this legislation. This is the most important legislation after the President's tax package that this Congress will consider this year.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 936

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 936.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CARSON of Indiana addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

ARMED FORCES TAX FAIRNESS

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because it is critical that the RECORD be clear about what happened earlier today on the floor of the House, and that we learn the right lessons.

The bill relating to Armed Forces Tax Fairness was supposed to be before us. The bill originally related exactly to that, tax fairness for those who are in the armed services. But it was decided before we met in committee, the Committee on Ways and Means, apparently by the leadership of that committee, that Members would be allowed to offer provisions totally unrelated to that important bill. A number of those in the majority decided to take that opportunity.

No Democrat participated in presenting any special interest or particular interest legislation. So what we saw was a flood of special interest or particular interest proposals totally unrelated to the critical issue of armed services tax fairness. Provisions relating to makers of bows and arrows, those who make fishing tackle boxes, a provision relating to the taxation of people, foreigners who bet on American horse races.

What happened? The majority leader earlier said on the floor that the result in the Committee on Ways and Means was a bipartisan one, as I heard his words. That is simply incorrect. We voted, Democrats, against a number of these particular provisions. We had roll calls. Republicans voted aye; Democrats by and large almost unanimously voted no. The gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), the ranking member, presented a substitute that would have stripped the bill of all of these particular interest provisions and, as I remember it, have adopted the Senate provision. That was voted down.

So let the RECORD be clear as to what happened in the Committee on Ways and Means. The bill came out on a voice vote because Democrats did not want to vote against a bill relating truly to tax fairness for those in our armed services. However, we had made clear where we stood on those specific provisions.

What is the lesson? At best, this bill, as it came out of the Committee on Ways and Means, reflected misguided priorities and the arrogance of power. Misguided priorities because they inserted several hundred millions in provisions totally unrelated to armed services tax fairness. Bows and arrows, money there when we are short-changing education for our kids, fish tackle boxes when there is not enough money going for homeland security. And then horse races to help those who bet on horse races when there is not enough money for people who are short on prescription drugs.

An arrogance of power that led some in the majority to decide to put on a bill relating to tax fairness for those who were abroad as well as at home, provisions that helped those who were here at home.

So I come here because it is critical the RECORD be clear, it be critical we learn from this experience. I hope next week early on a bill will be presented here preferably the Senate bill that treats even more fairly than the House bill, without these provisions, those in the armed services.

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

(Mr. TIERNEY 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 Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DELAHUNT 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 Maine (Mr. ALLEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT BERMAN GANOE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine who fought and died in the Vietnam War and is being honored tomorrow in my district, the fifth congressional district of Florida. In 1968, 19-year-old Berman Ganoe enlisted in the U.S. Army and was sent shortly thereafter to Vietnam. On March 24, 1970, Staff Sergeant Ganoe's helicopter was shot down while on a rescue mission in Cambodia. The helicopter that Sergeant Ganoe was aboard was acting as a rescue aircraft for a gunship team engaged in combat on the ground. A fellow army pilot who witnessed the crash of Sergeant Ganoe's aircraft called the rescue mission and the actions of the entire crew ''the most heroic act he had ever seen.''

Shortly after the crash, Sergeant Ganoe was classified as ''missing in action'' and became Marion County, Florida's only Vietnam War ''missing in action'' person. In 1974, the Army changed his status to ''assumed dead.'' In 1998, after an excavation of the crash site, Sergeant Ganoe's remains were returned to the United States but were never positively identified until mid-2001.

He is one of 22 Florida soldiers whose remains were recovered and returned to the United States following the end of the war. When the technology to positively identify years-old remains was developed and perfected, the remains were identified and the families of the fallen soldiers were contacted.

Tomorrow in my district, friends and family of Sergeant Ganoe are memorializing him and honoring his contribution to our country. A bronze memorial of Sergeant Ganoe will be unveiled at a ceremony in Ocala which will follow a private memorial service for his surviving three brothers, four sisters, and numerous friends and extended family members.

Sergeant Ganoe served his country and made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedom. Further, he died in a rescue mission to save the lives of fellow soldiers. Posthumously, Sergeant Ganoe was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, 16 Air Medals, the Purple Heart, and numerous other medals of valor.

I commend Sergeant Ganoe for his actions and stand here today to honor his life and his sacrifice. I think it is particularly important that we consider the sacrifices of Sergeant Ganoe and of the people who currently are serving in our military today.