsecondary education. The number of students participating in KCTCS has risen dramatically since the system was created, with enrollment increasing by 62,000 in the first decade.

I am proud to have five community colleges within the KCTCS System that serve my district: Somerset Community College, Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College, Hazard Community and Technical College, Big Sandy Community and Technical College, and Ashland Community and Technical College. Each college has seen incredible growth since KCTCS was founded in 1997.

Dr. McCall has also led the System to create major advancements in education and pioneered many new educational opportunities that are unique to Kentucky, including the North American Racing Academy (first college-affiliated horse racing academy in the United States), the Kentucky Coal Academy, Kentucky Fire Commission, and the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services.

Dr. McCall has served for more than 40 years in community and technical colleges. He has been recognized as Kentucky Monthly Magazine's Kentuckian of the Year and was also the Board Chair of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). This marked the first time a System-level president was elected chair of the AACC board.

I am proud to have known Dr. McCall since he became KCTCS President and wish him great luck in retirement. I offer my full congratulations to Dr. McCall for his service to KCTCS and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Thank you and may God bless you.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF  
IRENE PORTER POWERS MATTHEW

### HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Irene Porter Powers Mathew of Lake Havasu City, Arizona.

Irene Porter was born in Downs, Kansas, on November 20, 1917. She moved to Colorado where she attended high school at the age of 12, where she played basketball, sang in a trio, and the Glee Club. She graduated at the age of 16.

Following high school, she worked for the Colorado Agriculture Extension Service. In 1937, she went to work for the Farm Security Administration in Colorado. Around 1940, she moved to Amarillo, TX to assist in the establishment of the FSA regional headquarters.

On July 28, 1942, Irene married William (Bill) Powers, who was serving in the Army Air