

Brigadier General Thomas F. Riley passed away in Orange County on February 19, 1998. He was known to millions of us affectionately as just the General. Tom Riley embodied every virtue that we seek in our public service.

He was born just 2 days after the 4th of July in 1912 in Harrisonburg, Virginia. He received his training as an engineer at Virginia Military Institute. And he went on to serve his country for just one year short of 30 years in the United States Marine Corps.

He worked for another decade in the aerospace industry. Before 1974, President Reagan appointed him to fill out the remaining term of supervisor on the Orange County Board of Supervisors. He served for 30 years, nearly 30 years on the Orange County Board of Supervisors, where he was its chairman. In those years when he was not its chairman, he was always its most important person. He was reelected five times, always by large margins, to preside over what he always called the fabulous 5th District.

General Riley served his community in many ways, not the least of which was his service to his church. He was a Catholic, and he was a member of the Knights of Malta and the Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem.

He was always eager to assist. One of his favorite charities was the Sisters of the Sacred Heart. General Riley helped establish a fashion show known as the Gentleman's Haberdashery, an event that has become a beloved tradition in Orange County.

He was never alone in his efforts. His community was always anxious to serve him and to help him in his service. But most of all at his side for so long, for over 50 years, nearly 60 years, was his wife Emma Jane, who is with us today. She stood with him shoulder to shoulder in all of the hard work, and all the victories, and all the triumphs that he has achieved during a long life.

I know that I speak for all of us in Orange County when I say that our hearts and prayers are with you and your family in this time of your grief. But we must remember that, just as General Riley was not alone in this life, neither will he be in the next.

When he is laid to rest later today in Arlington National Cemetery, he will join the company of other American heroes whose watchwords were always duty, honor, and country. General Tom Riley was one of our heroes in California, and we will never forget him.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WHITHER THE BUDGET SURPLUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from California (Mr. RIGGS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address my colleagues on where I see our country going. I see a country where children come first and where integrity and virtue are honored, indeed, they are recognized and rewarded in American life and to the extent possible through our official government policies; an America where values and character still matter and where the American dream is still real and within reach for those who strive to achieve and succeed.

I believe I speak for most of my colleagues when I say that I want an America where Americans have more personal safety, more financial opportunity and security and more independence and freedom, and that the best way to do that is by lowering taxes, putting an end to judicial activism on the Federal bench, reforming and improving our education system, raising our education standards in this country, and demanding real results from our schools and holding our schools accountable for the performance of their pupils. I also believe that we need to strengthen families and communities in America and that, lastly, we need to restore fairness and morality in American life. So it is those goals and it is that vision that I would like to address today.

I want to begin, though, my remarks under this special order by admitting that I never thought that I would see the day before my House service where I would be able to take to the House floor and talk about a balanced Federal budget, that I would be able to participate in a debate about the Federal Government actually generating an annual budget surplus as opposed to an annual budget deficit like the deficits that we have run back here in Washington for over a decade. This is all brand new, this whole debate about surplus politics.

Let me first of all, while admitting that balancing the budget and generating a budget surplus presents a new challenge for those of us in positions of elected decision-making responsibility here in Washington, I will just again admit the obvious, what I think most

Americans would certainly recognize in their daily lives and in their homes and in their businesses: that we ought not spend the budget surplus before we actually have it in hand. That would be too much like business as usual in Washington. It would be, I think, continuing the very dubious and questionable budget practices of smoke and mirrors.

So let us say for a moment that we are still a ways away from the Federal Government and the Federal budget actually generating a budget surplus. However, this idea, this age of surplus politics does present a very new challenge for us and as the party, the Republican Party, the governing majority party in the Congress, the party of less government and less taxes, we are looking for ways to allow families to keep more of what they earn so that they can decide themselves how best to spend it. It is a very simple, fundamental principle of Republicanism. That is the Republican way.

So as we enter this debate in this new age of surplus politics, we want to make sure that those who earn the money are able to keep more of what they earn and that whenever possible, while fulfilling the primary and fundamental responsibilities of the Federal Government, we return more money from Washington to the people who earn it rather than recycle it through the bureaucracy here and then attempt to find various ways to spend it. The Republican way is again to allow families to keep more of what they earn so that they can decide how best to use that to meet the needs of their family.

The President and congressional Democrats, though, seem to be hostile to that idea. We have been able to, in a way, force the President and force congressional Democrats to go along with the idea of reducing taxes, and we were actually able to pass through this body and get enacted into law with the President's signature a tax cut. But it is clear, particularly if you hear the President's comments today talking about tax simplification, the idea of moving the country in the direction of a simpler, fairer, flatter Tax Code and tax system, perhaps a single rate of taxation, where we hear the President criticizing that as reckless, then we know that the President continues to resist our efforts to help families and to help our economy.

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So, we are now going to be debating here over the next few weeks and months an annual budget resolution. This would be, if you will, the budget blueprint for the Federal Government for the 1998 Federal fiscal year, and as we enter that debate, I believe we ought to be guided by several basic principles.

First of all, the best way to save Social Security is to make sure that we