

Hawaii. Bud is chairman of the board of Wil-son Insurance Agency, Inc., an independent insurance agency located in Chula Vista.

Bud's career as an independent insurance agent has been marked with outstanding dedication to his clients, his community, IIAA, the State association—the Insurance Brokers and Agents of the West [IBA West]—his colleagues and his profession.

On the State level, Bud served IBA West on various committees and as president in 1981. From 1983–1986 he served as the IABC representative on IIAA's board of State national directors. In 1987, Bud received the P.S.W. Ramsden Memorial Award, the highest honor bestowed by the California State association.

Bud's love of politics and legislative affairs served him well during four highly successful years as chairman of IIAA's government affairs committee. In recognition of his outstanding work on behalf of all independent agents as government affairs committee chairman, Bud was bestowed IIAA's Sydney O. Smith Legislative Award in 1994.

Bud was elected to IIAA's executive committee in 1994. In the time since, he has exhibited a spirit of dedication and concern for his 300,000 independent agent colleagues around the country.

Bud's selfless attitude also extends to his involvement in Chula Vista-area community activities. He is past-president of the Chula Vista Rotary, the Chula Vista Jaycees, the Chula Vista Community Hospital Board of Trustees and the Chula Vista Salvation Army. He also has been involved in numerous other Chula Vista community projects.

I have complete confidence that Bud will serve with distinction and provide strong leadership as president of the Independent Insurance Agents of America over the next year. I wish him and his lovely wife, Sandra, all the best as IIAA president and first lady.

IN SUPPORT OF THE BALANCED
BUDGET ACT (H.R. 2015)

SPEECH OF
HON. BOB RILEY
OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 30, 1997

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Balanced Budget Act. Before I begin, I want to commend Speaker GINGRICH, Chairman KASICH, and even President Clinton for their hard work on this historic legislation.

For too many years Congress has made broken promises and half-hearted attempts to balance the Federal budget. With a national debt in excess of \$5 trillion, we cannot wait another day.

I am committed to enacting a balanced budget for the sake of our children and their future.

This Balanced Budget Act is a giant step forward. It begins to scale back the size and scope of Government, ensuring our children the ability to invest in their future rather than paying our bills. By balancing the budget in a real and credible way, we have ensured that the real winners in this agreement are not politicians in Washington but working Americans across the country.

When I decided to run for Congress, my message was simple, the Federal Government

must learn to exercise the same fiscal restraints that families and businesses operate under each and every day.

The Balanced Budget Act will once and for all put an end to the reckless spending of the past. By reigning in excessive and irresponsible Government spending we can pass along the savings to the American people.

The economic rewards of a balanced budget include, lower interest rates, a healthier and promising economy full of opportunities for our children and grandchildren, a sound Medicare system, and more money left in working Americans' pockets.

By holding Government programs accountable and forcing Government to live within its means—as Alabama families and businesses do—we are able to deliver a smaller and smarter Government that works for the people, instead of forcing Americans to work for Washington.

Mr. Speaker, a balanced budget is not about numbers, its about people and families. Most important, its about our moral obligation to stop robbing future generations of the opportunities and prosperity they deserve.

It is irresponsible for us to keep passing our burdens onto our children. The time has come for Congress to represent the will of the people and take responsibility for balancing our Federal budget.

The Balanced Budget Act achieves fiscal responsibility the right way. By protecting seniors, providing health care for children, and ensuring veterans benefits. We have proven that we can balance the Federal budget without harming the most vulnerable in society.

This historic legislation will enable us to provide needed tax relief to working families, save Medicare from bankruptcy, and restore power, money, and influence back to the people.

I urge my colleagues to support the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

IN MEMORY OF GENE SHOEMAKER

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, the scientific community lost one of its brightest stars this month when astronomer Gene Shoemaker was killed in an auto accident. His wife Carolyn was also injured and hospitalized. We should all say a prayer for her speedy recovery.

Dr. Shoemaker dedicated his life to advancing the frontiers of human knowledge and experience. He was slated to be one of the first scientists to visit the moon during the Apollo program until a minor physical impairment cost Gene his flight status. But that didn't stop his commitment to science or his passion for understanding our universe. Dr. Shoemaker pressed onward and upwards as a leader of the Lunar Ranger and Surveyor Programs over three decades ago. When the Apollo program came to an end, Gene focused on asteroids and meteors.

But Gene didn't give up his passion for Earth's natural satellite. Over two decades after leading America's first lunar science missions, he joined the science team for the Clementine mission, which discovered evi-

dence of ice on the Moon, making global headlines. Gene's years of studying asteroids and meteors convinced him that the evolution of the planets in our solar system has been changed by large asteroid and meteor impacts. Like many of the science community's best minds, Gene initially had to struggle against scientific orthodoxy for his theories to be considered. He persisted and his passion for the truth, for science, and for discovery won out. In 1994, we witnessed the most dramatic proof validating Gene's work. That year, the Shoemaker-Levy comet, which Gene, Carolyn, and their colleague David Levy discovered, crashed into Jupiter in the astronomical equivalent of the Fourth of July. Who could not be impressed or awed with reality's demonstration of Gene's vision? No matter what he was working on, Dr. Shoemaker always managed to make some of the most exciting discoveries in space science while exciting young minds about the possibilities for the future. I have little doubt that Gene and Carolyn shared the excitement of countless millions following the progress of the Pathfinder mission and its little rover Sojourner across the Martian soil.

As successful and important as Dr. Shoemaker's professional life was, his personal life stands as a monument to the better angels of our nature. With a twinkle in his eye, a gentleness in his voice, and calmness in his expressions, Gene Shoemaker proved every day that nice guys finish first. As a scientist, an outdoorsman, an individualist, and a teacher, Dr. Shoemaker's life made the world a better place. We will, of course, miss him and cannot help feeling the loss that his passing brings. Still, after reflecting on his professional accomplishments and the manner in which Gene lived his life, we cannot help but catch the infectious job with which he pursued new discoveries. That spirit lives on in the lives of those who crossed his path. It will carry us into a future that begins to realize the possibilities of Gene's vision.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to explain my vote yesterday against the conference report on H.R. 2015, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, and to express my opposition to adoption today of the conference report on H.R. 2014, the Revenue Reconciliation Act. Reconciliation has always meant one bill on revenues and spending, and these two bills must be viewed as a single package.

As many speakers before me have said, there are good things in both bills—restored SSI and Medicaid for legal immigrants; tax credits for children and for education; funds for health insurance for uninsured children; empowerment zones and brownfields; Medicare coverage of preventive services; funds to soften some of the worst provisions of last year's welfare reform.

Both bills are certainly far, far better than the versions that passed the House and the Senate—gone are the hits on Medicare beneficiaries; the consignment of workfare participants to a second class status; denial of child