

stand in the way of faster economic growth. Besides the significant changes outlined in the plan, let me take this opportunity to mention a couple of other items the President talks about in his agenda for small business—streamlining small business regulations and the need for tort reform to curtail frivolous lawsuits.

We know that small businesses are hardest hit by regulations. Firms employing fewer than 20 employees face an annual regulatory burden of \$6,975 per worker—60 percent more than a firm employing 500 or more people. And tax compliance costs are twice as burdensome on small businesses compared with their larger counterparts. The Federal government has a new web site—www.regulations.gov that makes it easier to participate in Federal rulemaking. Small businesses can review and submit comments on proposed regulations that are published in the Federal Register. Americans spend nearly a trillion dollars a year complying with state and federal regulations, so having this website provides an opportunity to hear from those unfairly burdened.

Tomorrow, I will be testifying before the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on another Administration priority—the need for Congress to pass Association Health Plan (AHP) legislation to help small business have access to affordable health care for their employees. Another issue that the community has been very proactive in pursuing.

Taken together, these changes send a strong signal that this Administration understands that our economy can thrive only if our small businesses thrive. As the economy continues to trend upward, America's small businesses can be counted on to continue to provide strength, resilience and optimism. Thanks to the President's aggressive agenda, small business owners can count on an environment in which their efforts will be encouraged and their success will be sustained.

Thank you again for including me in today's discussion, and I look forward to working with you in the months ahead to achieve passage of the President's economic growth plan.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit for the RECORD how I would have voted on those measures from the week of January 27, 2003. I was in Albuquerque, NM, last week as a family member underwent surgery and unable to make it to Washington, DC.

On rollcall 13, with regard to H.J. Res. 26, Honoring the contributions of Catholic schools, offered on January 27, 2002, had I been present I would have voted in favor of the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

On rollcall 14, with regard to H.J. Res. 25, Supporting efforts to promote greater awareness of the need for youth mentors and increased involvement with youth through mentoring, offered on January 27, 2002, had I been present I would have voted in favor of the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

On rollcall 15, with regard to H.J. Res. 13, Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes,

offered on January 28, 2002, had I been present I would have voted in favor of the motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the chair.

On rollcall 16, with regard to H.J. Res. 13, Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes, offered on January 28, 2002, had I been present I would have voted for the motion to recommit with instructions.

On rollcall 17, with regard to H.J. Res. 2, Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes, offered on January 29, 2002, had I been present I would have voted for the motion to instruct conferees.

IN HONOR OF THE SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit, as they celebrate their 70th anniversary in holy ministry and service to others.

Founded in 1932 by Mother Josephine Finatowicz, the Sisters of the Holy Spirit began their legacy of caring for our most vulnerable citizens in two humble homes. Within those walls, the Sisters lovingly cared for the parentless children of our community. Later, the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland approached the Sisters with a request to provide a home for older adults who could not afford adequate housing.

This vision was the dream of Monsignor Gilbert Jennings, who left his specific request on the pages of his last will and testament. After his death, the Sisters agreed to fulfill his vision of the creation of a caring home for seniors. The 13 dedicated women of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit moved from their Cleveland neighborhood to their new convent built on the rolling farmland of Granger Road in Garfield Heights.

The Jennings Center for Older adults has evolved from a single story wood frame building to an extensive senior housing campus. From the beginning, the Sisters ran everything from the cooking to the nursing, to the administrative work. As in years past, the Sisters of the Holy Spirit continue to heal the hearts and souls of the residents of the Jennings Center.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit. Their commitment, kindness and caring for our children and our elderly have served to lift the spirits of countless individuals, families, and our entire community. We are blessed to have these angels—the Sisters of the Holy Spirit, bringing us light and hope, and asking nothing in return.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JULIAN FRANCIS DEPREE, JR.

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to say a few words

about the life of Julian Francis DePree, Jr. (Jeff) who died suddenly over the weekend from natural causes. He proudly served his country, was a successful and ethical businessman, a loyal husband, and a devoted father.

Jeff DePree, in the eyes of his family and friends, had a "larger than life" personality, but, first and foremost, he was a caring father to his four children and a devoted husband to his wife Joan. Jeff was born on March 9, 1944, in Mt. Kisco, New York. He later graduated from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, and received his Masters degree from Columbia University in New York City.

Jeff served his country in Vietnam as an Intelligence Officer in the 199th Infantry Brigade. He survived two tours of duty and was awarded two Bronze Stars for his service as well as an Air Medal. Jeff was also an avid sportsman and conservationist enjoying golf, boating, fishing, and racquet sports, a love for which he passed onto his children.

Jeff was also a keen businessman. He was co-founder of a financial services company that specialized in leasing and equity financing for major industrial projects. He became an industry leader among structured finance specialists and advised many of the nations largest finance companies on their investments. Jeff was very active in local community affairs, having served on the Lake Forest Hospital Board, as well as the City's Cemetery Commission.

Most of all, Jeff brought great fun to everyone. He was an excellent storyteller, singer, guitar player and dancer. When in the company of Jeff, his engaging and entertaining personality was infectious. Jeff was indicative of thousands of Americans who quietly go about their daily lives contributing to the greatness of our nation through their personal character and conduct.

Jeff's passing is an immense loss to his family and his community. His life was cut short, but I am certain his children will carry on his legacy in a way that would make their father very proud. I offer my condolences to his wife Joan, and his children Katie (Jess), Austin, Randy, Spencer and his grandson, William. May they take comfort in knowing they have been blessed to have had such a wonderful person in their lives. He will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM L. "BILL" O'DANIEL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William L. "Bill" O'Daniel of Mt. Vernon was appointed to the Illinois Senate in 1985 and was elected by an overwhelming margin in 1986 and has served this body with distinction throughout his eighteen years as a member.

During his five terms in the Senate, Senator O'Daniel, served as chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Conservation Committee, as Democratic Caucus Chair, and most recently as Democratic spokesperson of the Senate Agriculture and Conservation Committee.

Senator O'Daniel has also served on the Committees on Appropriations I, Elections and

Reapportionment, Revenue, Transportation, and State Government Operations, the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules, the Illinois Forestry Development Council, the Swine Disease Control Advisory Committee, the Agricultural Export Advisory Committee, the Interagency Rail Passenger Advisory Council, and the Board of State Fair Advisors.

Senator O'Daniel has amassed numerous legislative accomplishments which have enhanced the quality of life for the people of his southern Illinois district and all of the people of the State of Illinois, including State sales tax exemptions for farm machinery and oil field equipment, creating tax increment financing and enterprise zone designations to spur job creation and economic development, promoting sustainable agriculture and ethanol as an alternative energy source, and enacting tough penalties against persons who sell drugs on or near the grounds of places of worship.

Senator O'Daniel built a solid reputation as one of Illinois' foremost authorities on agricultural issues, he was appointed in 1977 by President Jimmy Carter to serve as state executive director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Prior to his appointment by President Carter, Senator O'Daniel served as a member of the Illinois House from 1974–77.

As a longtime farmer and businessman, a decorated World War II veteran and devoted family man, Senator O'Daniel brought to the Senate a common sense, bi-partisan approach to the business of the body that shall be remembered fondly by those who served with him.

We offer our best wishes to Senator William L. "Bill" O'Daniel upon his retirement from the Senate; we offer hope for a rewarding future with his wife, Norma, their five children and eight grandchildren, and one great-grand child.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE DODSON

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to George Dodson, a good friend and beloved retired Capitol Police officer, who passed away last summer.

George was one of the finest men I ever knew. He was on the Capitol Police force for over 30 years. Most of that time he worked as a plain-clothed detective. He was known all over the Capitol because of his professionalism, courtesy and friendliness. He later went on to help organize the Retired Capitol Police Officers Association.

George was close friends with many Members, including Bill Natcher of Kentucky and Speaker Jim Wright. He was always friendly to all Members and the many visitors who traveled to the Capitol each year.

George spent many years in the military prior to joining the Capitol Police force. He spent three years in the Air Force and five years in the Air National Guard. He was honorably discharged in 1967 at the rank of Master Sergeant.

George Dodson was a family man. He was married to his beloved wife Pat and enjoyed spending time with her whenever possible.

George was a life-long resident of Washington, D.C. and graduated from Armstrong High School in 1947. He was also very active in his church.

Over the years, George developed a love of trains and spent a great deal of time with his grandchildren sharing that love and interest.

He also was very interested in the new convention center being built downtown. He would spend a great deal of time downtown observing the progress of the convention center. In fact, many of the workers at the site got together and gave George his own hard hat.

George passed away on June 8, 2002. He was a great American who loved his family and Country very much. Mr. Speaker, this Country would be a much better place if there were more people here like George Dodson.

HONORING DRUG FREE WEEK ESSAY WINNER

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a special student from Gladewater, TX, Brittany Linder, who was a grand prize winner in the Red Ribbon Week "I am drug-free because . . ." essay contest sponsored last fall by the city of Longview Partners in Prevention. Brittany represents Weldon Intermediate school in the Gladewater independent school district and is a fourth-grade student of Mrs. Cathy Bedair. She is the daughter of John and Blane Linder and the granddaughter of my longtime friend, Carolyn Linder.

According to the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, although recent trends in youth drug use have stabilized, the rates of use remain at high levels. Youth substance abuse, as we know, can lead to many other problems, including the development of delinquent behavior, anti-social attitudes and numerous health risks. These problems not only impact the child but also the child's family, friends, community and ultimately society as a whole.

Brittany speaks to this issue in her essay: "I am drug free because if I take drugs, I would not be able to realize my dreams. I would not be able to be a good teacher, or mother. If I take drugs, I would hurt valuable brain cells and when I found my dreams, I would not be able to do it."

The essay entries from area fourth-graders were judged by LeTourneau University students. Throughout our Nation, dedicated teachers, parents, clergy, law enforcement officers, healthcare providers, local government officials and community volunteers are involved in various drug-prevention programs that raise awareness among our young people of the dangers of drug use. Beginning these programs at a young age is one key to their success, and I commend programs such as the Red Ribbon Week that seek to instruct and involve our young people in this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Brittany on her winning essay and commend her for taking a strong stand against the use of drugs.

HONORING THE VIETNAMESE NEW YEAR: TET, 2003

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Vietnamese New Year: Tet, 2003—Year of the Goat. In celebration of the new year, the Vietnamese Community in Greater Cleveland, Inc., will gather at St. Helena Catholic Church to rejoice with family and friends and enjoy Vietnamese culture and performances.

The Tet celebration will include recognition of volunteer leaders, Vietnamese food, and dancing and entertainment by the Vietnamese youth of Cleveland. As Tet is the time of year to pay homage to ancestors, visit with friends and family, and celebrate, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to the Vietnamese Community of Greater Cleveland.

This year marks the 27th year of the Vietnamese Community in Greater Cleveland's outstanding service to the Vietnamese community in my hometown of Cleveland, Ohio. Vietnamese heritage has long been important to Cleveland, and the Vietnamese Community in Greater Cleveland has played a vital role in ensuring that important cultural traditions continue to be embraced.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to honor and thank Le Nguyen, President of the Vietnamese Community in Greater Cleveland, for coordinating this wonderful evening of festivities. I would also like to honor the members of the Vietnamese Community in Greater Cleveland for their dedication to the Cleveland area.

Best wishes to all celebrating the Vietnamese Lunar New Year: Tet, 2003—Year of the Goat. I wish everyone a joyous and prosperous new year.

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL JOHN P. DAVIS

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Rear Admiral (Upper Half) John P. Davis, a native of Shelter Island, New York, who will retire from the U.S. Navy on February 1, 2003 after 35 years of distinguished service to the U.S. Navy and to our nation.

Rear Admiral Davis is well known to many members of this body. He has been the Program Executive Officer for Submarines since 1997. In 1998 he also becomes the Deputy Commander, Submarines, helping launch Team Submarine, an innovative organizational structure that unified many submarine-related acquisition and life cycle support entities into a single "submarine-centric" organization. The Team Submarine concept of operations is dedicated to eliminating the traditional "stove-pipe" structures and processes that create impediments and inefficiencies in submarine research, development and acquisition, ensuring that the operational needs of the fleet are met, today and in the decades to come, in an effective and affordable way.