

Cross to Lieutenant Colonel Harold Cohen, United States Army Retired, for extraordinary heroism in action. Lieutenant Colonel Harold Cohen distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism on February 25, 1945, when the situation became untenable during his battalion's attack upon Brake, Germany. Small arms, artillery and direct fire came from all directions. Colonel Cohen took a position of high ground in plain view of the enemy. Oblivious to all danger and constant fire that fell all about him, directed tank fire and lifted friendly artillery fire that was falling too close. His personal bravery, inspiring leadership and tactical skill retained the initiative and gained the important objective. Lieutenant Colonel Harold Cohen's quick heroic actions and personal courage reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

Harold Cohen heads up my military academy appointment committee. I am very proud that Harold Cohen and his wife Bettye are my good friends.

There are two people who tonight are not with us, Gen. George Patton and Gen. Abe Abrams, who are very proud of Harold Cohen. They rolled over tonight and smiled as Harold Cohen received the Distinguished Service Cross from General Reimer. They are proud of you, Harold, as am I.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. BARR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BARR of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

BILL PASSES HOUSE INCREASING PENALTIES FOR WITNESS AND JURY TAMPERING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support this week of legislation which I brought forward through the Committee on the Judiciary.

I wish to thank the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HYDE], chairman; the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MCCOLLUM], chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime; the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CONYERS], ranking member; and the gentleman from New York [Mr. SCHUMER], subcommittee ranking member. Each of them played a part in making sure legislation which I introduced and unanimously passed this week which calls for additional penalties for witness intimidation, as well for juror tampering and juror intimidation.

This legislation was the outgrowth of an article that was part of a series in the Wall Street Journal which outlined a few years ago the fact that some of our Federal defendants saw fit to use self-help and intimidation on witnesses and jurors to get out of the substantive crime for which they were charged, and they had rather do that because the

law actually provided at that time the disincentive to use the tampering and risk maybe being found guilty of tampering, and they were, but they were found not guilty because of self-help, an illegality, of the major charge. Our legislation this week will change all that.

From now on, hopefully with the Senate's approval and the President's signature, our legislation this week will make sure that the penalties will be equal, the substantive events and the offense as well to tamper with witnesses and jurors.

I know that this will do a lot for us across the country. My own District Attorney Michael Marino from Montgomery County, PA, who endorsed legislation early on and also helped us receive the endorsement of the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association had outlined very well that this legislation would very much help him prosecute criminals because witnesses and jurors would feel more secure.

In our neighboring county in Philadelphia, District Attorney Lynn Abraham had for a long time desired this kind of legislation because she has had difficulty getting the high conviction rate she wants for homicides. While her office does an excellent job, they are plagued with a problem of witness and juror intimidation in their cases.

Legislation like this and similar legislation to be passed in the 50 States for the State courts will go a long way for us in helping to make sure that prosecutions proceed, that justice prevails, and that those who are charged with crimes cannot use self-help any longer to exculpate themselves from those crimes and interfere with the court system.

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I also wish to note this week that this was an excellent week for our crime victims because three other bills were passed.

Megan's bill, by DICK ZIMMER of New Jersey; that legislation will require the registration of known sex offenders.

And, as well, legislation from DICK CHRYSLER of Michigan, that is going to add additional penalties for those who would commit violent crimes against children or violent crimes against seniors. They will in fact receive greater sentences than the Federal statutes call for today.

And, finally, legislation from ED ROYCE of California. This was a quest of his constituents, many of whom had come forward to him and especially one witness who appeared this week at the Capitol, explaining to us in very poignant terms about the problems of stalking in her State, the threats to those who are stalked and how we need tough Federal laws to prevent this crime and strong, stiff sentences for those who would commit. ED ROYCE'S bill this week will for the first time put teeth into the law, discourage stalking, and make sure that those who commit such heinous crimes will have to answer for them.

So I am happy to congratulate my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their bipartisan effort to help us fight crime, improve public safety, and make sure that our courts are in fact free of the intervention by those who would destroy the system, create threatening situations for victims, I think destroy the public's confidence in our own law enforcement. But these bills this week have made a difference.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their support, and I thank the Speaker and my colleagues for your indulgence tonight.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for one half of the time remaining before midnight as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I know that the hour is late, but I would like to address the Speaker and my colleagues tonight because today, in fact yesterday but we received more information today, the Republican leadership unveiled their budget, their budget for the next fiscal year. Very upsetting to me and I think particularly to senior citizens throughout this country, once again we see that the budget is very heavily dependent on cuts in Medicare and Medicaid, primarily once again to pay for tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans.

I think that we know that in 1995, all of last year, we went through a series of efforts with the Republican leadership budget to try to oppose what Speaker GINGRICH and the Republican leadership were trying to do to Medicare. They repeatedly came up with budget initiatives that would have cut Medicare and Medicaid severely, again primarily to pay for tax breaks, and again those tax breaks primarily to wealthy Americans.

I had hoped because of the battle that ensued, that was largely taken up by Democrats against this proposal, that we would not see it raise its ugly head again. But in fact it has, and yesterday and today and I am sure over the next few weeks we are going to see again an effort to basically use the budget and use the cuts in Medicare and essentially pay for the Republican-proposed tax breaks on the backs of senior citizens.

Now, I know I am going to hear over and over again from the Republican side that that is not really what is happening here, what we are really trying to do is somehow protect Medicare, or that somehow the level of cuts that are being proposed by the Republican leadership are not that different from some of the things that the President or some of the Democrats have proposed over the years.

But I would point out that there are major changes in the Medicare and