

as a result of the kingdom's failure to honor its contractual obligations. In an effort to bring about a fair and expeditious settlement for GHI and other American companies with claims against Saudi Arabia, Congress established a special claims process following hearings before the House Foreign Affairs Committee. GHI is the last remaining company whose claim has not been paid by the Saudi Arabian Government under this process.

For more than a year, a bipartisan coalition in both the House and Senate, as well as the administration, have worked to fairly resolve the GHI claim. At several points during this process, Saudi Ambassador Bandar and other high-ranking Saudi officials made commitments to Congress and the administration that the GHI claim would be resolved in a fair and expeditious manner and that no effort would be spared in resolving the GHI claim. During this time, Congress and the administration have been lead to believe that the Saudi Government was committed to working toward a fair settlement of the GHI claim. As recent as 3 months ago, Ambassador Bandar meet with, and gave assurances to, Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG and GHI's chairman that a shared commitment existed to achieve a prompt and fair resolution of the claim. This was followed by explicit commitments from high-level Saudi officials in both Washington and Riyadh that this claim would be paid. Unfortunately, in a recent communication to GHI, the Saudi Embassy contradicts these explicit commitments.

I am dismayed by the delaying tactics of the Saudi Embassy. It is my belief that what should have been an open and closed issue is beginning to grow into a significant strain on United States-Saudi relations. The Saudi Government's disregard for this American company that has provided services to the kingdom is unacceptable.

The time is now for the Saudi Government to live up to its commitments to me, my colleagues, the administration, and GHI. My colleagues and I require a full and prompt payment of this claim to successfully conclude this important claim issue.

TRIBUTE TO SAM IRMEN

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 1995

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in tribute to a man who for 46 years has represented the very best traditions of citizenship, corporate involvement, and support for his community.

Sam Irmen began his career at a time when employers and companies were truly involved in their communities and served as a base of support and stability for their communities.

Sam began his career with the Andersons of Maumee, OH, 46 years ago, and rose to the position of vice president and group manager of the grain division. And for those 46 years, he sought to share with his community and advantages his position gave him and the resources that his company could utilize to better his community.

To Sam and his wife Charlee and their seven children, both his company and his community, Maumee, OH, were there home. Sam never stopped contributing. He served on

the elementary school board, as president of the church's parish council, and as president of the school board at St. John's High School. He also served as a member and past vice president of the Maumee Chamber of Commerce.

Good men and women can contribute endlessly when their companies encourage participation. Over the course of his 46 years with the Andersons, Sam's business participation stretched throughout the business community. He is a member of the board of directors at Mid Am National Bank & Trust Co., a member and past president of the National Grain and Feed Association and past chairman of the Grain Grades and Weights Committee, a member and past international president of the Grain Elevator and Processing Society, and a member of distinction of the Grain Elevator and Processing Society.

In addition to these contributions and responsibilities, Sam has led numerous government and trade task forces, served three terms as president of the Toledo Board of Trade, and was a designated representative of agriculture on Ohio Governor Celeste's 1984 Ohio Trade Mission to the Far East.

Simply put, Sam Irmen's career and contributions to his community deeply reflect the bonds that should join every company to its community.

I would like all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Sam, his wife Charlee, and their wonderful family for 46 years of service and contributions to his company and his community. My fervent hope is that his career will become a lesson for future employees and their companies. His is an example we should all emulate.

INTRODUCTION OF A JOINT RESOLUTION PROPOSING A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 1995

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce, with Representatives CONDIT and GILLMOR, a joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. I plan to offer this legislation as an amendment in the nature of a substitute to House Joint Resolution 1, when the House considers that bill later this week.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is substantially similar to House Joint Resolution 1, but with two crucial differences. First, this legislation strikes the three-fifths provision to raise taxes contained in section 2 of House Joint Resolution 1. While I am steadfastly opposed to raising taxes, the controversy surrounding this provision could hamper passage in the Senate and make it more difficult to achieve the requisite two-thirds vote in the House of Representatives.

Second, this legislation includes a provision prohibiting new unfunded Federal mandates. We strongly believe that a ban on unfunded mandates is essential to prevent a future Congress from balancing the Federal budget merely by shifting costs and responsibilities to State and local governments.

The supporters of the other versions of the balanced budget amendment contend that

there are only two ways to balance the budget—either by cutting spending or increasing taxes. But the truth is there's a third, more insidious option where the Congress would mandate expensive Federal programs onto State and local governments and require local taxpayers to pick up the tab. Judging from the past, it is clear that Congress will use any means available to avoid hard budget choices. I believe that closing the unfunded mandates loophole is imperative to preserve the integrity of the balanced budget amendment and ensure protection for local taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, including an unfunded Federal mandates provision as part of the balanced budget amendment is the only ironclad way to protect local taxpayers. Although I welcome and support efforts to solve the unfunded mandates issue by passing a statute, the sorry fact is that Congress is adept at finding ways to circumvent statutory law in order to escape from fiscal accountability.

Additionally, it is important to note that Republicans and Democratic Governors have rightly expressed their reluctance to encourage their State legislatures to ratify a balanced budget amendment without a provision specifically prohibiting new unfunded Federal mandates. Inclusion of a provision to ban unfunded Federal mandates will markedly improve chances of ratification by the States.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation has the support of the National League of Cities and the National Conference of State Legislatures [NCSL]. The support of NCSL is especially noteworthy, as it is their members who will be ultimately deciding the fate of the balanced budget amendment.

Consideration of the balanced budget amendment presents Congress with a unique and historic opportunity to permanently resolve the issue of unfunded Federal mandates. Moreover, it provides assurance that Congress will not meet its obligations under the balanced budget amendment by imposing unfunded mandates on State and local governments. I urge my colleagues to support the Franks-Condit-Gillmor balanced budget amendment, which I believe represents the version of the balanced budget amendment that will be most enthusiastically ratified by three-fourths of the States.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF WILLIAM BEHAN

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 1995

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor Mr. William (Bill) Behan, a resident of Woodbridge, VA, a dedicated American and outstanding public servant. Mr. Behan has officially announced his retirement from the Federal Aviation Administration, and will retire on February 3, 1995.

Mr. Behan will have accumulated over 33 years of combined Federal service, starting with the U.S. Marine Corps in 1961 and 24 years with the FAA beginning in 1971. In his 24 years with the FAA Mr. Behan has held many different positions in numerous States.