

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING THE ARMY
FOOTBALL TEAM'S VICTORY
OVER NAVY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Army football team's victory over the Navy.

The Army-Navy football game is one of college football's most famous rivalries, played this year on December 9, 2017, at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia. Last year in December of 2016, the Army Black Knights won their first game against the Navy Midshipmen in 14 years. This year, Army won its second consecutive game with a score of 14–13, earning the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy. The victory was hard-fought in harsh, snowy conditions, not unfamiliar to the men and women who have served in the 10th Mountain Division.

Army wore uniforms that were a tribute to the 21st Congressional District's own 10th Mountain Division, which was established in 1943. The soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division are notorious for training in severe conditions created by high elevations and mountain climates. To honor those who have served while assigned to the unit, the uniform featured the division's coat of arms along with the words "Vires Montesque Vincimus" on the right shoulder, which means "We Conquer Powers and Mountains." The Mountain Salute, "Climb to Glory," could be seen under the coat of arms and the "Follow Me" sign was placed on their helmets. Additionally, the team wore the Panda Patch on their cleats, a patch that originally helped identify the soldiers who were nicknamed the Pando Commandos, a nod to the 10th Mountain Division's roots in Pando, Colorado.

On behalf of the 21st District, I want to congratulate the United States Military Academy at West Point on their victory and recognize the Soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division who fought in World War II and those who continue to fight today to keep our nation safe.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 690 I was inadvertently recorded as voting "no." I support the Women in Aerospace Education Act and my vote should be recorded as "yes."

TRIBUTE TO PAT AND JOHN
WHEELER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Pat and John Wheeler of Council Bluffs, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on October 6, 1967 at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Council Bluffs.

Pat and John's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them nothing but the best.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1, TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters from the Faith and Freedom Coalition, Taxpayers Protection Alliance, Club for Growth, and FreedomWorks:

FAITH AND FREEDOM COALITION.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 1.5 million members and supporters of the Faith & Freedom Coalition, I urge you to vote YES on the Conference Report to H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA). A vote for this bill is a vote for tax cuts that Republicans have promised and America's hardworking families desperately deserve. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will strengthen families, grow the economy, and create jobs. To that end, Faith & Freedom Coalition will score the vote on H.R. 1 as vote to cut taxes for families and as a vote to begin the process of repealing Obamacare. This vote will appear in tens of millions of Congressional Scorecards and voter guides distributed in over 100,000 churches.

Since Congress last passed major tax reform over thirty years ago, the tax code has become riddled with corporate giveaways and special-interest provisions that benefit the politically-connected and privileged at the expense of working families. This legislation makes the tax code simpler and fairer, strengthens the family, increase wages, creates jobs, and makes small, family-owned businesses more competitive.

H.R. 1 doubles the child tax credit to \$2,000, makes it available to more families by in-

creasing the income eligibility thresholds, and makes up to \$1,400 refundable to lower and middle-class working families. This provision is pro-life, pro-child, pro-family and pro-middle class. Doubling the standard deduction protects more of the average family's income from taxation, keeping more of their paycheck at home rather than sending it to Washington.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act also reduces the tax rate on the hard-earned income of small, family-owned businesses—creating the lowest tax rate on small business income since World War II. Mom and Pop businesses are the backbone of the American economy and the American family. Over 80% of new jobs are created by Main Street businesses and they need a tax rate that enables them to compete with overseas competitors and Wall Street corporations. These small businesses are often family affairs and are a key component to supporting stronger, more secure families.

Finally, repealing Obamacare's individual mandate and returning the savings to families is another tax cut for working families. Nearly 7 million American families paid over \$3 billion because of Obamacare's individual mandate tax, and 80 percent make less than \$50,000 a year. The Obamacare individual mandate is one of the most regressive taxes in the nation, punishing work and savings and hurting those least able to pay. Repealing it is a critical, if partial, fulfillment of the larger promise to end the disaster of Obamacare.

America's families have already waited too long for tax cuts that let them keep their hard earned dollars and care for their families. We must not fail them. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will simplify the code so that it is fairer for families and individuals, while also encouraging the economy to grow, leading to the creation of more jobs and higher wages.

For all these reasons, Faith & Freedom Coalition will include the vote on Conference Report to H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) in our Congressional Score and voter guides as a key vote in the 115th Congress.

Thank you for considering the views of our millions of members and supporters.

TAXPAYERS PROTECTION ALLIANCE.

The Taxpayers Protection Alliance (TPA), representing millions of taxpayers across the country, urges the House of Representatives to vote YES for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. TPA is encouraged by the final tax reform package crafted by the conference committee. This legislation will provide comprehensive tax relief for millions of Americans.

The conference report has many positive aspects, including a doubled standard deduction, a 21 percent corporate rate, and a \$2,000 child tax credit. This legislation allows the economy to flourish, as small businesses get the green light to expand, hire, and increase wages. Individuals and families will have an easier time saving for education and retirement, with the thousands of dollars in annual savings from the legislation.

Additionally, the repeal of the Obamacare individual mandate penalty relieves an onerous burden for taxpayers while saving hundreds of billions in exchange subsidy payments. Taxpayers will finally have the freedom to forgo health insurance if they choose,

• 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.

without risking penalty from the federal government. TPA is pleased that the conference committee offers a plan that sharply curtails government while giving power back to hard-working Americans.

TPA urges every Congressman to vote YES on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

CLUB FOR GROWTH.

Re key vote alert—"YES" on Conference Report to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, H.R. 1.

The Club for Growth supports the conference report to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (HR 1) and we urge all members of Congress to vote YES on it. A vote is expected in the next few days. The vote will be included in the Club's 2017 congressional scorecard. This bill is not perfect, but it's still very pro-growth. Some of the more pro-growth elements of the bill include lowering the corporate tax rate down to 21%, a new 20% deduction for pass-through businesses, doubling the Death Tax exemption, and moving to an international territorial tax system. The bill also modestly lowers individual tax rates and doubles the standard deduction.

The Club for Growth urges immediate passage of HR 1. Congress should also begin work on another pro-growth tax bill for next year that addresses other parts of the tax code left untouched by this proposal.

Our Congressional Scorecard for the 115th Congress provides a comprehensive rating of how well or how poorly each member of Congress supports pro-growth, free-market policies and will be distributed to our members and to the public.

FREEDOMWORKS.

KEY VOTE YES ON THE CONFERENCE REPORT FOR THE TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT, H.R. 1

On behalf of our activist community, I urge you to contact your representative and senators and ask them to vote YES on the conference report for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, H.R. 1. This final agreement on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act provides much-needed relief to taxpayers across the country and to American businesses alike.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act lowers individual rates for the vast majority of taxpayers. In addition, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act nearly doubles the standard deduction, meaning Americans keep more of their hard-earned money, and doubles the child tax credit from \$1,000 to \$2,000. This bill also provides relief by doubling the exemption amount from the unfair death tax.

Pass-through business owners, who file their taxes on their individual tax return, will be able to take a 20 percent deduction. This lowers the tax burden currently faced by pass-through businesses, which, according to the Tax Foundation, employ 70 million people, and promotes fairness.

America's business community will also see added growth as a result of the policy changes in this bill. The corporate tax rate will be lowered substantially from 35 percent to 21 percent, making American businesses more globally competitive and allowing them the resources they need to innovate and create jobs. It also eliminates confusion and complexity so job creators can focus on building their company and hiring working Americans.

This bill also repeals the harmful ObamaCare individual mandate, a coercive tax on Americans. It's estimated that 80 percent of households subject to this tax earn less than \$50,000 per year. This is an unnecessary hardship being placed on working Americans. The federal government should not punish individuals who cannot afford ObamaCare's costly health insurance plans or decide it is not the best course for them.

For these reasons, I urge you to call your representative and senators and ask them to vote YES on the conference report for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, H.R. 1. FreedomWorks will count the vote on our 2017 Congressional Scorecard. The scorecard is used to determine eligibility for the FreedomFighter Award, which recognizes Members of the House and Senate who consistently vote to support economic freedom and individual liberty.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE UNION OF NIGERIAN FRIENDS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Union of Nigerian Friends for its 30 years of service to Forest Hill and the North Texas community.

In 1987, the Union of Nigerian Friends was founded in order to provide a safe environment for dialogue on issues that affect the political, economic, and social progress for Nigerians here in my home state of Texas. Since its establishment 30 years ago, the Union of Nigerian Friends continues to promote cultural awareness and unity among all Nigerians and Americans, while serving as a shining example of civic engagement for our community.

The Union of Nigerian Friends takes great pride in its active civic participation through its numerous community partnerships in the areas of business, family recreation and education. For their longstanding excellence in community engagement Mayor Lyndia Thomas of the city of Forest Hill, Texas recognized the Union of Nigerian Friends for their success.

I honor the Union of Nigerian Friends 30th anniversary celebration.

TRIBUTE TO JEAN AND HOWARD GILLESPIE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jean and Howard Gillespie of Red Oak, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on September 20, 2017.

Jean and Howard's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 65th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 65th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them nothing but the best.

IN HONOR OF ALEXANDRIA WINNING CLASS 5A WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL STATE TITLE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Alexandria High School for winning the Class 5A State Title.

The Valley Cubs sealed their victory by beating Lawrence County High School on November 2nd at Bill Harris Arena in Birmingham in three sets for the Class 5A State Title: 25-23, 25-16, 25-13.

The Head Coach is Whitney Welch and Assistant Coaches are Kelli Johnson and Toni Hess. Players include: Kendal Bumpus, Madison Chastain, Kinsley Gregoria, Kaitlin Harvey, Anna Johnson, Kate Johnson, China Lane, Gracie Muncher (All-State Team), Aubrey Pope (All State Team), Kyleigh Rhodes, Taylor Spradley (Class 5A MVP), Kameron Simpson, Kayleigh Steen and Mattie Wade (All State Team).

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the students and faculty of Alexandria High School, the coaches, the players and all the Valley Cubs fans on this exciting achievement. Go Valley Cubs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 697.

TRIBUTE TO NIX LAURIDSEN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Nix Lauridsen of Des Moines, Iowa, for his induction to the 2017 Iowa Business Hall of Fame.

The Greater Des Moines Committee founded the Iowa Business Hall of Fame in 1975 to honor Iowans who have helped to enhance the state's business climate. Nix is the co-founder and chairman of Lauridsen Group, Inc which oversees several independent companies that operate processing plants worldwide. Gaining his first experience in the processing industry at his father's rendering plant Boyer Valley, Nix's companies have pioneered the development of value-added products from the separation of plasma from red cells, as well as adding plasma to swine diet that reduced baby pig mortality from 10 percent to 2 percent. Outside of business, Nix has been a major advocate for education and the arts in Des Moines.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Nix on his induction to the 2017 Iowa Business