

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JOHN M.
TAXIN

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late John M. Taxin, an outstanding Pennsylvanian and contributor to the unique character of the city of Philadelphia. On August 10, 1997, Mr. Taxin passed on at the age of 90 in his beloved city of Philadelphia. Born in 1906 as Morris Martin Taxin, he took the name John after the workers whom he sold produce to began calling him "St. John" for the kindness and charity he showed them when they were down on their luck. The name John has stuck with him ever since. Selling fruit from the back of a horse-drawn cart, Mr. Taxin became an entrepreneur at an early age. He soon had a booming wholesale business as one of the city's most successful purveyors of produce. During this time, he occasionally ate at Old Original Bookbinder's and thought that it could really be something special—if only it were run properly.

In 1940, with two partners, John Taxin bought Old Original Bookbinder's and within 5 years he owned the restaurant outright. During John Taxin's first year as the sole proprietor, it has been reported that Bookbinder's served 650,000 individual meals and generated close to \$10 million in revenue. John Taxin's hard work, shrewd business sense, and genius for public relations made Old Original Bookbinder's by the Delaware River, a favorite destination for visitors to Philadelphia and it continues to attract a who's who of the rich and famous. On any given day in the early years of John Taxin's ownership, diners at Bookbinder's might bump into Joe DiMaggio, Frank Sinatra or Danny Kaye.

In addition to his business success, John Taxin was famous for his philanthropy, his civic-mindedness, and his kind demeanor. Mr. Taxin was a major supporter of numerous charities including: the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Willow Crest-Bamberger Home for Convalescents, Israel Bonds, and St. Joseph's Hospital, where he purchased television sets for patient rooms, underwrote development of several wings and annually provided Christmas decorations. Quietly, John Taxin offered some Philadelphians a second change by providing them with employment after a period of incarceration. Of these employees he often told friends, "None of my guys ever let me down."

Mr. Speaker, in light of his kind and generous spirit, his many successful business ventures and his contributions to the city of Philadelphia, I ask that my colleagues join me today in paying tribute to the late John M. Taxin.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL CHACEY

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Michael

Chacey, an outstanding student from my district in Kansas. Recently, Michael won the Veterans of Foreign Wars 1997 Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest for the State of Kansas. The program is now in its 50th year and requires high school student entrants to write and record a 3 to 5 minute essay on an announced patriotic theme. "Democracy—Above and Beyond" is this year's theme and over 109,000 students participated in the competition nationwide.

Michael is a recent graduate of Derby High School in Derby, KS. For his participation in the 1997 Voice of Democracy Program, Michael won the \$1,500 Silver Spring Memorial Post 2562 Scholarship Award. Michael is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Chacey and he plans a career in biology or law. He was sponsored by VFW Post 7253 and its ladies auxiliary in Derby, KS.

Following is Michael's award winning contest entry.

DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND BEYOND

1996-97 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: KANSAS WINNER MICHAEL CHACEY

"When people speak of government forms, they tend to speak of them in a hypothetical manner." "In a Perfect World, Anarchy would be the ideal form of government" or "On paper communism looks very good, it just isn't established correctly." Unfortunately these people leave democracy out of their hypothetical discussions. This is terribly disheartening, because whether in the real world, or in some imaginary, perfect one, the freedom, the liberty, and the decision making principles entrenched in a democratic society make democracy a form of government above and beyond all others. The best way to prove this is to compare democracy to other forms of government in both hypothetical and real situations.

For instance, in my English class the other day, we were talking about communism. My teacher said "Communism is probably the most ideal form of government, because it is the most universally fair for the people involved. The only reason it hasn't worked well is that no one has been able to set it up properly." Well, that in itself should show that maybe it's not such a good idea, but say, for the purpose of argument that it could be set up properly. Would it be so great? Decisions would still have to be made. How should we distribute our wealth? What taxes should be paid? Should we go to war with an aggressive nation? These are all questions that have to be answered by a government, and only one equitable way to do it comes to mind. Let the people affected by the decisions make the decisions, either directly, or through representation. Do you believe that the self appointed or military government form of communism or totalitarianism should make these decisions with little or no input from the citizens. Or, should a government, of the people, by the people, and representing the people's wishes make the choice that the majority of the people want? I personally believe the latter is the best. The only way to make sure that the people's wishes are carried out is to allow the people to choose the government. Moreover, they can replace any representative who fails to serve the people. Anarchy could not meet the citizens' needs due to lack of order, and due to lack of representation, no authoritarian government would be able to meet the people's wishes either, as time has proven. Only allowing the citizens to choose preserves their liberty.

Hypothetical situations aside, it is important to realize that it is not a perfect world, and these governments would not be set up

ideally. Winston Churchill once said that democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others. This is true because nothing is perfect. Unworthy men could always come to power. The government could always make poor decisions. But in a democracy, these problems can be solved. It is a self correcting government, which is the true power of democracy. The people have the power in democracy to replace the government officials. If representatives make poor choices, then the citizens in a democracy have the unique privilege to select new officials. Now, there is no guarantee that the people will make the correct decisions, but at least the government consists of individuals who at least the majority of the voters want, making it not only superior to other forms, but more fair.

I am proud to have a young man like Michael Chacey from my district. His remarks on democracy should be a reminder to us all that we are privileged servants in the best system of government in the world.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2264) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to the Istook amendment.

What we have is another attempt to do away with the title X program, which provides funding for family planning services. Services provided under title X reach out to many of America's teenagers who are already at risk in their everyday lives.

Family planning services are one way that these teenagers can receive guidance and education about issues confronting them about sex, reproductive health, contraception, and prevention of disease. By requiring teens to obtain parental consent in order to receive family planning services, and by mandating clinics to notify parents that their children are seeking such services, the Istook amendment will have the effect of decimating the entire family planning system in our country.

The teens we need to be most concerned about—the teens we are trying to prevent from having unwanted pregnancies or contracting a sexually transmitted disease—would become even more endangered if this parental mandate were to take effect.

Perhaps many people are forgetting what it means to be an at risk teen. At risk teens are not the children of many of us in this room today. At risk teens are not the children of parents they can talk to freely about many important issues and values that are affecting their everyday lives. At risk teens are more often trying to escape sexual or physical abuse within their own homes—even from their own parents.