

to those men and women who put love of country above all. We are free to speak our minds in this Chamber because, out there, they have accepted the job of keeping us free. We are able to run what we call political risks because they take on mortal risks.

We talk at some length about how to properly compensate our men and women in uniform. That debate goes on. But I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that we owe a humbling debt to America's servicepeople that goes far beyond the monetary. Indeed, it is not too much to say that, in the framers' phrase, they defend our lives and our sacred honor. Such a gift is truly beyond price.

#### LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THUNE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 83rd anniversary of Lithuanian Independence Day and the 10th anniversary of freedom from Soviet occupation. I am especially proud of my Lithuanian heritage at this time of the year.

From the first Independence Day on February 16, 1918 until their reassertion of their independence on February 16, 1991, freedom from foreign domination has been a hard-earned dream for the Republic of Lithuania.

The Lithuanian people withstood unspeakable abuse under Soviet military forces that occupied Lithuania from 1940 to 1991 with dignity and restraint. In Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, there are many reminders kept of the sacrifices made for freedom. The Vilnius KGB museum consists of a basement jail that has cells and torture chambers where secret police detained and interrogated Lithuanian prisoners before sending them into Siberian exile. The Lithuanian parliament building hosts a section of bullet-scarred barricades that were used in 1990 to ward off Russian tanks. Also, the Vilnius TV tower, which is the tallest structure in the city, has a monument to the 14 unarmed, freedom-loving Lithuanians who were murdered on January 13, 1991 by Soviet soldiers during their attempt to take over the tower.

In the 10 short years since the reestablishment of its independence, the Republic of Lithuania has restored democracy, ensured human rights, secured the rule of law, developed a free market economy, cultivated friendly relations with neighboring countries and successfully pursued a course of integration into the European Union. 2001 will be another critical year for Lithuania as it works to attract foreign investment and gain admission into NATO. Lithuania deserves our recognition for its perseverance in the face of immense challenges. It has proven not only to be a faithful friend

to the United States but also a tenacious ally, as demonstrated by their recent assistance in our peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia. I hope we will not jeopardize their future security by withholding NATO membership beyond 2002.

In closing, I would like to thank the outgoing Ambassador from Lithuania, Mr. Stasys Sakalauskas, for his service in Washington, D.C. and his dedication to improving U.S.-Lithuania relations. I also welcome the new Ambassador who will be named at the end of this month, and I look forward to working with him.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 83rd anniversary of Lithuanian independence.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, due to the cancellation of my flight, I missed the vote last night on H.R. 2, the Social Security and Medicare Lock-box Act of 2001. Had I been here, I would have voted in favor of the bill.

This legislation signifies our commitment to protect seniors' benefits. It ensures that Medicare and Social Security funds will only be used for their intended purposes and not be spent on other government programs. I believe this is a major step toward long-term reform that will assure all workers and retirees that these programs will be there for their future.

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#### REPEALING THE 5-YEAR LIMITATION ON INTEREST DEDUCTIBILITY FOR STUDENT LOANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to re-introduce a bill important to all students—H.R. . . In the 105th Congress, we passed legislation that allows students to deduct interest paid on student loans. We did this to make it easier for all Americans to bear the enormous costs of higher education, and I supported this effort whole-heartedly.

My bill improves this law by removing the current 60 month limitation period for deducting student loan interest. As the law currently stands, if your student loan is older than 5 years from when it came due, you are not eligible for a tax deduction.

This limitation needs to be removed. Higher education has become increasingly expensive and is creating a financial burden on graduates well beyond the first five years of graduation. According to the General Accounting Office, the average student loan in 1980 was \$518; in 1995, it rose to \$2,417, an increase of 367%. Tuition at 4-year public and private colleges and universities has risen nearly three times as much as median household income in the past 15 years. As a result, it is becoming harder for students to graduate from college or graduate school without the help of student loans.

Students that graduate with student loans start out a few steps behind those without it.

It is harder for them to save for emergencies or to invest money for their future. It is also harder for them to meet day-to-day expenses. This tax deduction will help.

All interest accrued on student loans should be deductible. Congress can send the message that we value higher education and recognize the financial responsibility students have made by allowing the student loan deduction for the life of the loan.

This will do two things: It will encourage individuals to go to college or graduate school, and it will reduce the cost of an education. Mr. Speaker, I believe very strongly that the way to achieve the American Dream is through education, and that everyone should have this opportunity.

It is absolutely essential that we continue to invest in our most important hope for our children—education. I urge my colleagues to support my bill, H.R. . .

#### PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, 107TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting the attached Committee on Ways and Means rules for the 107th Congress for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD pursuant to House Rule XI, Clause 2(a)(2).

The Committee adopted these Rules on February 7, 2001.

If you have any questions please contact John Kelliher at x69150.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—MANUAL OF RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS FOR THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS, ADOPTED FEBRUARY 7, 2001

(Prepared for the use of the Committee on Ways and Means by its staff)

#### FOREWORD

This manual has been prepared to assist Members of the Committee on Ways and Means, its staff, and the public. It presents in two parts various rules that affect the organization and procedures of the Committee on Ways and Means. Part I contains rules adopted by the Committee for the 107th Congress. Part II contains selected Rules of the House of Representatives, which are also a part of the rules of the Committee, affecting all standing committees of the House.

#### PART I.—RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS FOR THE 107TH CONGRESS

Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, provides in part:

\* \* \* 1. (a)(1)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (B), the Rules of the House are the rules of its committees and subcommittees so far as applicable.

(B) A motion to recess from day to day, and a motion to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution, if printed copies are available, each shall be privileged in committees and subcommittees and shall be decided without debate.

(2) Each subcommittee is a part of its committee and is subject to the authority and direction of that committee and to its rules, so far as applicable.\* \* \*

\* \* \* 2. (a)(1) Each standing committee shall adopt written rules governing its procedure. Such rules—

(A) shall be adopted in a meeting that is open to the public unless the committee, in