

individuals still exceed PAC contributions in congressional races, that campaign contributions are protected by the First Amendment right of free speech, and that it is difficult to demonstrate a clear connection between campaign contributions and voting patterns. Yet I believe that the current system has serious problems and is in urgent need of reform.

#### *Buying access*

Money talks. The current system of campaign finance is anti-democratic. Those who have money clearly have a stronger voice in our representative democracy. The reverse is also true, that those without money have less of a voice. There is no doubt that under the current system they have gained more while the have-nots remain unrepresented or underrepresented.

Those who contribute can be paid back with access, time to discuss issues, and sometimes even a role in drafting legislation, which means other people are being shut out of the process. When the elected official walks into his office late in the afternoon and has ten phone calls to return but only time to make one, who gets the attention? Almost certainly the person who has contributed substantially to his campaign.

It is hard to challenge the cynical view that large contributors have bought their way into the White House and obtained access to powerful Members of both parties. My view is that the current financing system, if not constrained, will end up doing serious harm to representative democracy.

#### *Special favors*

Contributors usually want something in return for their political contributions—a subsidy, a contract, a tax break, a hand-out from the federal government. That costs taxpayers money and makes it difficult to control federal spending or properly allocate limited resources. The average American can also be affected more directly. For example, you pay more today for sugar because contributions from the sugar lobby are a significant factor in keeping sugar price supports on the books.

The system can be corrupting. Candidates are put in very difficult situations. It is almost impossible today to run a political campaign without accepting money that has some strings attached, even if the strings are subtle and not explicit.

#### *Enormous cost of campaigns*

The cost of campaigns for high office—driven largely by the cost of television—has risen to a point that it is destructive to the democratic process. Today, competitive House races can easily cost \$1 million, and the winners in Senate races on average spend well over \$4 million. The prospect of raising such amounts discourages many good people from running for office, and both parties now make a major effort to recruit wealthy candidates. Candidates have already started to run expensive political ads, indicating that the system is increasingly spinning out of control.

#### *Time spent fundraising*

Under the current system, the candidates have to spend a huge amount of time chasing money. A Senator running for re-election needs to raise a minimum of \$15,000 every week of his six-year term to try to hold on to his seat. Members are so involved in the system that they often don't realize the nature and the shape of the treadmill they are on. The more time Members spend raising money, the less time they are able to spend on public policy issues and meeting with constituents to discuss the issues. Members will often state that their vote is not for sale, but it is quite clear that their time is.

#### *Pressures to skirt limits*

The competition to raise money is so fierce that it can push people to the edge of the law if not over it. It's no accident that some of the biggest fundraisers in 1996 got into deep trouble after the campaign for raising large amounts of money from sources that were either forbidden or doubtful under the law.

#### *Numerous loopholes*

Even the current systems' rather mild restrictions on money in politics have numerous loopholes. "Soft money" can be donated in unlimited amounts to the political parties, rather than to individual candidates, but it can easily be diverted to individual campaigns. Through "independent expenditures" outside groups can come into a state and spend millions of dollars on television ads attacking a candidate as long as there is no coordination with the candidate's opponent. Spending on "issue advocacy" is growing even faster, as outside groups can spend millions of dollars in unreported funds for thinly veiled ads attacking a candidate as long as the ads don't specifically say to vote against him. All of this forces candidates to spend even more time fundraising to prepare for possible attacks from forces that are completely unaccountable to the voters.

#### *Undermines public trust*

The rising flood of money that flows into campaigns undermines public trust in government. By a four-to-one margin Americans believe that elected officials are influenced more by pressures from campaign contributors than by what's in the best interests of the country. Cynicism is always the worst enemy of democracy, and it has certainly been bolstered by our campaign finance system.

#### CONCLUSION

Reforming the current campaign finance system will be enormously difficult unless there is a much greater public outcry. Leaders of both parties simply do not see a need to change a system that has elected them. Members read the polls showing that the public has largely given up on the chances of reform. They know how infrequently campaign finance reform is brought up in their public meetings and in letters from constituents. And they know that people will rarely vote against them because of their failure to pass reform. If the system is to be changed, the American people will need to become more active in bringing that about.

### A VOICE IN OUR DEMOCRACY

### HON. MICHAEL D. CRAPO

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 1998*

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention an award-winning essay written by a constituent of mine on a subject I know is near to your heart—the importance of freedom and democracy.

I'm pleased to announce that Amanda Burtenshaw of Montevue, Idaho, has been honored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States with a VFW 1998 Voice of Democracy Scholarship Award. Amanda's broadcast script is an important reminder of the need to be active in our efforts to ensure that we continue to enjoy our freedom and rights. With all of today's headlines bemoaning the lack of appreciation America's youth has for civics, it is encouraging to know that those as young as Amanda understand the importance of democracy and freedom.

I would insert that award-winning script into the RECORD at this time.

1997-98 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION—"MY VOICE IN OUR DEMOCRACY"

(By Amanda Burtenshaw)

A small girl stands wide-eyed on the street curb, watching as the numerous wonders of the annual parade promenade through the streets. Her fascination is obvious as she stands among thousands of people enjoying the celebration. As three prancing white horses enter the scene, she recognizes the American flag, to which she pledges allegiance each morning in her first grade classroom. Dismayed at the inability to make her voice be heard above the crowd, she does the most appropriate thing she can think of. She raises to her full height of four feet, steps out as far into the street as she dares, and places a tiny hand over her heart as she watches, in reverent sincerity, Old Glory pass by. Few notice the innocent gesture, those that do chuckle and remark, "How cute!" The crowd grows silent, however, as a war-hardened veteran pulls his horse to the side and halts in front of the little girl. He leans down, speaking directly to her, but loud enough the crowd can hear. "Thank you," he solemnly states, "for showing proper respect to our flag. You are the first patriot I've seen today." With that, he salutes the girl gallantly and wheels to rejoin the procession, but not before the tears in his eyes are witnesses by the crowd. No one looks at anyone, and all sit and ponder upon what they have just witnessed.

Citizens of America, does it require an office of importance or a battle on the front lines to be an important member of our blessed country? Certainly not, for even through the simple placing of the hand on a heart, many can be affected. The key is to want to be involved, to want to make a difference. And still, wanting to make a difference is not enough, we must do all we can to put that want into effect. A common belief in our society says "faith without works is nothing", is this not so in the case of desire without action? Yet, I cannot make you take action . . . but I can lead by example. I am studying our form of government, and developing opinions and values of my own. I am getting involved wherever I can in organizations that will better my political knowledge. I am developing talents for effective public speaking and persuasive writing in order to make my "voice" understandable and easily heard. I am dedicating my life to my country, and though I may not die for the freedom of my country, I can live for the betterment of our democracy. I am a youth in America. I am the future of our country. My actions today will determine the conditions of tomorrow.

Everyday, I enjoy so many blessings that come with living in this country. I can put gas in my car and drive to a public school, where I can learn skills that will aid me in the job field later on. I have the freedom to choose my career, to marry whom I please, to have as many children as I want, and then to raise them in a society where they are encouraged to become the best they can possibly be. I can sit down to a meal at Thanksgiving, my family surrounding me, and feel safe in the security of my home, my town, and my country. The simple ability to say my prayers at night, to the God I have chosen as mine, in the manner I feel proper for me is the greatest blessing of all. Everything I have, I owe to America, and to the system so widely developed by the Fathers of this country, who were not afraid to make their voices heard. Is it asking too much to take the time out of my life to become involved in

the institution which secures my life, my liberty, and the pursuit of my happiness? I think not. And in the service of my country, I will learn to love it even more, and if the time comes to fight to preserve the freedoms of America, then I will, in the words of singer Lee Greenwood, "... Gladly stand up next to you, and defend her still today, for there (is) no doubt I love this land. God bless the U.S.A.!"

Thank you.

### INTRODUCING THE DISASTER VICTIMS TAX FAIRNESS ACT

#### HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 1998*

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, the devastating storms that swept through Alabama and Georgia on April 8, 1998, left hundreds, if not thousands, of people's lives in shambles. Many of these families have lost every thing they own—their homes, their clothes, their life's work. Some have lost much more.

Unfortunately, they are not the only people who have been hit by severe weather. Already this year, the President has declared 21 natural disasters affecting over 350 counties nationwide. In a time of tragedy when people are trying to pick up the pieces of their lives and rebuild, the last thing they should be faced with is filing their federal income tax returns.

Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, Treasury Secretary Rubin has directed the IRS to extend the deadline to file federal tax returns for victims of the weather related disasters in 1998. This means that the IRS will not assess affected taxpayers in these areas late-filing or later-payment penalties unless they file after the new deadline. However, by law, the IRS must charge these taxpayers interest—at the current rate of 8 percent a year—on any unpaid taxes from the original due date (April 15, 1998) until the tax is paid.

In my view, charging disaster victims interest on their unpaid taxes after the IRS granted them an extension is unfair and irresponsible. It constitutes an undue hardship that should be remedied as quickly as possible. The Secretary has done the right thing by extending the filing deadline. Now, Congress must step up to the plate and do its part. For this reason, I am introducing legislation which will allow Secretary Rubin to waive any interest charged to victims of a presidentially declared natural disaster.

The Disaster Victims Tax Fairness Act will amend Section 915 of the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-34) to include federal disasters that occurred in 1998. It will apply only to residents of a presidentially declared federal disaster area and interest abatement will be offered solely to taxpayers who were granted a disaster related filing extension.

Mr. Speaker, in light of the tremendous emotional, physical, and financial strain placed on the victims of natural disasters, I do not believe that the federal government should add to these people's hardship by charging interest on taxes not paid by the April 15, deadline. I urge you to bring this legislation to the floor as quickly as possible so Congress can do its part in helping the victims of these natural disasters.

IN MEMORY OF MIKE HOTZ

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 1998*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mike Hotz for his years of dedication to his business and his family.

Born in Cleveland in 1919, Mr. Hotz grew up on the South Side of the city. While living through the Great Depression, he learned the trade of his father at the family-owned tavern, Hotz Cafe. Mr. Hotz graduated from Lincoln High School in 1938. Recognizing the importance of serving his country on the battlefield, Mr. Hotz entered the armed services in 1942 at the height of World War II. As a staff sergeant in the Sixth Night Fighter Squadron, he fought in the Pacific and was awarded the Asiatic Pacific Theater Ribbon for his efforts.

After the war, Mr. Hotz returned to Cleveland to own and operate Hotz Cafe. While he served drinks and prepared food, he also helped his customers through hard times, dispensing financial and personal advice. Mr. Hotz joined the Alcoholics Anonymous Association in 1966 to share this much-needed advice to struggling alcoholics. He finally retired from the tavern business in 1982 and moved to Florida. When he returned to Ohio a few years later, he worked at a funeral home and continued to enjoy being near his family.

Mr. Hotz's devotion to his family exhibits his spirited nature and his love for humanity. He is survived by his loving wife Lottie, his son Michael, his daughter Michele, four grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

My fellow colleagues, join me in saluting the life of Mike Hotz, a devoted father, husband, and community servant.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI JACK M.  
ROSOFF

#### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 1998*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on May 16, 1998, Rabbi Jack M. Rosoff of Congregation B'nai Israel in Rumson, NJ, will be honored on the occasion of his retirement after 34 years of devoted service to his congregation and his community. It is a great honor for me to join in paying tribute to this great religious leader, who has done so much to foster positive values among young people and has courageously fought against bigotry.

Since 1964, Rabbi Rosoff has led the growth of the Congregation, quadrupling its members to the present total of 600 families. He has also presided over the expansion of the religious school, which now provides education for 300 students from kindergarten through grade 12. He developed the Israel Scholarship Program, enabling all junior students to spend six weeks in Israel. Rabbi Rosoff's organizational and motivational skills in the service of good causes was evidenced by raising over \$3 million for the United Jewish Appeal and Israel Bonds through inspiring High Holy Day appeals, as well as his organizing and chairing the first Madison Square Garden rally for Soviet Jewry. He led the annual

Walk for Israel, involving many synagogues in the Shore Area, and he led moving Holocaust Memorial Day Services every year.

Rabbi Rosoff has been devoted to every aspect of his service to the Congregation, officiating outstandingly at life's joyous events—Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, weddings and brides—as well as counseling families and individuals a times of sickness, stress and bereavement. He organized and led the Rabbi's Bible Study and other Adult Education activities, and every week, through his inspiring sermons, he urged the members of his Congregation to join him in confronting the most serious issues.

Rabbi Jack Rosoff bravely confronted discrimination everywhere he found it. When B'nai Israel, and a nearby Catholic church, were desecrated by vandals, he organized and led the response by more than 25 houses of worship in the Greater Red Bank religious community. He served as a strong influence in securing equal rights for women in all religious observances, and was a key figure in securing acceptance of women as rabbis in the Conservative movement.

Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Rosoff's list of associations, tributes and awards is a long one. Among his leadership positions were First President of the Shore Area Board of Conservative and Reform Rabbis, President of the New Jersey Rabbinical Assembly of United Synagogue and Rabbinical Assembly Representative to the American Conference on Soviet Jewry. He has served on the Board of Directors of Riverview Medical Center, Board of Directors of the Monmouth County Mental Health Association, where he chaired the Suicide Prevention Committee, Board of Directors of the Monmouth County Day Care Center, Board of Trustees of the Monmouth County Action Program and a member of the Planned Parenthood of Monmouth County Clergy Advisory Council. The Rabbi was Founder/Director of the Pastoral Counseling Institute for Clergy at Brookdale College, was a founding member of the Greater Red Bank Interfaith Council, and supported active participation in the Lunch Break program for the needy in the Red Bank area. He received the Jerusalem City of Peace Award from Israel Bonds and the Israel Solidarity and Aliyah Laregal awards for promoting tourism to Israel.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the Other Body was honored by Rabbi Rosoff's presence when he delivered the opening prayer at the United States Senate.

Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Rosoff has recently been battling cancer. Just as Rabbi Rosoff has prayed for so many during his years of service to Congregation B'nai Israel, our prayers are now with him. For his years of service, he has richly earned the admiration, gratitude and love of his Congregation and our entire community.

IN HONOR OF ASSUMPTION GREEK  
ORTHODOX 70TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 1998*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I have the honor to recognize Assumption Greek Orthodox Church and Cultural Center as they celebrate their 70th Anniversary on April 5, 1998.