

the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) for the Shoshone Reclamation Project. Regulations specifically preclude claims under the Color of Title Act when lands are withdrawn for Federal purposes.

The only option to remedy this situation is to pass H.R. 509. Both the BOR and the BLM support the transfer of title to the Steffens' estate. The bill preserves the rights of the federal government to own the mineral interests and transfers the right, title and surface estate to the Steffens.

Mr. Steffens' and his family occupied this property in good faith. I believe it's time for the issue to be resolved and ask my colleagues to favorably report the bill to the House floor.

H.R. 510 is another bill that the BLM supports which transfers forty acres of public land in Big Horn County, Wyoming, to John and Margaret Lowe.

Although there is a confusing history to this particular parcel, there is abundant evidence that the Lowe's claim to the land is justified.

The latest evidence comes at the hand of a Big Horn County assessor who wrote that based on other entries in the county records, the legal description of the land being transferred by the original patent should have included the forty acres under consideration.

The Lowe family, since acquiring the land in 1966, have paid taxes on the land since that time.

H.R. 510, although not the only alternative the Lowe's have in acquiring the forty acres, is the only alternative that will bring minimal additional expense to either the Lowe family or the BLM.

As I mentioned before, the BLM supports the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This concludes the call of the Private Calendar.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 30, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted to Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 30, 1999 at 10:21 a.m. that the Senate passed S. Res. 88.

Appointment: Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce
With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk.

AMERICANS AND THREE RECENTLY RELEASED SOLDIERS OWE REVEREND JESSE JACKSON THANKS

(Mr. LEWIS of California asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, there are three American soldiers who are celebrating freedom today. These young men have now been reunited with their families and are receiving needed medical care in Germany.

America is very proud of Steven Gonzales, Andrew Ramirez, and Christopher Stone. Like so many others now in harm's way, they served at considerable risk to their own personal safety. They suffered physical harm at the hands of their captors, and they emerged from captivity with crisp salutes to their superior officers with their heads held high.

As we celebrate their safety, let us not overlook one fact: These soldiers were released through the efforts of Reverend Jesse Jackson.

While I will continue to support our troops in their actions abroad, I applaud any potential avenue for peace. Reverend Jackson is not our Secretary of State, but in recent days he has achieved diplomatically what had not before been possible. America, like these three young men, owes him our thanks.

RESIDENTS IN NEW YORK BANNED FROM FLYING FLAG

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, residents of Brookshire Condominiums in Washingtonville, New York, have been banned from flying the American flag. Banned, ladies and gentlemen. In fact, they will be charged \$25 for every day that they fly the flag beyond the five holidays allowed. Unbelievable.

The sad fact is in America today we can burn the flag, but we may not be allowed to fly the flag. Beam me up. Is it any wonder America is so screwed up?

I yield back the lives of thousands of heroic Americans who gave their lives in battle while carrying Old Glory into battle.

HONORING AMERICA'S TEACHERS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of America's teachers, those people who rise every day to open up the world of learning to our children.

As a former public high school math and science teacher myself, I can attest to the amount of time, energy, creativity, and patience that it takes to take our students to the next step of discovery, be it in literature, calculus, music theory or physics.

Today, I would like to especially honor one teacher from my district in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania,

Elaine Savukas, from Hempfield High School.

Year after year, Ms. Savukas has brought a winning team of civics students to Washington to take part in the "We the People, The Citizen and the Constitution" 3-day academic competition on the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, as is shown in this picture of her class.

Her students know the Constitution probably better than many Members of Congress know it. She has instilled in her students a love of our history and brings civics alive. She stirs her students to excellence.

Mr. Speaker, there are excellent teachers like Elaine Savukas all over this country, and we are compelled to honor them not only this week but throughout the year as they help shape the minds and motivation of our leaders of the next millennium. I thank all our teachers.

SUPPORT JOINT EFFORT OF CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS AND RUSSIAN DUMA COUNTERPARTS TO FIND SOLUTION TO BALKAN CRISIS

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, a window of opportunity to find a peaceful solution to this conflict in Kosovo was opened this weekend in Vienna, Austria.

For my congressional colleagues and my Russian Duma counterparts who participated, those meetings represent a real and attainable step toward a lasting peace.

Obviously, this conflict represents one of the most serious challenges to international security since World War II. Most Members realize the power that many constructive Russian-American efforts can offer in finding a solution.

In that light, this bilateral conference agreed on a course of action which would withdraw Serbian troops from Kosovo, cease all military activities of the KLA, and end NATO bombing.

Once these measures are complete, the repatriation of the refugees, administered by an international peacekeeping force and the international community, can begin the healing and rebuilding process.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to support this joint effort to find a diplomatic solution to the Balkans crisis because, in my mind, peace is an exit strategy everyone can understand.

PASS EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL AND HELP DESPERATE, DESERVING FARMERS

(Mr. BERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, how many times do we have to come to the floor asking for help on behalf of the American farmer? How many more farmers have to go bankrupt before we pass the emergency supplemental? When is the Speaker going to stop holding America's farmers hostage and stop playing politics?

This could have been done months ago. The time to act is now. It is the right thing to do. America's farmers deserve to be treated better than this. Let us pass the emergency supplemental.

H.R. 1503, CAPITAL GAINS EXPANSION FOR FARMERS

(Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, a week ago I introduced a bill to correct a flaw in the Tax Code. H.R. 1503 would allow family farmers to take advantage of the \$500,000 capital gains tax break that many other Americans can take when they sell their homes. This bill expands the \$500,000 capital gains tax exclusion for principal residences to cover the entire farm.

Most family farmers are unable to take advantage of the capital gains tax break because they do not spend extra money investing in their principal residence, they spend it investing in their whole farm. As a result, the capital gains exclusion is of little help to farmers selling their land. It simply makes sense. Farmers should enjoy the same capital gains exclusion as other Americans.

Agriculture producers are faced with many challenges these days, and we need to look at a variety of issues to improve the situation in rural America. I believe this bill begins to correct one that we can control, an inequity in the Tax Code.

I ask my colleagues to join me along with the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY) in supporting H.R. 1503.

URGENT NEED FOR SUPPLEMENTAL AGRICULTURE FUNDING

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, since the Congress began in January, all have acknowledged the need to enact emergency legislation to assist our small farmers and ranchers.

The emergency supplemental appropriation for farm loans was the result of unprecedented demand for agricultural credit due to the persistent low commodity prices across our Nation.

The Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency, FSA, needs an additional \$152 million in fiscal year 1999 to provide credit and to deliver much-needed services to farmers and

ranchers because of the low prices and bad weather.

The conferees have yet to resolve the differences in the emergency agriculture supplemental so this desperately needed legislation can be brought to the floor of the House for passage of the conference report.

My colleagues, we truly, truly have an emergency. We must act now. The situation is urgent. Let us pass the emergency supplemental so our farmers of America can continue to provide the food and fiber we desperately need.

PRESIDENT HAS CREATED NATIONAL SECURITY EMERGENCY

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I call my colleagues' attention to this graph I have here. It shows that the President has neglected the defense budget for the past 6 years, while stretching our troops around the world. There has been laxity, inattention, and actual negligence in guarding our most valuable nuclear secrets.

I believe the President has created a national security emergency. There have been truly massive cuts in the defense budget in the area of weapons procurement, all this while using American troops in the role of social workers on humanitarian missions around the world. It is a recipe designed to leave our proud military in a state of emergency, unable to match resources with demands.

American servicemen deserve better. Those who serve our Nation should not be put in harm's way when our national security interests are not at stake, and they should be provided with the resources necessary to carry out our mission in a dangerous world.

The war in Kosovo has exposed for all the world to see our national security emergency.

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WEAPONS OF WAR ON OUR STREETS AND IN OUR SCHOOLS

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the Littleton, Colorado, tragedy yesterday, the gentleman from California (Mr. HENRY WAXMAN) and I sat at a hearing on the GAO report on the 50-caliber, state-of-the-art military rifle that is of Persian Gulf vintage.

The problem is that this armor-piercing sniper rifle, meant to bring down tanks and jeeps, has now infiltrated the States. GAO investigators went undercover in the National Capital area region and found dealers willing to sell the rifle even when the agent said he was interested in taking down a helicopter and in piercing a limousine.

All that is needed is an 18-year-old ID and no felony conviction. In contrast, you have to be 21 to get a handgun. Amazingly, there is no regulation of secondhand assault weapons.

Some of the weapons used at Columbine High School were bought at a gun show. Let us fill this loophole and keep the weapons of war off our streets and out of our schools.

WIC

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, better known as WIC, a program that has been providing short-term, low-cost preventive health services to young families who are at risk due to low income or nutritionally-related health conditions for 25 years.

Studies have shown that pregnant women who participate in WIC have longer pregnancies leading to fewer premature births, have fewer low-birth-weight babies, experience few infant deaths, and seek prenatal care earlier in their pregnancy.

And when I say it is cost effective, let me point out some real numbers to my colleagues. It costs \$22,000 a pound to raise a low or very low-birth-weight baby to normal weight, costs that are often covered by Medicaid. It costs only \$40 per pound to provide WIC prenatal benefits. These figures show that WIC is making a real difference.

I want to thank those who have made the program a success and wish WIC a happy 25th birthday.

TAX REFORM

(Mr. DEMINT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, I recently received a letter from Tori Smith, a senior at Dorman High School in Spartanburg, South Carolina. She wrote:

I think you take out entirely too much money for tax. That is my dad's money. He worked for it, not you, he should keep it all for himself. Also, young teenagers who have part-time jobs, trying to make a little spending money pay taxes too. I do not think you should take taxes from us until we are 18. That is my opinion, which should count.

Well, Tori, your opinion does count. And Mr. Speaker, she is exactly right. That is their money and they deserve to keep a lot more of it. They should not be punished for working hard for some extra money or saving for college.

On behalf of young women like Tori and the students at Dorman High School, I ask my colleagues to find the courage to reduce taxes and get rid of the oppressive Tax Code. Let us say, enough is enough. Let us replace it