

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MR. ALBERT KRAUSE, JR. FOR HIS 65 YEARS OF VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great New Jerseyan. For 65 years, Mr. Albert Krause, Jr., of River Vale, New Jersey has dedicated his life to serving our local communities. As a 58 year veteran of the River Vale Volunteer Fire Department, where he held the office of Chief twice and Fire Marshall and served for another 7 years as a member of the Oradell Volunteer Fire Department, Mr. Krause committed himself to making northern New Jersey a safer and stronger place to live.

As a life member of the New Jersey and New York Fireman's Association's, Mr. Krause has risen above and beyond the call of duty to protect our communities and neighborhoods. Very few people ever reach this milestone in the fire service. For this distinguished honor of 65 years of service, we recognize him as a true American hero.

Nearly one million state and local first responders, of which approximately 750,000 volunteers like Mr. Krause, regularly put their lives on the line to protect the lives of others and make our country safer. Today, we give thanks for the invaluable service rendered by Mr. Krause and other firefighters, who risk their lives to preserve and protect our communities. Courageous servants, such as Mr. Krause have inspired us with their dedication and professionalism.

As we recognize and remember the sacrifices of Mr. Krause, let us draw great strength from his example of selfless service to others. Mr. Krause's 65 years of fire service to River Vale and Oradell embodies the best of the American spirit.

We thank Mr. Krause for helping to renew our respect for public service and providing lasting lessons in courage for many years to come. On behalf of the people of New Jersey's Fifth Congressional District, it is with great honor, that I recognize Mr. Krause for his 65 years of volunteer fire service.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT STEVEN P. JONES FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Steven P. Jones of the Lake County, California Sheriff's Department, for dedicating his professional life to protecting and serving the people of Lake County.

Steven Jones first joined the Lake County Sheriff's Department on March 15, 1973 as a Deputy Officer. Deputy Jones earned Peace Officer Standards and Training certificates in 1977 and 1982. His achievements and disciplined work ethic helped pave the way for his promotion to the rank of Sergeant in 1977.

Sergeant Jones has served the Sheriff's Department in many different capacities. He has served as SWAT team leader, Search and Rescue team leader, Patrol Supervisor, Investigator, Volunteer Coordinator and Commander at the Lower Lake Substation.

Regardless of his specific title or role within the department, Sergeant Jones has always been a leader and an example to his fellow officers. His dedication to the community has been a tremendous benefit to us all.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Jones epitomizes the standards of a true civil servant. For over 30 years he has conducted himself with honor and dignity. Even when he is not working, Sergeant Jones is never really off duty. On Sunday July 14, 1996 Sergeant Jones and his wife Pattie were walking in Library Park, a popular local recreation area. As they walked about, they looked to the water. There they witnessed an accident involving a 5-year-old boy and his Jet Ski. The child had been knocked off of his Jet Ski and was facing certain peril when without hesitation Sergeant Jones jumped into the water and began swimming toward the boy. Fortunately for that boy and his family, Sergeant Jones' strength and training took over and he not only reached the child, he pulled him to the dock and administered proper medical attention until rescue personnel could arrive.

Such is the character of Sergeant Jones.

Mr. Speaker, three decades have passed since Sergeant Jones first joined the force. In that time, his dedication to our community has remained firm and intact. He has never wavered and he has always maintained our confidence. Sergeant Jones has protected and served Lake County faithfully, he has kept us safe. For his outstanding service and amazing call to duty over the previous 30 years, it is proper for us to honor Sergeant Steven P. Jones at the time of his retirement from the Lake County Sheriff's Department and extend out best wishes to him in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on April 22, 2003, I missed rollcall vote No. 211. Had I been here I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 211.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2003 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ANNUAL SHIELD AWARD, RAMSEY, NEW JERSEY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinguished honor to recognize five great New Jerseyans for their service and commitment to public safety. Patrolman Timothy Flanagan of the Ramsey Police Department, Assistant Chief Thomas Lanning of the Ramsey Fire Department, Lieutenant Steve Ahlstedt of the Ramsey Ambulance Squad, Captain Chris Hoffman of the Ramsey Rescue Squad and Michael Greenshields of the Ramsey Office of Emergency Management have risen above and beyond the call of duty to protect our communities and neighborhoods. Their selfless service is a testament and model for those who regularly put their lives on the line to protect others and make northern New Jersey safer. It is my privilege to recognize and give thanks for their invaluable service to the people of Ramsey, New Jersey.

Each and every day across our country, across New Jersey and throughout the great borough of Ramsey, first responders selflessly risk their lives to protect our families and neighborhoods. None of them become a first responder for the money—in many cases they volunteer their services. Nor do any of them put on their uniform expecting a life of ease. Day-in and day-out they put themselves in harm's way and stand in the face of danger. They take the job because they want to serve their community and their country. Fortunately, this great country has such heroic men and women.

On behalf of the people of New Jersey's Fifth Congressional District, it is with great honor, that I recognize and salute Patrolman Flanagan, Assistant Chief Lanning, Lieutenant Ahlstedt, Captain Hoffman and Mr. Greenshields for their bravery, courage and commitment to public safety.

TRIBUTE TO ISAIAH HILL, JR.

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Isaiah Hill, Jr. This noble man has dedicated and committed his life to serving the people of Miami-Dade County for 38 years in our Department of Parks and Recreation, and he has decided to retire at the end of June.

Mr. Hill began his years of distinguished service in 1966 as a Laborer in the county parks system. Few imagined at that time that this first job would lead to a lifelong commitment to becoming a Skilled Laborer, Golf Attendant, and Maintenance Repair Mechanic.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

His superiors respect his loyalty, dedication, and commitment to fine workmanship. Anyone who has had the privilege of working with Mr. Hill knows that he will take on any task no matter how hard, and he will always get the job done.

After many years of tireless work and dedication, he has decided to hang up his hat and retire. His many friends and co-workers at Miami Dade Parks and Recreation will dearly miss him, but so will the thousands of Dade County residents who never met Mr. Hill, but who have enjoyed the parks that he helped maintain for so long. The Parks may never look quite the same without his magical touch. He is leaving behind a legacy in the parks system for his co-workers to continue with a high level of commitment to excellence and dedication to service.

Mr. Speaker, Isaiah Hill, Jr. is a good man who does things uncommonly well.

Congratulations, Mr. Hill, and enjoy your retirement.

IN TRIBUTE TO THOMAS SAAM

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, Thomas Saam will long be remembered by local school children, union workers, Vietnam Veterans, family, friends and hundreds of children in Vietnam. Tom was a patriot who took great pride in America and his service in the U.S. Marine Corps. Always a strong voice for organized labor, Tom was a 26-year employee of General Motors Power Train in Toledo, OH. He was a proud United Auto Worker, UAW, and trustee who believed strongly in the quality of life for workers and their families who remained active as a member of the UAW Local No. 14 Retirees.

Seven years ago, in 1995, Tom Saam underwent a heart transplant. Following successful surgery, Tom became a spokesperson for transplants and a volunteer with the American Heart Association, receiving their prestigious Heart and Soul Award. He served with pride the American Red Cross, Life Connections of Ohio and the Mended Hearts Association. Upon his death on December 7, 2002, Tom Saam became a donor also. During the last 7 years as a proponent for organ and tissue donation, Tom Saam spent a great deal of time speaking to groups as an advocate for donation and educating children about the dangers of smoking. Tom's concern for our children and youth was always present in all that he did.

Tom Saam, a former U.S. Marine, served two tours in Vietnam. Tom Saam never forgot his veteran buddies as an active member of Veteran of Foreign Wars Post No. 3265, Toledo, OH, and VFW Department of Ohio P.O.W./M.I.A. Chairman 1992–1995. Tom served as Post No. 3265 Americanism Chairman from 1990–2002 and served as UAW Region 2B Veterans Representative 1995–2002.

On Veteran's Day in 1999, Tom Saam and several other Vietnam Veterans joined me in our District Congressional Office and placed a conference call to then U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam Pete Peterson. From that conversation and meeting, Tom Saam and his core

group of veterans formed the D.O.V.E. Fund, a non-profit humanitarian organization dedicated to helping the children of Vietnam in the areas of health care, improving water quality and building schools. As a charter member and member of the D.O.V.E. Fund Board of Directors, Tom worked diligently to provide the extras such as writing tablets, pencils, toothbrushes, soap and other like items that the children of Vietnam need. Tom never hesitated to approach anyone he felt could provide assistance for a child. His dentist, his insurance agent, his union, his buddies and a variety of local veteran's groups were frequent donors of school supplies, ball caps, candy and anything else that kids needed to improve their quality of life.

In May of 2001 Tom traveled with other veterans on a return trip to Vietnam. Tom had arranged through a Vietnamese-American contact to obtain what was believed to be the remains of 2 American M.I.A.s' and return these remains to our government in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. As a result of his efforts, Tom was named the June 2001, Citizen of the Month by Toledo's Mayor and was awarded the UAW Walter P. Reuther Distinguished Service Award for his courageous efforts. The D.O.V.E. Board of Directors is planning to build a school in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam and dedicate it in Tom Saam's memory.

Tom is the father of Thomas, Jr., Jeremy, Laura and Jamie and the husband of Barbara. He will always be remembered as a loving husband and father, a veteran's advocate, a tough Marine and union member, a gentle spirit and mentor and a proud American. Mr. Oscar Bunch, President of Local No. 14 and long time friend of Tom said, "Everyone who had anything to do with Tom just loved him." Many of us in Northwest Ohio share Oscar's sentiment. Tom Saam will be missed.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACT OF 2003

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleague Congressman MARK UDALL in introducing the Environmental Justice Act and commend my colleague, Congressman MARK UDALL for his work on this issue.

The Environmental Justice Act will make permanent an environmental justice Executive Order 12898 issued by President Bill Clinton in 1994.

It attempts to address environmental injustice within existing federal laws and regulations by prohibiting discrimination in programs that receive federal funds.

This issue has been one of my priorities as a public servant because I have seen the damage—first hand—that environmental injustice can bring to poor and minority communities.

I grew up in the shadow of one of the largest landfills in the country. As the landfill grew, so did other regional pollution. Today, the area, which is 63 percent Latino and where 15 percent of families live in poverty, suffers from water pollution from Superfund sites and the gravel pit industry.

In the Los Angeles area, it is estimated that over 71 percent of African Americans and 50

percent of Latinos reside in areas with the most polluted air, while only 34 percent of whites live in highly polluted areas.

But we are not alone. Environmental injustices are happening nationwide.

Consider the plight of the people of South Omaha, Nebraska where descendants of immigrants who labored in the city's meatpacking plants are fighting to restore city parks and stop the health risks posed by unsanitary conditions at the plants.

Or consider the people who live in Livermore, California near one of the nation's principal nuclear weapons research labs, and who are fighting radioactive contamination that has caused many cancer cases.

In the past we might have accepted our fate but today we chose to fight back.

Hardly a day passes without the media informing us about a neighborhood that is fighting a landfill, incinerator, chemical plant or some other polluting industry.

This was not always the case. Just three decades ago, the concept of environmental justice had not registered on the radar screens of most environmental, civil rights or social justice groups.

In 1996, I had the honor of introducing the first piece of environmental justice legislation in the country. Since that time, 30 other States have adopted similar laws, policies or other statutes that protect and recognize the importance of environmental justice communities.

Today, we enjoy a greater ability to connect with the public through grassroots organization and the media but our laws still offer few protections to disadvantaged communities.

I am committed to changing this and look forward to working with Congressman UDALL and others to make sure that environmental protection starts with environmental equality.

This bill is one step in that fight.

HONORING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EDUCATION TASK FORCE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the African American Education Task Force for its clear record of success in encouraging and acknowledging academic achievement by African American youth in Oakland.

This June, the African American Education Task Force will hold its Second Annual Academic Awards Celebration at the ACTS Full Gospel Church in Oakland. At this celebration, more than 1200 African American students from 8th through 12th grades in the Oakland Unified School District will be honored for attaining grade point averages of 3.00 or above for the 2002–2003 school year.

These outstanding young people's accomplishments are especially remarkable in light of the dismal budgetary climate that now grips the State of California. I want to commend each of them for having an understanding of the importance of staying in school and the responsibility each individual has to take advantage of the educational opportunities available to him or her. By continuing to be the best students you can be and completing your education, you will have more opportunity to achieve your personal goals and our shared goal of world peace.

Your accomplishments represent your dedication and commitment to achieving your goals, and I am proud of you. The skills you have learned and the discipline you have developed will benefit you greatly.

I am honored to represent you in the United States House of Representatives. I hope you will continue your record of service and success. My best wishes for a bright future!

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 2, JOBS AND GROWTH RECONCILIATION TAX ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this conference report. This tax cut is a tragedy. It does not create jobs, it does not grow the economy, and the only thing it grows is the deficit.

What we see here today is the unraveling of fiscal responsibility. It began in the White House with the President's reckless, irresponsible proposal, and it continues with the Republicans in the Congress. By promoting his unnecessary, unfair, and fiscally unsound tax cut, President Bush has created a tax cutting frenzy among Congressional Republicans.

The result is this conference report—and a bill to put our children \$1 trillion in debt. That is not leadership. I have asked many times, where have all the Republican deficit hawks gone? They are an endangered species. Democrats still believe in fiscal responsibility, and we believe that raiding Social Security and saddling our children and grandchildren with enormous debt is wrong. If the Republicans had wanted to have a proposal that would grow the economy, focus on the middle class, create jobs and be fiscally sound, they could have done so. They chose not to.

The Democratic plan, which we were not allowed to vote on, creates 1 million new jobs this year without adding one penny to the deficit. It puts money in the hands of people who need it and will spend it, injecting demand into the economy and creating jobs this year. But instead, Republicans have chosen to add \$1 trillion in debt—shortchanging education, homeland security, healthcare and other vital needs. The list of missed opportunities goes on and on. That is not leadership.

Investing in education—early childhood education, K through 12, higher education, post-graduate education, lifetime learning—does more to grow the economy than any tax cut you can name. But to accommodate tax breaks for those who need it least, the Republican budget cuts \$168 billion from domestic programs, including education, over the next decade. Students are asked to sacrifice, seniors are asked to sacrifice, first responders are asked to sacrifice, middle class families are asked to sacrifice—all so that the average millionaire can get a tax cut of \$93,500. That is not leadership.

And, in order to squeeze more tax breaks for the wealthy into this bill, Republicans have included provisions that end the few middle-class tax cuts they once supported. Both the child tax credit and elimination of the marriage penalty end in 2005—leaving middle-class

Americans with a tax increase in 2006. A future Congress will be forced to either increase taxes or add billions to our spiraling debt just as the Baby Boomers begin retiring. The middle class is asked to subsidize the wealthy. That is not right. That is not leadership.

These gimmicks hide the true cost of this tax cut, and they are not fair to middle-class Americans. The great irony of all this is that if all the Republicans want to do is to put money in the pockets of wealthy people, then nothing works better than sound, fiscally responsible policies. Wealthy Americans did better in the 1990's than at any other time. But Republicans have failed to build upon the economic successes of the Clinton Administration. Their economic record is a dismal failure.

The first two years of the Bush Administration have seen a loss of 2.8 million jobs—the worst record of job creation of any President since World War II. No job creation whatsoever—job loss. No modern President has had a record of that kind. And since President Bush took office, we have seen a surplus of \$5.6 trillion turn into a deficit of over \$2 trillion—and growing. A swing of \$7.6 trillion. So now what do they want to do? Repeat the same economic policies that got us into this hole to begin with, digging the hole even deeper. That is not leadership.

President Bush and Republicans in Congress never miss an opportunity to do what is right for average Americans. Tonight, instead of investing in our children, we are indebting them. We are mortgaging their futures for a tax break that benefits those who need it least, the wealthiest in our country. And we are doing so at the expense of our opportunity to invest further in the education of our children. Vote no on the conference report. Vote no on fiscal irresponsibility. Vote no on a reckless plan that will take our country in the wrong direction.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 2, JOBS AND GROWTH RECONCILIATION TAX ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today, we have two million American families struggling with persistent unemployment, we have a Treasury which has asked to increase its debt by an amount bigger than the entire federal debt of 1980, and a central bank desiring yet another interest rate slash to ward off deflation. In the eye of this perfect storm, this fiscal catastrophe, we have the Republican answer to everything: cut more taxes.

This \$350 billion bill is rife with uncertainty, as the individual and family tax breaks are afflicted with two-year expirations. While the bill won't inspire much confidence in our economy, it will inspire confidence and certainty that our war on tax code complexity has officially been lost.

Along with fiscal sanity, middle-income families have been tossed overboard in this Republican tax bill as relief from the alternative minimum tax was cut to less than the puny amount either chamber originally provided. Hard as it is to believe—the conference agree-

ment before us today provides even less relief for middle-income taxpayers from the AMT than either the House or Senate bill provided, and for a shorter period of time!

When this bill was originally before the House, the Republican Majority bragged about the 10 million American families saved from higher taxes by their temporary AMT fix. But under the deal we are voting on today, 2005 will bring a tax increase for those 10 million families. Let me repeat that, at the end of next year, 10 million more American families will actually see a tax increase under this bill.

As the former Bush aide now heading the CBO stated, "At the current pace, the AMT is on track to replace the ordinary income tax for many Americans. The sheer number of taxpayers who are or will be touched by the AMT speaks volumes about the pressure on lawmakers to address the problem." Apparently, that pressure was shrugged off by the Republican leaders, and AMT has been pushed off, yet again, to another day.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, let me object to House Republican leaders insistence in refusing any reasonable revenue offsets. With corporate expatriates dodging \$5 billion in US taxes by running offshore, it simply defies logic not to collect this money in order to avoid digging our deficit hole deeper.

By refusing to accept the modest Senate language to close the Bermuda loophole, the House Republicans have sanctioned this corporate misbehavior of choosing profits over patriotism.

I urge my colleagues to vote down this bill.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

HON. NATHAN DEAL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, we have just concluded a three-year project funded by HRSA (93-912A). This program was implemented under the umbrella of Project Partnership, the community outreach arm of the Graduate Program in Physical Therapy at North Georgia College and State University. The project was directed by Ms. Charlene L. Hudson and Dr. Lynda D. Woodruff. Our local, state and federal legislators supported this competitive grant.

The purpose of this grant was to bring a variety of services, adaptive equipment and healthcare resources to the population of rural elderly in three contiguous counties: Lumpkin, Hall and Dawson. Healthcare services for the vast majority of these citizens are severely challenged, poorly funded, and extraordinarily inaccessible. The physical therapy faculty, the nurse practitioner faculty, and more than 100 graduate students in these two programs joined forces to provide in excess of 5,000 formal visits/interactions to rural citizens whose quality of health and quality of life have been compromised.

The project was able to supercede its initial goals, standards for operations, and complete programmatic activities fluidly. However, the majority of our requests forwarded to us were far beyond the scope of our project. We somewhat anticipated this phenomenon as a result of our community needs assessment which occurred during the planning phase for the grant application. What we did not anticipate

was a decline in the sparse services available. For example, our three counties have lost home modification resources, rural transportation, and a large number of Medicaid friendly clinical services. This simply means that there is still a severe level of unmet need in our rural region.

We have found a few sources to minimally sustain this project. The network which we initiated in 1995 has matured today to include the State Office of Rural Health, federally funded community health center, State Area Agency on Aging, 9th District Social Services and our University. We are confident that this model is unique and we will strive to share our findings through HRSA publications.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1588) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2004, and for other purposes,

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I wish to thank Chairman HUNTER, for yielding me this time and thank you for including my language in your en-bloc amendment.

Mr. Chairman, the horrific events of September 11th reminded us all of the importance of protecting our Nation and its people. Unfortunately, these emerging terrorist threats will continue to be an issue for many years to come.

National homeland defense must be our highest priority. We must utilize the unique capabilities and expertise of all agencies in this effort, including the Department of Defense.

The military's mission has been fundamentally changed by the new homeland defense requirements. This mission change has been significant enough to warrant the creation of another major combatant command—Northern Command—to be responsible for national homeland defense.

We must identify exactly what the Department of Defense needs to execute this vital mission. Major steps are already being taken in this area. However, it is essential that we continue to closely examine what is needed to protect America during this dangerous time. Military construction to support the homeland defense mission is an integral part of the picture.

Homeland defense has not been traditionally used as a determining factor in the funding of MILCON projects. I remain concerned that we do not evaluate our military construction needs in light of the new homeland defense mission. This amendment will ensure that all MILCON projects, regardless of when submitted, be evaluated in part for their contribution to the homeland defense mission.

Postponing needed military construction required for homeland defense is something we cannot afford to do.

We need to make homeland defense one of the principle criteria for all future military con-

struction programs. For example, in my district, the 177th Fighter Wing has been worldwide-deployable, but is now focused on homeland defense.

NORAD and NORTHCOM have given this wing responsibility for 24-hour alert and combat air patrol along the mid-Atlantic, including responsibility for cap missions over New York City and Washington, DC.

Because of this new 24-hour alert site status, the wing's needs have changed. Their military construction requirements have changed and this amendment will ensure the MILCON process recognizes this trend nationwide.

I encourage you to vote for this amendment to help preserve our homeland defense. Finally, I join with you to commend the men and women of our Nation's Armed Forces for service and thank them for securing the freedom we all enjoy.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HERALD-CITIZEN

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 100th year of existence of The Herald-Citizen of Cookeville, Tennessee, an integral part of the community and a reliable source of news for Putnam County and the Upper Cumberland region.

The first edition of this Middle Tennessee newspaper was published on February 11, 1903, by Elmer Wirt and his son, Ralph. During the next century, this newspaper kept Cookeville well-informed and evolved into an award-winning daily publication. From a small town of barely 600 people in 1903 to a thriving Upper Cumberland community of about 25,000 residents today, Cookeville has depended on The Herald-Citizen for unbiased news coverage.

Many changes have occurred at the newspaper during the past century. As the community grew and prospered, so did The Herald Citizen. Elmer Wirt and his son printed the first edition on a small flatbed press that sat on top of a table, with the type set by hand. C. Lee Walls Sr. and his son, C. Lee Walls Jr., now print the newspaper on a modern, computerized press weighing many tons.

Although many changes have occurred at the newspaper and to the community, one thing remains certain: The Herald-Citizen's commitment to fair and honest news coverage. Cookeville and the surrounding communities of Putnam County have benefitted tremendously from the hard work and dedication of the newspaper and its employees over the years. I congratulate the newspaper's success and am sure the next 100 years of publication will be just as exciting and rewarding as the first 100 years.

HONORING GUSTAVUS EVANSEN

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to mention an exem-

plary Staten Islander, Mr. Gustavus Evansen. He embodies the hard work and determination that characterizes the American Dream.

In 1923, at the age of 17, Gus Evansen emigrated to the United States, along with the rest of his family. They joined his father, Jorgen, who had traveled here to lay the foundations of a stable life for the family in 1917. He automatically began to work alongside his father at the Electric Launch Company, or Elco, in Bayonne, New Jersey, practicing the same shipbuilding trade his father had practiced in their homeland of Denmark. He and his father worked out of their own garage on nights and weekends to make ends meet during the Depression.

Mr. Evansen was promoted to foreman of the hull-building department in 1939, and continued to work for the next 6 years on the 399 PT-boats that Elco made for our government's use in the Second World War. After the war, as the Elco Company scrambled for work while the government contracts waned, Mr. Evansen lost his job when Elco closed down for good in 1949. He wasted no time in beginning a new career with the U.S. Coast Guard. At the age of 70, after 25 years building workboats on Governor's Island, and after rising from the rank of third-class boatbuilder to assistant foreman, Gus Evansen finally retired.

In 1930, he had married his childhood sweetheart, Bergit Knutsen who, with her family, had also emigrated from Denmark. They were together for 71 years until her death. Gus is currently 96 years old, and is enjoying his hard-earned retirement in Staten Island, New York. He has two daughters, five grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. Mr. Evansen has led the life of a model citizen, has worked hard to make a life for his family, and is the true embodiment of the American Dream.

Mr. Evansen, thank you for being a model citizen, and a proud Staten Islander.

HONORING JAKE FANNON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jake Fannon posthumously for his military accomplishments and years of service to our country. He fought in both World War II and the Korean War, and overcame the countless injuries to continue his service.

In 1941, Jake enlisted in the U.S. Army at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and began his basic infantry training at Camp Roberts in California. He was assigned to the 813th combat engineers in Alaska where he was wounded in duty. He was a part of the 'C' Company 15th Regiment 1st Infantry Division and was injured during the first wave of the Normandy Invasion (D-Day). Later that year he joined the 78th Infantry Division in Germany where he served in combat until the end of the war. One year later, Jake was sent overseas to Australia as part of the 572nd Military Police, afterwards going to Korea. He then served at Fort Benning, Georgia as a paratrooper. After recovering from injuries sustained during one of his jumps, he was sent to the front lines in Korea and was hit on the third day causing

severe facial injuries. Jake continued his service in Germany and several areas in the U.S. before retiring in 1963.

Jake has received countless awards and honors for his steadfast service including: two Bronze Stars, four Purple Hearts, and a Silver Star. Following his service in Korea he was presented with the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1950, and yet refused the award, wishing to return to the lines with his men rather than become an officer. He subsequently received a Bronze Star and his fourth Purple Heart in its place.

He is survived by his wife Lela Fannon; his sons Tommy, Timmy, David, and Steve; and his 13 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jake Fannon for his exceptional service to our country and his efforts around the world. I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Jake for an exceptional career and for his everlasting contributions.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
AMENDMENTS OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule.

I cannot believe the Majority will not even let us debate who should be allowed to receive an extension of unemployment insurance.

The extension that we will be allowed to vote on, provided this rule stands, will provide twenty six weeks of assistance to those few states that have exceeded an unemployment threshold of six percent. The unemployed workers in those six states receive the needed benefits, while those in other states receive only half of the extension. This bill ignores that specific areas have suffered high unemployment, but whose overall state unemployment rate has not exceeded the threshold.

In Boulder, which has a number of high-tech companies that have either closed up shop or laid off workers, I have seen a job loss rate exceeding sixteen percent between January of 2001 to January of 2003, this according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This has resulted in a substantial increase in unemployment, and considering the state of our economy, this trend doesn't seem like it will change soon. In fact, the average monthly claims for unemployment averaged a little over sixtyfive hundred claims per month in 2001, by the end of 2002 that number had jumped to over eleven thousand three hundred. But since Colorado's unemployment level has been just below six percent these workers will be in trouble if they can't find a job within the allotted thirteen weeks, if this bill passes.

This isn't just a problem in Colorado. This is a national problem and we need to treat it as such.

But the Majority has created a rule that will not allow us to even consider amendments that would help those Americans who are struggling and cannot find employment.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote no on the rule.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 2185, UNEMPLOYMENT
COMPENSATION AMENDMENTS
OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose this unfair rule and the underlying bill. I stand in solidarity with my colleagues who believe that this body should act in the best interests of all Americans and not only the few. I also stand to speak for those Americans who are not here to speak for themselves. I am here to say that many of them are hurting. They are unemployed and their Federal unemployment benefits are about to run out. Beyond the unemployed individuals themselves, there are countless children and families who depend on them. They are hurting, too.

If this bill is passed without amendment over 69,000 Texans will be left out. That is almost 70,000 people from my State who will not be helped by the Republicans bill. Furthermore, this summer, 39,000 Texans will face the end of their Federal unemployment benefits. That is disgraceful and it is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, in my district, the unemployment rate is 6.2 percent. In Texas, there are over $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million people who are unemployed. During the 2 years of this administration, thousands of jobs have been lost in my State. During that same period millions of jobs have been lost across the country. The Democrats have been trying to make that point to our colleagues on the other side of the aisle but they remained deaf to the people's concerns.

Soon across the United States more than 1 million Americans will have exhausted both their state and Federal unemployment benefits yet they will still be unemployed. There are now 3.4 unemployed workers for every one job opening. As a result of the weak economy, this country has lost more than 500,000 jobs Justin the last 3 months. In fact, 70 percent more workers have currently exhausted their Federal benefits than during the recession of the early 1990s.

According to the Joint Economic Committee, the persistence of job losses at the 2-year mark in this recession is unprecedented since the Great Depression. That is a stunning fact. And it is the reason, the legislation put forth by the Democrats calls for \$18 billion to extend and strengthen unemployment benefits this year. The Republican bill on the other hand only provides \$6 billion.

Our Republican colleagues have failed to do anything to help the millions of Americans who need jobs. Rather than re-igniting the economy so that job creation would occur, the Republicans have passed staggering tax cuts that benefit the wealthy far more than the average working or unemployed person. Now the Republicans put forth this bill in an effort to persuade the American people that they are listening and responding to the needs of the unemployed. However, their bill does not do enough.

When we have the opportunity to help all unemployed workers why don't we take that opportunity? When we know that more people

will need assistance 2 months from today, why don't we offer it to them? When we have the chance to provide help for the families of long-term unemployed people while they struggle to make ends meet and to find another job—any job that will allow them to take care of their families—why don't we do so? These are the questions I pose to my Republican colleagues.

When Republicans have the chance to do more to help the families of the unemployed they decide not to do so and instead propose this perfunctory bill that will help some but not enough. That is the most egregious element of this bill. They choose to leave out many Americans when the Democrats would include them. If the Republicans would allow the substitute bill to be heard on the floor they would learn that the Democrats have a better piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, if this rule is not defeated I will vote in favor of this amendment but I will continue to push for a stronger bill that helps more Americans. And I will continue to work for legislation that helps put Americans back to work.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT
COLONEL JERRY S. CHASTAIN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Jerry S. Chastain for his brave service in the United States Military during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Upon his graduation from the Citadel, Lieutenant Colonel Chastain was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Quartermaster Corps. Since then, he has served both at home and abroad in the United States, Europe and Kuwait. Some of his assignments include Supply Platoon Leader and Battalion S-4, Supply and Services Officer, A Company Commander, Future Readiness Officer, Executive Officer for the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, and J4 Logistics Commander. In all of his positions, he has demonstrated integrity and excellent leadership.

Lieutenant Colonel Chastain has been recognized with many honors during his time in the military. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with Three Oak Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, the NATO medal, the Army Staff Badge, the Parachutist Badge, and the Air Assault Badge.

Lieutenant Colonel Chastain has repeatedly demonstrated his devotion and commitment to this country. He has boldly stood in defense of our Nation and a free world. He serves as an admirable role model for his three sons and for all American citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend the gratitude of myself and an entire Nation to Lieutenant Colonel Jerry S. Chastain for his service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his courageous efforts and wishing him well as he returns home.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL ERIC K.
SHINSEKI

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity today to honor General Eric K. Shinseki, the 34th Chief of Staff of the United States Army. I have had the privilege of working with General Shinseki over these past 4 years, as he set forth a vision, and then followed with a plan of execution, that will culminate in a complete Transformation of the premier land force in the world today—The United States Army.

General Eric K. Shinseki is a soldier General, a soldier's soldier. He began his Army career after graduating from the United States Military Academy in 1965. He served two combat tours in the Republic of Vietnam. I should note that this officer has been carried off the battlefield on the backs of soldiers. It is because of these soldiers, that he has served so long, and with so much distinction. Despite receiving serious wounds in battle, General Shinseki remained on active duty out of his utmost respect for the young, American soldier he encountered in Vietnam. While he may not have been aware at that time, the experience he garnered under the tutelage of non-commissioned officers as a new officer instilled the discipline and direction that would ultimately place him as The Army's "point man". General Shinseki excelled at every level, in command and in staff positions, both in the continental United States and overseas. He commanded the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, became Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans at Headquarters Department of the Army, served as the Commanding General, United States Army Europe, Commander Allied Land Forces Central Europe; and Commander, NATO Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In 1998, he assumed the duties as the 28th Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Army.

On June 22, 1999, General Shinseki became the Chief of Staff of the United States Army. Since assuming that position, General Shinseki's commitment and leadership have contributed immeasurably to ensuring that America's Army is unmatched by any in our history in its skill and professionalism. General Shinseki began a transformation that will fundamentally reform the Army and position it for continuing excellence and achievement in the coming decades. The path of Transformation is one that is filled with challenges, and unexpected events. While he was charting a course for the Army's Transformation, General Shinseki was charged with ensuring The Army was again prepared to go in to battle. At the onset, the Global War on Terrorism began to consume assets. Quickly on the heels of this, was Operation Noble Eagle—the defense of the American Homeland, in Operation Enduring Freedom—the attack on Al Qaeda's lair, and Operation Iraqi Freedom—the liberation of Iraq. These events served as a galvanizing catalyst to General Shinseki's vision for Transformation. The Army was now one Army, at war and transforming. Whether active, National Guard, or Reserve, it is one Army. Throughout all this, General Shinseki has provided a steady hand that as a result leaves

the Army, and its men and women, in one of the highest states of readiness ever.

After more than 35 years service to the nation, General Shinseki will retire from the United States Army this month. Throughout that entire period, General Shinseki's actions have epitomized those of a soldier, leader, and consummate professional. Always mission-focused and soldier-centered, he upheld the Army's non-negotiable mission contract with the American people to fight and win the nation's wars, while never forgetting that it is the sacrifice and skill of the American soldier that makes those victories possible.

Mr. Speaker, the Constitution of this great country charges this body to raise and support Armies. The Transformation that is underway in our Army is one that is steeped in history, and fraught with vision. While we are charged to raise an Army, it is an officer of such caliber as General Shinseki's, who will ensure its training, its readiness, its ability to answer when the country calls. As we have witnessed since September 11, 2001, the freedoms we enjoy, come at a price. Our nation has been fortunate to have men and women willing to come forward at times of crisis and challenge to pay that price. We now add another name to that distinguished list; General Eric K. Shinseki. It is through dedication, and the selfless devotion to duty of Americans like him, that our nation is able to continue upon the path of democracy. To provide global response and assistance when and where needed. It is with profound admiration and deep appreciation that I pay tribute to General Shinseki for all that he has done for the United States Army and this country. To General Eric K. Shinseki, the 34th Chief of Staff of the United States Army, on behalf of this Congress, and of a grateful nation, Thank you for your service.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT
COLONEL DUANE A. GAMBLE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Duane A. Gamble for his brave service in the United States Military during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Lieutenant Colonel Gamble graduated from Western Maryland College in 1985 with the honor of a Distinguished Military Graduate. After graduation, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of Ordnance in the Regular Army. Lieutenant Colonel Gamble then attended the Florida Institute of Technology, earning a Masters of Science in Logistics Management in 1994. He has also completed many courses in military education during his time of service.

In the past 18 years, Lieutenant Colonel Gamble has served in a variety of logistics posts including Platoon Leader, Forward Area Support Coordinator and Support Operations Officer, Executive Officer and Logistics Operations Officer, and Deputy Commander. He currently holds the position of Commander of the Taskmaster Battalion and Commander of the Bastogne Brigade Support Area. His fine service has been recognized with awards and

decorations that include the Bronze Star Medal, the Master Parachutist Badge, and the Air Assault Badge.

Lieutenant Colonel Gamble has served bravely in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Hurricane Andrew Disaster Relief, Operation Joint Endeavor, and, most recently Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has repeatedly demonstrated his devotion and commitment to this nation and stood boldly in defense of a free world. He is an admirable role model for his two young daughters and for all American citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend the gratitude of myself and an entire nation to Lieutenant Colonel Duane A. Gamble for his service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his courageous efforts and wishing him well in his next assignment as Assistant Chief of Staff for the 101st Airborne Division in Iraq.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 2, JOBS AND GROWTH RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my opposition to the House-Senate agreement on H.R. 2, the so-called Growth and Jobs Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003.

The only growth this conference report will ensure is the most dramatic growth in our national debt in this nation's history. It is ironic that as soon as the House votes on this legislation, we will adjourn for the Memorial Day District Work Period to allow the Senate to rubber stamp an increase in the debt ceiling of almost \$1 trillion dollars, with no discussion by this House.

For me, this is not a partisan issue. I voted for the President's \$1.35 trillion tax cut in 2001 because I believed it was the right thing to do. At that time CBO projected our surplus over ten years at \$5.6 trillion. I still believe it was the right thing to do then. But that was then. This is now. We are no longer in revenue surplus mode. Now we are in deficit mode. And the \$350 billion tax cut passed by Congress will now go straight to our bottom line—the \$6.4 trillion national debt. In fact, the Senate will have to increase the debt limit by \$984 billion in order to pass this tax cut. This tax cut is being paid for with borrowed money. And, every penny of this tax cut will be paid for by our children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I do not oppose tax cuts. I oppose borrowing money to pay for tax cuts.

We are running the largest deficits in history and compiling a debt whose interest payment consumes almost 18 percent of every tax dollar collected. I call this a "debt tax" and this is the only tax that can never be repealed.

The debt tax costs our country \$1 billion per day and accounts for one of the largest expenditures by our government, third only to Social Security and national defense. And I submit that by passing this bill, we will be passing the largest tax increase—in the form of the debt tax—in history.

The best way to ensure that we, as well as our children and our grandchildren, are all

overtaxed for the rest of our lives, is to keep borrowing money and running up our debt. Our children will be forced to pay ever higher taxes just to pay the increasing interest on the debt we will incur today. Under the majority's budget, the debt tax will consume more than twenty percent of taxes just to pay interest on our national debt by the end of the decade.

It is irresponsible for us to pass a tax cut for ourselves today that leaves the bill to our children and grandchildren in the form of a crushing national debt.

In his State of the Union Address, President Bush told us, "This country has many problems. We will not deny, we will not ignore, we will not pass along our problems to other Congresses, to other presidents and other generations." As a proud grandfather who wants to leave a better future for my grandchildren, I enthusiastically applauded that statement. Unfortunately, our current budget policies and this growth plan will only grow our national debt and pass the bill on to future generations.

With respect to this bill being a jobs plan, I submit that in its zeal to pass a tax cut, any tax cut that adheres to an arbitrary number, the majority has crafted a bill guaranteed to cost us jobs in the future.

Mr. Speaker, this bill contains so many gimmicks, with phase-ins and phase-outs, that it defies comprehension and makes it impossible for any responsible business or individual to plan for the future. For example, this bill helps married individuals and families by expanding the lower bracket, increasing the child tax credit and eliminating the marriage penalty—but only for 2 years. But all of these good policies (many of which I have supported in the past) will revert back to current law in 2005. It helps businesses expand, grow and create jobs by increasing the code's expensing and depreciation provisions—but these good, pro jobs policies disappear in 2004 and 2005, respectively.

"Why?" you ask, do these pro-family and pro-jobs provisions disappear after 1 or 2 years? To make room for a proposal that does nothing to create jobs—an ill-conceived dividend reduction proposal that will only concentrate capital in the hands of shareholders without providing any incentives for businesses to create new jobs.

I believe that the President's call to eliminate the so-called double taxation of dividends is a goal toward which we should all work; however, this Congress should consider this proposal in the context of broad individual and corporate tax reform after we've gotten our fiscal house in order. I urge my colleagues to vote against this tax proposal and instead work together on a bipartisan basis to achieve true tax reform, reduction and simplification in the context of a new economic plan to get our country moving again.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT
COLONEL JOE D. DUNAWAY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Joe D. Dunaway for his heroic service in the United States Military during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Upon graduating from Northeastern Oklahoma State University in May of 1985, Lieutenant Colonel Dunaway completed several different courses at Fort Rucker, Alabama and Fort Eustis, Virginia. His initial assignment was to the 4th Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Fulda, Germany. There, Lieutenant Colonel Dunaway held positions that included Command Aviation Platoon Leader and Air Cavalry Troop Commander. In 1990, he returned to the United States and served at both Fort Eustis and Fort Bragg, North Carolina. At Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, he attended the Command and Central Staff College and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division as the Division Aviation Maintenance Officer, AVIM Company Command of Company A, and Battalion Executive Officer for the 8–101st Aviation Regiment.

During his time in the military, Lieutenant Colonel Dunaway has been recognized with many honors. His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with a silver oak leaf cluster, the National Defense Service Medal, the Master Aviator Badge, an Air Assault Badge, and an Airborne Badge.

Lieutenant Colonel Dunaway's involvement in Operation Iraqi Freedom as the 8–101st Battalion Commander marked his second tour of duty. He served as a role model for all as he bravely stood in defense of our nation and a free world. His devotion and commitment to this country are commendable.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend the gratitude of myself and the entire nation to Lieutenant Colonel Joe D. Dunaway for his participation in this latest conflict in Iraq. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his fine service and wishing him well as he returns to the Aviation Branch to serve as Branch Chief.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
GLADYS HANDROP

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Mrs. Gladys Handrop. Mrs. Handrop has successfully completed over fifty-six years of honorable government service to the citizens of Alabama and Florida.

Mrs. Handrop was first employed in government service in the Escambia County Alabama Tax Assessors office on March 17, 1947. The Escambia County Florida Tax Assessors office later employed her on December 9, 1952.

Mrs. Handrop has been an extremely valuable asset to the agencies and officers by whom she has been employed. She has served under the Honorable Tax Assessors and Property Appraisers Mrs. Frances Botts, Mr. M.B. "Bill" Jones, Mr. John R. Jones, Jr. and Mr. Chris Jones.

Mrs. Handrop has displayed never failing loyalty to the citizens, by whom she has been employed and has been a tireless political ally to many honored officers to this county and state.

Mrs. Handrop is known and respected by legal and real estate professionals throughout

Escambia County who she has assisted and guided in their practices. She has consistently been a "family" member, friend, confidant, role model, source of strength and mentor to all of those with whom she has worked.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to recognize this special person for the example she has set in her community. I offer my sincere thanks for all that she has done for Northwest Florida and this great nation.

CONGRATULATING PEDRO PALOMO
ADA

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Pedro Palomo Ada, who we all know affectionately as "Pete Ada, Jr." for being inducted into the Guam Chamber of Commerce's Guam Business Hall of Fame.

Pete Ada, Jr. is an icon of the Guam business community who has done many great things for the island of Guam. He is one of Guam's original entrepreneurs. His success as a businessman is rooted in his hard work, ingenuity, and work ethic, which serves as an inspiration for young businessmen and women on Guam. His induction into the Guam Business Hall of Fame is a testament to his outstanding career and his contributions to our community. I join the Guam Chamber of Commerce, our civic organizations, and our island in commending Pete Ada, Jr. and in congratulating him on this lifetime achievement.

Mr. Ada began his business career while at college at Saint Thomas Military Academy in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Pete would send shoes and other great bargains to Guam for resale in his parents' retail business. After college, he served as one of the first Chamorro commissioned officers in the United States Air Force and later returned to Guam to help with the family business, Ada's Markets. He transformed his family's retail business into a household name, and later, into a real estate holding company. In the process, he transformed how a whole generation viewed business opportunities on Guam. He is a visionary who saw the potential for new residential developments, commercial real estate developments and new markets. He created opportunities for our island and in the process he helped Guam re-define itself from a military service economy to a strong private sector economy with a robust capital investment sector.

Pete Ada, Jr. is presently the Chairman of the investment firm he founded, Ada's Trust and Investment, Inc. and Chairman of Nanbo Guam, Ltd. He is a Director of the Bank of Guam, Pizza Hut of Guam, and Pacific Textiles. He owns 18 commercial properties and is responsible for developing 28 properties throughout his career.

As a model citizen, Pete Ada Jr. championed the ROTC program at the University of Guam. He has supported the Boy Scouts and KGTF Public Television, and he has been active in the Air Force's Civilian Advisory Council. He has served as a board member of several government boards, including the Retirement Fund, the Guam Visitors Bureau, the

Guam Memorial Hospital, the University of Guam and the Guam Blue Ribbon Education Committee. In addition, he served on the board of the former Medical Center of the Marianas. In recognition of his service, he received an Honorary Doctor of Law degree in 1983 from the University of Guam.

Pete Ada, Jr. epitomizes the businessman whose success derives from a motivation to provide products and services that make his community a better place to live, and who has profited as a by-product of that dedication. By his induction into the Guam Business Hall of Fame, he sets a standard for others to emulate. We congratulate him and his proud wife Fe and their family, and we join with all the people of Guam in celebrating his achievement.

RECOGNIZING THE ZACCAGNINO FAMILY, AMERICA'S FUNNIEST FAMILY, FROM ELMWOOD PARK, IL

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Zaccagnino family, from Elmwood Park, in the 5th Congressional District of Illinois. The Zaccagnino family was chosen from hundreds of families who submitted videotapes in hopes of winning the ABC Family cable network "My Life Is a Sitcom" contest, replete with a chance of starring in a sitcom based on their life.

According to a recent Chicago Tribune article, the Zaccagnino family is already famous—and their sitcom hasn't even aired yet! Evidently, the family—Diane, Karen, Camille and Danny—have been feted by everyone in Chicago; and now Capitol Hill! Horwath's restaurant threw them a party; their state representative filed a resolution in their honor; teachers are using the family's history as assignments; and the crème de la crème—the family recently taped "The Oprah Show."

Finding humor in life is challenging, but the Zaccagnino family sets a great example. Karen is the owner of Karen's Hair'm, a beauty salon located on Belmont Avenue, where societal issues are viewed through changing hairstyles. And as Elmwood Park is known for its outstanding Italian food, it's understandable that a lot of the laughs take place in the kitchen. I am proud of Chicago's own Zaccagnino family, and I look forward to seeing their lives coming soon to a television near you.

Chicagoans can see the funny family for themselves on the ABC Family website where visitors can view video submissions and vote for their choice for "America's Funniest Family."

I urge my colleagues, indeed all of America, to keep an eye out for the Zaccagnino family. I have a feeling we'll all be wishing we were part of such a loving, funny and lively family.

HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, conserving our environment is important. Our forests are an important part of both Michigan's and our country's environment. In the west, catastrophic wildfires have decimated our forests over the last several years destroying both government and private property. The Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (H.R. 1904) is a common-sense, cost-effective piece of legislation that helps to control these fires as well as combat destructive insect and disease infestations in our forests.

Removing some of the bureaucratic red tape for performing fire prevention measures is not only environmentally friendly but also fiscally responsible, as fire prevention costs American taxpayers approximately one-fourth of what it costs to fight catastrophic forest fires. The Healthy Forests Restoration Act authorizes the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to reduce the amount of underbrush and deadwood buildup in forests that serve as kindling and fuel for the hottest, most dangerous fires. It would regulate BLM's activities by putting limits on the tree removal and road construction that has provoked controversy at times in the past. This would give BLM the tools it needs to confront the increasing threat of destructive forest fires on federal lands that have had serious impacts both on people and wildlife.

The bill takes additional measures to improve our forests. These include provisions to encourage energy production from renewable energy sources, protection of watersheds in forest areas and the creation of a forest reserve program aimed at preserving and rehabilitating up to one million acres of degraded and rare forest lands.

Disease and insect infestations are not only detrimental to our woodlands, but also to our tree-lined streets and backyards. In southeast Michigan, we are combating an exotic beetle known as the Emerald Ash Borer. The beetles' larvae feed on the sapwood and eventually kill branches and entire trees. This invasive pest has resulted in the quarantine of all ash products in six counties in southeastern Michigan. There are 28 million ash trees in the six quarantined counties and an estimated 700 million ash trees in Michigan. We are now finding that the pest is spreading into Ohio. The magnitude of this problem is serious. Preliminary data from the Forest Service estimates that the potential national impact of the Emerald Ash Borer is a loss of ash trees up to 2 percent of total timber with a value loss of between \$20–60 billion.

Following discussions with Secretary Veneman and gaining the support of the Michigan delegation, Michigan Department of Agriculture, and DNR we were able to get the approval of \$14.6 million in emergency assistance from USDA to combat the Emerald Ash Borer. This federal funding will supplement resources provided by state and local authorities and will be used for pest surveillance, quarantine of infected areas, and some tree removal. In order to more efficiently combat de-

structive pests like the Emerald Ash Borer, the Healthy Forest Restoration Act puts in place measures that will allow accelerated information gathering on such insect infestations. By removing bureaucratic red tape and being more proactive in maintaining forest health, the Healthy Forest Restoration Act is a step in the right direction towards efficiently managing our forests, preventing catastrophic fires, controlling damaging insect infestations, and protecting our environment.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1588) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for military activities of the Department of Defense to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, the legislation before us is of great importance, perhaps today more than ever. Even as we debate this legislation today, our brave men and women are serving in harm's way. That is why I strongly support many provisions of this legislation; particularly the 4.1 percent across-the-board pay increase for military personnel, as well as the vital readiness, modernization, and infrastructure improvements, which will keep our forces the best-trained and best-equipped in the world.

As we are all painfully aware, there are many security challenges that face our great nation. As such, it is critical that we provide the necessary investments in our national defense. However, because of several highly controversial provisions in what is traditionally a bipartisan bill, I have strong reservations about supporting H.R. 1588 as it is currently written.

One of my primary concerns pertains to the environmental provisions in this legislation that weaken environmental protections. Although I fully support maintaining the highest possible level of military training and readiness, I believe such readiness must also be balanced against our duty to protect at-risk species, especially in light of existing Department of Defense exemptions in current environmental laws. H.R. 1588 does not adequately address this concern.

The Department of Defense contends that military training on the approximately 25 million acres of land at the more than 425 installations nationwide is greatly constrained by environmental laws such as the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. However, a GAO report issued in June 2002 found that training readiness remains high and that the ESA and the MMP are not hampering military readiness. In addition, existing environmental laws already have national security exemptions, yet DoD has never bothered to apply for them. Although I support Chairman HUNTER's attempt to temper this extreme anti-environmental provision, I am dismayed that Democrats were denied the right to offer the Rahall/Dingell amendment,

which would have addressed these environmental exemptions in a much more comprehensive manner.

Another provision that is of great concern to me pertains to the DoD's civilian personnel. H.R. 1588 contains broad, sweeping provisions that grant the Secretary of Defense authority to create an entirely new civilian employee system for DoD's 700,000 civilian workers, which strips these employees of some of their basic rights, such as the right to notice before they are fired and the right to join a union. Representatives COOPER, DAVIS, and VAN HOLLEN offered an important amendment before the Rules Committee to make major modifications to these provisions, in order to protect fundamental employee rights in any new National Security Personnel System designed by the DoD. Disturbingly, the Republicans disallowed this important amendment from being considered on the floor today. I wish I could say I was shocked at this action, but unfortunately it has become standard fare for the Majority to stifle debate and discussion on the important issues of the day.

Last, and certainly not least, is my concern over the nuclear weapons provisions in H.R. 1588. This legislation authorizes previously prohibited research on low-yield nuclear weapons and also authorizes \$21 million to study the feasibility of developing a Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator.

Our military needs improved capabilities to hold at risk hardened, and deeply buried targets in rogue nations that might contain prohibited weapons of mass destruction programs. However, instead of building new nuclear weapons and sending the signal to our allies and enemies alike that it's okay to build nuclear weapons, I believe we should fund weapons that have just as strong a deterrent capability, but do not encourage new uses for nuclear weapons or encourage a new nuclear arms race.

The military has not even asked for nuclear weapons to do the job because there are already several conventional programs underway that would allow us to get at the same targets. A recent article quotes Adm. James Ellis, head of U.S. strategic command, as saying he wants to "reduce the country's dependence on nuclear weapons by using conventional, precision-guided bombs and missiles."

Mr. Chairman, let me reiterate, I strongly support a strong national defense to address the many national security challenges we face in this uncertain world. Excluding these extraneous, highly controversial provisions, H.R. 1588 contains many important provisions to improve our nation's defenses. I support the important provisions that provide good pay, housing and training for the men and women in uniform and fund important modernization priorities that will ensure that we have the most technologically advanced military in the world. I am very hopeful that the environmental, civil service, and nuclear weapons provisions are addressed in conference in order to make this a more acceptable and bipartisan piece of legislation.

HONORING DON MIDDLETON

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of our great champions of education in Colorado, Mr. Don Middleton. Mr. Middleton is retiring as Superintendent of Clear Creek School District after 37 years of service in public education.

During his tenure at Clear Creek, he has played a valuable role in raising the District's test scores across the board. The effect of his integrity, honesty and passion for education has been far reaching. In fact, he has been credited with restoring the pride of the educational community in his schools through his tireless efforts and compassionate leadership.

Don has been recognized on numerous occasions for his exceptional work in education. He has been given awards such as the Administrator of the Year Award of Excellence; the Award of Distinguished Service; a Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Service Adams County #1; and the Hall of Fame Award from the Mapleton Education Association. Interestingly enough, if you ask Don to talk about his long and distinguished career of service, you would most likely find that he would rather talk about the kids he has met along the way. His dedication is evident by his enthusiastic presence at so many school functions and classroom visits.

Don Middleton has been a dedicated leader and an unwavering advocate for excellence in education. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Middleton for his hard work on behalf of Colorado's children and families. I wish him success in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING MARY ANN McROBERT

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mary Ann McRobert, recipient of the Lenawee Chamber's 2003 ATHENA award.

Throughout her life, Mary Ann McRobert has distinguished herself both personally and professionally through her commitment to helping those in need. Earning a Nursing Degree from St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing, Mary Ann went on to earn two degrees in Social Work: a bachelor's degree from Siena Heights University and a Masters degree from the University of Michigan. She has shared her experience and knowledge in nursing and social work as an instructor at Siena Heights University and Adrian College.

Mary Ann has made the most of her extensive education and training, serving in a variety of nursing situations, as a social worker, and as an administrator of several social service organizations. In the last 18 years, she has served as: Interim Director of Call Someone Concerned, Executive Director of the Family Awareness Center, Administrative Director of Bixby Medical Center Psychology Unit, Clinical Social Worker in private practice, and Interim

Director of Family Counseling and Children's Services. She also served two terms as President of the Board of Directors for the Family Awareness Center, two terms as Vice President of the Board of Directors for Family Counseling and Children's Services, and the Gerontology Network. Mary Ann has also volunteered for Hospice of Lenawee.

Mary Ann McRobert is well respected in her community, and with good reason. She is well known for her ability to initiate a project, enlist the assistance of others, and see the plan through to completion. Her efforts are not for her own benefit, but for the benefit of others. She has been a fierce advocate and courageous leader for social service causes and, by mentoring and her example, has opened many doors for women and men in community leadership.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION AMENDMENTS OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, people in New Mexico are hurting. Since January 2001, the unemployment rate in my state has risen to 5.9 percent. While every single person on unemployment would rather have a job, until the economy reverses, we in Congress have a moral obligation to help the jobless make ends meet. The extension will help nearly 5,000 New Mexicans who still have not found jobs, and were scheduled to exhaust their Federal benefits at the end of this month.

We have been calling for this type of legislation for weeks, and I applaud the Majority for finally doing what is right. Unfortunately, although they have done what's right, they haven't done enough in this bill to help all Americans who are out of work.

Last year, because of the failed economic policies of this administration, Congress was forced to enact the Temporary Extension of Unemployment Compensation (TEUC) bill. Sadly, though, the need has only increased since then. The economy has actually gotten worse since Congress passed TEUC in March 2002.

The number of unemployed (8.79 million) is at the highest level in nearly a decade. The unemployment rate rose to 6.0 percent in April, compared to 5.7 percent when TEUC was enacted in March 2003 and when the program was extended in January of this year. The number of payroll jobs fell for the third straight month in April; unemployment is now 2.1 million below its level when the recession began. Long-term unemployment also continues to get worse.

Unemployment benefits provide an economic lifeline for families struggling to find work and boost an ailing economy. People are losing their jobs, looking for work, and finding none.

It is unfortunate that the House leadership waited so long to bring up this bill. It is also unfortunate that the House leadership has refused us a vote on the Democratic alternative—yet again.

While I will vote for this bill because it is critical to the millions of Americans who have lost

their jobs in the last two years, we should be doing more. This plan leaves over one million unemployed behind, and fails to provide them the benefits they need to put food on the table, clothes on their backs, and a roof over their heads.

We also should be extending this benefit for 26 weeks, not just 13. Although the bill provides that in high unemployment states jobless workers would be eligible for 13 more weeks—in addition to the 13 extra weeks available to all jobless workers who have exhausted their 26 weeks of regular benefits—the entire country is in need of this assistance. Because of the strict requirements for a state to qualify as a high unemployment state under this program, only six states currently qualify—Alaska, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Washington. We should pass the full Democratic package immediately to help everyone seeking work, not just the few.

Research shows that during previous recessions, the stimulative power of unemployment benefits saved an average of 131,000 jobs and slowed the drop in the Gross Domestic Product by 15 percent. National studies have shown that \$1 in unemployment insurance leads to \$2.15 worth of economic growth.

Every week without unemployment insurance benefits, states lose \$200 million in cash—cash that in all likelihood would be spent at the local grocery store and the local gas station. Indeed, a recent study by Economy.com, an independent financial research group, found that the single most effective stimulus measure would be further extension of emergency Federal unemployment insurance benefits.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation unfortunately is long overdue, and very necessary. I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 2158, and quickly send this legislation to the Senate to ensure these benefits continue uninterrupted.

IN HONOR OF CAROLYN "CJ"
JONES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to acknowledge Ms. Carolyn "CJ" Jones for her many years of public service and for the depth and diversity of contributions she has made to my staff and to so many people in Colorado.

Upon my election to the 2nd Congressional District in 1998, CJ was the first person I invited to join my staff. She was instrumental in organizing my campaign effort in Adams County, and in the early days after my election, she organized our fledgling congressional office from the basement of her house and took constituent inquiries on her cell phone. CJ Jones assisted in training many of my novice staff members and has subsequently set the standard of excellence for my office in the 2nd Congressional District.

Prior to becoming my staff assistant, CJ served in the offices of Senator Tim Wirth and Congressman David Skaggs. She is also the only member of my staff with her own election certificate—this to the Adams County School District 12 Board. Throughout her distin-

guished career, she has served successfully in numerous capacities. Her knowledge of Adams County politics is encyclopedic, and her insistence on application of House Ethics Rules has become legendary with members of my staff. We will deeply miss the staff parties at her home, her annual Christmas carols—which started with the earliest snowfall in September—and her tendency to break into song at any moment. Coworkers will also recall those rare moments in CJ's career when her blue eyes turned steely gray, signaling a red alert to everyone in the vicinity.

One of the things I share with CJ is a deep interest in young people. She has been the driving force behind my annual Youth Washington Seminar and she has mentored young people, chaperoning high school students in Washington with care and joy. She has shown young Coloradans that politics is not just about policy debates and electioneering, but also about having fun. High School students visiting Washington with her could always count on a visit to the monuments, but also a visit to the Hard Rock Café. To serve so broadly, so successfully, and with such grace, heart, and spirit is deserving of recognition.

CJ plans to spend some well-deserved time relaxing and traveling with her husband Bill, and spoiling her grandchildren. As a dedicated wife, mother and grandmother, CJ will continue to be the center of her family and the light of their lives. I know that they look forward to having her undivided attention and time. She will no doubt continue to be a force to be reckoned with in the arena of her garden and home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in expressing our gratitude to CJ Jones for her exemplary public service to the people of Colorado and their elected officials. Her many accomplishments go beyond reckoning, and I wish her good health and happiness in the future.

HONORING SHAAN GANDHI, OF
BATTLE CREEK, MI, LEGRAND
SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence he has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Shaan Gandhi, winner of the 2003 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Shaan is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Shaan is an exceptional student at Harper Creek High School, and possesses an outstanding record of achievement in high school. Shaan has received numerous awards for his excellence in science and math, as well as his volunteer activities with the Calhoun County Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Substance Abuse Council of Battle Creek. A

Siemens-Westinghouse Scholar, Shaan has also participated in the NASA SHARP PLUS program, is a National Merit Scholarship Finalist, and has been accepted to Harvard University.

Therefore, I am proud to join with his many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Shaan Gandhi for his selection as winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to his success. To this remarkable young man, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all his future endeavors.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 2, JOBS AND GROWTH RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the facts are startling. In just over 2 years, this administration has taken a vibrant economy and turned it into a total mess. Once we saw projected federal surpluses for years, but now we see unprecedented deficits as far as the eye can see. Once we saw Americans working in good paying jobs, but now we see over two million jobs lost and families needing help to make ends meet. Once we saw states thriving and providing much needed benefits to the most needy, but now we see massive state deficits that require federal assistance to close.

Something needs to be done to fix these problems. The question is what's the best way to do it? When we began the debate earlier this year about how to turn around our struggling economy, I was looking for a plan that passed three simple tests. Was the plan fair? Was the plan fast-acting? Was the plan fiscally sound?

Tonight, the House is voting on the President's proposal. The answer to all three of these simple questions is a resounding "no." Is it fair?

The other side likes to point out that the average family will receive about \$1,000 in tax breaks. What they don't tell you is that 53 percent of all taxpayers—yes, 53 percent of all taxpayers—will see less than \$100 in their pockets. However, if you make over \$1 million a year, you get a tax cut of \$93,500. This clearly is not fair.

Is it fast acting?

Well, it's going to take effect this year. Yes, that much is true. Unfortunately, the President's plan gives the break this year and next, then it takes it away again in 2005. So, the average middle class taxpayer will actually see their taxes go up 2 years from now. And this trickle-down tax policy will not stimulate the economy now. In fact, it totally depends on those who benefit—the few—to reinvest their windfall down the road. In fact, there is no guarantee that any of this will happen, so there is no guarantee that this tax cut will generate any jobs, let alone the one million promised by the President.

Is it fiscally sound?

The answer is a resounding no. The dividend tax reduction and the cut in the capital

gains rate will give us little bang for our buck. Many leading economists argue that the dividend cut especially is one of the least effective options to grow the economy.

This bill is a cruel hoax on New Mexico families. The overwhelming majority of hard-working New Mexicans will reap minimal benefits from these tax cuts. Although the final agreement hammered out by the House and Senate is much better than President Bush's original proposal, it still will not deliver much of a boost to the economy and instead increase the federal debt to be paid for by future generations.

With passage of this tax cut, Congress and the president are demonstrating their economic arrogance. Over 400 economists, 10 Nobel prize-winning economists, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and a host of other credible experts have told us that this is not the way to go. It is not good economic policy, it is not good tax policy, it is not good fiscal policy, and it is going to put us in a deeper and deeper deficit hole. Eventually interest rates will rise because of the federal debt and that's going to hit middle-income families harder than the wealthy individuals who benefit the most from this misguided bill.

Two years ago, President Bush told us that we could enact his policies and virtually eliminate the debt held by the public by 2008. Now, the Bush Administration is asking Congress to raise the debt limit by almost \$1 trillion. It is an unprecedented turn of events. Those in the White House and their allies who want to eventually end the role of the federal government as we know it today—in education, homeland security, health care, Social Security, Medicare, veterans' benefits and other basic services—are well on their way.

The only beneficial provisions included here are the ones that we included in our alternative plan: raising the refundable child tax credit, speeding up tax relief for married couples, preventing more individuals from being hit by the alternative minimum tax, small business expensing, and the financial aid to the states. Unfortunately, these redeemable items will be strangled by the capital gains and dividends tax breaks for the few.

In 2001, I voted against the Bush tax cut bill because it was too skewed toward the wealthiest Americans and too fiscally irresponsible. Since then, we have gone from record surpluses to record deficits, and the economy is still floundering. Passing another enormous tax cut this year will only continue this trend and increase the economic problems that our children and grandchildren will inherit.

Tonight, I will do so again. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this conference report.

BRUCE WOODBURY POST OFFICE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to one of Southern Nevada's most distinguished citizens, Commissioner Bruce Woodbury. I have introduced legislation to name the United States Postal Service facility in Boulder City, Nevada in his honor.

I have worked closely with the members of the City Council of Boulder City, and the Mayor of Boulder City, Robert Ferraro, to appropriately thank Commissioner Woodbury for his many contributions to the great State of Nevada.

Commissioner Woodbury is a native of Las Vegas, and he has resided in Boulder City since 1978. He is a graduate of Las Vegas High School, and attended the University of Utah where he graduated Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Beta Kappa, and Magna Cum Laude. Mr. Woodbury then attended Stanford School of Law where he earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence and was a member of the Board of Editors of the Stanford Law Review.

In Southern Nevada, Commissioner Woodbury has served for many years as an outstanding civic leader. He has served as a member of the Clark County Commission for 21 years and on the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada for 17 years, the last 11 as that body's chairman. The magnitude of his contributions are seen by Nevadans every day. Commissioner Woodbury was instrumental in gathering support for the construction of the Las Vegas Beltway, the largest and most visible transportation project ever undertaken in Clark County. Through his leadership, Commissioner Woodbury has worked to minimize traffic delays, reduce inconvenience for drivers, and maintain access to local businesses.

In addition, Mr. Woodbury has been very involved in local, civic, and youth organizations. He is also a proud father and grandfather. I am pleased to introduce this legislation honoring him today. It has been my privilege to work with Commissioner Woodbury on a variety of projects and I can speak to his character as a leader, a citizen, and as a friend.

TRIBUTE TO PONTIAC HIGH SCHOOL'S HUSKIE BRIGADE

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Pontiac Northern High School's "Huskie Brigade" for their victory at the U.S. FIRST Robotics National Championship in Houston, Texas last month. The twenty-four students, four teachers, and several engineers should be proud of this accomplishment.

Science and technology are the keystones to our economic prosperity. The quality education of America's youth is more critical now than ever as our society becomes more wired and globalized. Our students must be interested in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology to continue our success.

The For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) competition instills an appreciation of science and technology in students and teaches them how mastering these institutes can enrich our society. Corporations provide economic and professional support to FIRST and teams. General Motors Powertrain sponsored Pontiac Northern High School's team. Many Fortune 500 companies have significantly contributed to FIRST's growth and government organizations such as NASA are key partners. FIRST represents a cooperative team effort by stu-

dents, teachers, communities, corporations, and our government.

The Huskie Brigade competed in two regional events leading up to the National Competition. At the Great Lakes Regional, they were awarded the prestigious 2003 Regional Chairman's Award. At the Mid-West Regional, the Huskie Brigade finished as a finalist and won the Johnson and Johnson's Sportsmanship Award.

I congratulate the Huskie Brigade on their fine achievements and awards and wish nothing but the best for all the members in their future endeavors.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO SAMANTHA BENTON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, colleagues, I rise today to convey my deepest appreciation to a member of my Washington, D.C. staff for her dedicated service to the people of Oregon's Second Congressional District. Samantha Benton left my staff last week to join the United States Department of the Treasury. I wish her well in this endeavor and am confident that she will excel in her new role.

Samantha was raised in my hometown of Hood River, Oregon, growing up on a family-owned orchard along the Columbia River Gorge. Her parents, John and Julie Benton, are well-respected members of the Hood River community and personal friends of mine. Samantha brought her "small town values" from rural Oregon to our nation's capital and to the job she performed assisting Oregonians visiting Washington, D.C. or seeking help from my office. She attended Westside Elementary School and Hood River Middle School before graduating from Hood River Valley High School in 1997. She then went on to attend the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington, where she studied history and was active as Vice President of Program Development for the University's Zeta chapter of Alpha Phi. Samantha's interest in politics was apparent during her college years, when she worked as an intern in two Congressional offices. Samantha worked as an intern in my Washington, D.C. office during the summer of 1999, then worked in Congresswoman JENNIFER DUNN's Mercer Island District Office in 2000.

After her graduation in 2001, I was pleased to offer Samantha a permanent position on my staff. From the beginning of her tenure, she made Oregonians feel at home when they walked through the door of 1404 Longworth by offering them a warm and sincere reception. She faithfully attended to every detail in helping families navigate the sights and sounds of Washington, D.C. Time and again, she brought history to life by leading tours of the Capitol for Oregonians who had come nearly 3,000 miles so that they and their children could better understand the federal government and our nation's extraordinary history. Samantha arranged their itineraries, answered their questions, and went the extra mile every time to make them feel comfortable an entire continent away from their homes. In short, Mr.

Speaker, Samantha made their day and their trip.

I have a sizable stack of letters from Oregonians who took the time to write after their trip to Washington, D.C., to thank me for Samantha's assistance and her dogged determination to make sure their experience was memorable.

Mr. Speaker, Samantha's energetic and helpful demeanor was equally appreciated by her coworkers. She was attentive in recognizing when something needed to be done, taking the initiative to complete projects and lend others a helping hand. Whether she was drafting letters to address a constituent's concerns or keeping the information on my web site up to date, Samantha's contributions were always appreciated and on target. During her time in my office, she took a staff assistant role and developed it into something much more.

Samantha's attitude and intellect will serve her well as she continues her public service at the Department of the Treasury. Mr. Speaker, she will be a difficult person to replace. Sam, thank you for a job well done and good luck in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. CATHERINE
OCHENSKI

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Catherine Ochenski in honor of her becoming the first female District Commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars 11th district.

Kate proudly served her country in the Women's Army Corps from 1944 to 1946 both in the United States and in Europe. Her role during these 2 years was to assist in the aftermath of World War II. Kate has since gone on to wed a Marine veteran, and raise a family of three children. She has also served in a multitude of capacities at V.F.W. Post 1075 for over 15 years, where she currently has received the honor of being the first female District Commander. Kate's accomplishments are numerous, and her devotion to her country is steadfast.

I am honored today to recognize Catherine Ochenski for her many accomplishments, and to congratulate her on the celebration of her role as first female District Commander for the V.F.W. Post 1075.

RECOGNIZING THE MARRIAGE OF
DENA MARIE CARLI AND DENNIS
WAYNE POCIASK

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my best wishes for the upcoming marriage of Dena Marie Carli and Dennis Wayne Pociask on June 7, 2003.

Dena and Dennis met while on duty as police officers with the 13th District Chicago Police Department.

Dena, who is currently pursuing a law degree, has been working in law enforcement since 1995. She started as Cook County deputy sheriff and in 1999 became a Chicago police officer. Her parents, Officer Reno and Diane Carli, and her sister, Officer Lisa Carli, are all very proud of her decision to continue in the family business of keeping our city safe.

Dennis has been with the police force since 1998 and remains close with his mother, Tina, his brother, Ray, his sister-in-law, Pamela, and his niece, Holly.

Mr. Speaker, marriage is an occasion worthy of celebration and recognition. Please join me in wishing the very best for Dena and Dennis' new life together. May they share many pleasant memories in a marriage built on trust, friendship and a loving commitment to one another. I wish them many years of happiness and ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY CELEBRATES THE NORTH BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS TEAM

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the victory of the 37 member team from North Brunswick Township High School who built the robot, Evil Machine, and took second place in the national FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition in Houston Texas. Building a champion robot is more than creating a machine with technical prowess. It represents hours of hard work, dedication, collaboration and communication among students, teachers, mentors and community members. FIRST is an example of technology at its finest. It involves identifying a problem, developing a hypothesis to solve it and implementing the solution.

To win second place in a national competition against 300 other high school robots is a good accomplishment. Each team that participated in FIRST was required to design and build a robot that solved the "game problem" using "kit parts" and a standard set of rules. Over a six-week period, the North Brunswick Township High School team designed "Evil Machine". His task for the competition was to collect and stack plastic storage containers on their side of the playing field, to knock down walls, and during the two-minute competition, to keep the opposing team's robots from doing the same activity.

FIRST is a critical program because it reinforces science education. Science is not just another subject. It is fundamental like reading and math. Science brings order, harmony, and balance to our lives. It teaches us that our world is intelligible and not capricious. A scientific framework provides us the skill for lifelong learning, for creating progress itself. These are very important skills for the very complex times in which we live.

I ask that all the members join me in congratulating these 34 North Brunswick Township High School Students for their excellence and their FIRST Robotics victory.

CONGRATULATING BOYD AND
IRENE MADDOX ON 75 YEARS OF
MARRIAGE

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, we in America have a penchant celebrating milestones in just about every endeavor, be it sports, business or even school attendance. But today I would like to recognize a truly amazing milestone, which is only rarely reached in our modern world: the 75th wedding anniversary of Boyd and Irene Maddox of San Bernardino County.

Boyd Maddox and Irene Crozier are lifelong residents of the Old West, growing up in the rugged early 20th-Century New Mexico Territory, marrying in Tombstone, Arizona and finally settling at the 250,000-acre Las Flores Ranch in the Mojave Desert—a working cattle ranch that still provides good employment to the cowboys of the 21st Century.

Boyd was born in Lordsburg, New Mexico in 1908 and grew up on a cattle ranch where he got to know a young neighbor girl named Sandra Day—later to become Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. After graduating from New Mexico Military Academy, Boyd became a messenger for Continental Bank of Los Angeles, and then worked his way up through a series of banks to become chief bookkeeper of the Douglas State Bank in southern Arizona.

Irene had graduated from Tombstone High School, and married the young bank officer on June 10, 1928 at Old Adobe Episcopal Church in her hometown. The couple homesteaded for 2 years, but the depression forced Boyd to go to work for the Civilian Conservation Corps as a bookkeeper.

A former bank employer had purchased a cattle ranch—the Las Flores Ranch in the Mojave Desert, and urged the Maddox's to come west and help him manage it. They finally visited in September 1938, and never left. Boyd became the working general manager and stayed for the next 50 years until his retirement. Irene raised Boyd, Jr., who is now 67.

Mr. Speaker, Boyd and Irene Maddox are enjoying an active retirement, traveling, visiting friends and reminiscing. I'm sure we would be spellbound by the stories they could tell of their remarkable life together all these years. Please join me in congratulating them on their 75th wedding anniversary, and wishing them many more years to come.

HONORING LEGENDARY PENN
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH
CHRIS GEESMAN

HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a living legend, Penn High School football coach Chris Geesman from Mishawaka, Indiana.

Coach Geesman recently announced he plans to retire from coaching at the end of this school year.

Since 1972, Coach Geesman has led the Kingsmen to five state championships and has never suffered a losing season.

Mr. Speaker, that's remarkable.

He retires in second place on the All-Time Football Coaching Leaders in Indiana with 339 victories. Only one coach in Indiana high school football history had more wins, but that coach also had more losses.

In 1996, he was inducted into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame.

Coach Geesman's impressive resume includes five state championships (1983, 1995, 1996, 1997, and 2000), three state runner-up finishes (1989, 1991, and 1999), eight semi-state crowns (1983, 1989, 1991, 1995–1997, and 1999–2000), and 13 sectional trophies (1979, 1983, 1987, 1989, 1991, and 1995–2000).

Penn High School football was also a force to be reckoned with under Coach Geesman's guidance in the Northern Indiana Conference by winning 22 NIC titles, including 17 in a row from 1986 through 2002.

Since a loss back in 1985, the Kingsmen have won an astonishing 117 straight NIC games.

The Kingsmen also established a state record with 89 consecutive regular-season victories running from 1985 to 1996 and own a state-record 22 straight playoff victories.

Coach Geesman's Kingsmen were ranked Number 1 in all or parts of a record 13 seasons for a record total of 87 weeks since 1977.

Coach Geesman has also had many players move on to play at the collegiate level and even a couple have advanced to play in the National Football League.

Mr. Speaker, I know the fans of Penn High School football and the Mishawaka community will certainly miss Coach Geesman, but I wish him well in his future endeavors.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
MR. AND MRS. JOHN PAGE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Mr. and Mrs. John Page began selling homemade fudge and then founded the Pillars Club to assist those in need; and

Whereas, Mr. and Mrs. John Page's involvement in the annual Pillars Club banquets have benefitted many in the community including students, the unemployed, and disaster victims; and

Whereas, Mr. and Mrs. John Page are examples of love and devotion having been married for over fifty years; and

Whereas, Mr. and Mrs. John Page should be recognized for their extraordinary outreach and selflessness;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Mr. and Mrs. John Page for their accomplishments and contributions to the community.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MISSOURI HIGHWAY PATROL TROOPER MICHAEL L. NEWTON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the life of Missouri Highway Patrol Trooper Michael L. Newton. His life, though tragically cut short, was enriched by numerous accomplishments in his career, and a loving, caring family.

Mike served the Missouri Highway Patrol with dignity and passion. He set career goals that established himself as a competitive officer. He was ardent about making as many driving-while-intoxicated and traffic arrests as he could and it was this determination that made him a standout among his fellow officers. His eagerness and drive established him as an officer that was well-liked by many of his peers.

Mike is survived by his loving wife Shonnie and two sons, Tyler and Devon. Many of the Missouri Highway Patrol have pledged to help the family through these trying times. It is my hopes that his young boys will always remember how passionate their father was about his job and how diligently he served the people of Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you help me in recognizing and remembering Missouri Highway Patrol Trooper Michael L. Newton, his accomplished career, and the remarkable family he leaves behind. God Bless them.

PRO-LIFE ACTION MUST
ORIGINATE FROM PRINCIPLE

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, as an obstetrician who has delivered over 4000 children, I have long been concerned with the rights of unborn people. I believe this is the greatest moral issue of our time. The very best of the western intellectual tradition has understood the critical link between moral and political action. Each of these disciplines should strongly inform and support the other.

I have become increasingly concerned over the years that the pro-life movement I so strongly support is getting further off track, both politically and morally. I sponsored the original pro-life amendment, which used a constitutional approach to solve the crisis of federalization of abortion law by the courts. The pro-life movement was with me and had my full support and admiration.

Those who cherish unborn life have become frustrated by our inability to overturn or significantly curtail *Roe v. Wade*. Because of this, attempts were made to fight against abortion using political convenience rather than principle. There is nothing wrong per se with fighting winnable battles, but a danger exists when political pragmatism requires the pro-life movement to surrender important moral and political principles.

When we surrender constitutional principles, we do untold damage to the moral underpinnings on which our Constitution and entire system of government rest. Those underpinnings are the inalienable right to life, liberty, and property. Commenting upon the link between our most important rights, Thomas Jefferson said "The God which gave us life gave us at the same time liberty. The hands of force may destroy but can never divide these."

M. Stanton Evans further explained the link between our form of government and the rights it protects when he wrote, "The genius of the Constitution is its division of powers—summed up in that clause reserving to the several states, or the people, all powers not expressly granted to the federal government."

Pro-lifers should be fiercely loyal to this system of federalism, because the very same Constitution that created the federal system also asserts the inalienable right to life. In this way, our constitutional system closely links federalism to the fundamental moral rights to life, liberty, and property. For our Founders it was no exaggeration to say federalism is the means by which life, as well as liberty and property, are protected in this nation. This is why the recent direction of the pro-life cause is so disturbing.

Pro-life forces have worked for the passage of bills that disregard the federal system, such as the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, the federal cloning ban, and the Child Custody Protection Act. Each of these bills rested on specious constitutional grounds and undermined the federalism our Founders recognized and intended as the greatest protection of our most precious rights.

Each of these bills transfers to the federal government powers constitutionally retained by the states, thus upsetting the separation and balance of powers that federalism was designed to guarantee. To undermine federalism is to indirectly surrender the very principle upon which the protection of our inalienable right to life depends.

The worst offender of federalism is the so-called Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which not only indirectly surrenders the pro-life principle but actually directly undercuts the right to life by granting a specific exemption to abortionists! This exemption essentially allows some to take life with the sanction of federal law. By supporting this legislation, pro-lifers are expressly condoning a legal exemption for abortionists—showing just how far astray some in the pro-life community have gone.

Even the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act, which is an integral part of the current pro-life agenda, present a dilemma. While I have always supported this Act and plan to do so in the future, I realize that it raises questions of federalism because authority over criminal law is constitutionally retained by the states. The only reason a federal law has any legitimacy in this area is that the Supreme Court took it upon itself to federalize abortion via *Roe v. Wade*. Accordingly, wrestling the abortion issue from the federal courts and putting it back in the hands of the elected legislature comports with the Founder's view of the separation of powers that protects our rights to life, liberty, and property.

Given these dilemmas, what should those of us in the pro-life community do? First, we must return to constitutional principles and proclaim them proudly. We must take a principled approach that recognizes both moral and political principles, and accepts the close relationship between them. Legislatively, we should focus our efforts on building support to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Ideally this would be done in a fashion that allows states to again ban or regulate abortion. State legislatures have always had proper jurisdiction over issues like abortion and cloning; the pro-life movement should recognize that jurisdiction and not encroach upon it. The alternative is an outright federal ban on abortion, done properly via a constitutional amendment that does no violence to our way of government.

If the next version of the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act reads like past versions in the House, I will likely support it despite the dilemmas outlined here. I cannot support, however, a bill like the proposed Senate version of the Partial Birth Abortion Ban that reaffirms *Roe v. Wade*.

For the pro-life cause to truly succeed without undermining the very freedoms that protect life, it must return to principle and uphold our Founder's vision of federalism as an essential component of the American system. Undermining federalism ultimately can only undermine the very mechanism that protects the right to life.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 2, JOBS AND GROWTH RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2003

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, the President has said in numerous speeches that his policies are designed to "leave no child behind." He has said recently that, "My jobs and growth plan would reduce tax rates for everyone who pays income tax." White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer stated on May 29 about the new tax-cut law (which includes all of the provisions of the President's plan in full or in part), "This certainly does deliver tax relief to people who pay income taxes." Now that the bill has been signed, all of these statements have been shown to be false.

Back then, during the debate on this bill, the Republicans assured the press that the final conference bill retained a Senate provision that, while it did not extend any tax relief to millions of low-income working families with children, did at least accelerate the 15 percent partial refundability. The Republicans also claimed that the marriage penalty relief was accelerated for couples. These claims have been proven false as well.

The American people were sold a false bill of goods by the Administration and the Congressional Republicans. In the middle of the night, the Republicans passed a bill that over and over again puts the interests of the wealthiest people in the country ahead of those of the ordinary American family.

You will hear all sorts of excuses from the Republicans as to why this occurred. The

spokeswoman for Chairman Bill Thomas of the House Committee on Ways and Means told *The New York Times* that the blame lay with the members of the other body of Congress "(W)hen we had to squeeze it all to \$350 billion, they weren't talking about the child credits." She concluded, "(W)hatever we do is not going to be enough for some segments of the population."

The "segments" of the population we are talking about are those people who the President and Congressional Republicans say that he wants to help. We are talking about 11.9 million children (in 6.5 million families) who would benefit from accelerating the increase in the refundability of the child tax credit. These are parents who work hard at low wages and pay high payroll taxes to the Federal government. Another "segment" we are talking about is working couples who qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit. These are working poor families who are often struggling to stay together given the financial pressures on them. A couple with two children where each parent earns about \$10,000 has about a \$1,000 marriage penalty next year. And yet, the Republicans decided that marriage penalty relief should not include them.

The Republicans also left out 8.1 million taxpayers who receive no benefits from the new tax law and yet pay income taxes. This group consists mainly of low-income single individuals and moderate-income single parents whose children are over 16.

Not only are these "segments" made up of men and women who work and pay Federal taxes, many of the people that are left out of tax relief are the same men and women who just fought for this country in Iraq. The society they sacrificed for has decided to raid the Social Security and Medicare trust fund to give billions of dollars in tax relief to wealthy investors, but has not seen fit to give a tax cut to our soldiers.

Make no mistake about it. Nobody forgot to put benefits in because they were sleepy in the middle of the night. This was not necessary because the bill had to cost only \$350 billion and it was simply impossible to do anything for these working Americans in the bill. The Republicans in Congress, with the tacit approval of the White House, deliberately skimmed and trimmed on the few provisions under consideration to help millions of middle- and low-income working families. Meanwhile, they enhanced provisions for the wealthy and for special interests. They made sure that the average millionaire would receive a \$93,500 tax break. They made sure that luxury SUV owners would get a generous tax break if they can figure out a way to make their vehicle a "business expense." They even made sure that the tax cuts for dividends, the so-called elimination of "double taxation," applied to dividends from companies that use sham headquarters in tax havens to get out of paying any tax. These companies that put profits over patriotism get benefits from the tax bill the President signed, but the parents of 12 million children do not.

The bill we introduce tonight is designed to serve those people with children that the Republicans talk about but somehow never do anything for. This includes many of our service men and women who are or have been stationed in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Korea. These

men and women have risked their lives and done their duty at such low wages that the President's tax cut which he claims helps "working families" has left them out.

The bill would include an expansion of the refundable child credit that was included in the Democratic economic stimulus proposal. It would expand the refundable child credit for the families of military serving in Iraq and other combat zones. It also would include the provision of the Democratic stimulus plan that accelerated the marriage penalty relief in the earned income tax credit that was provided in the 2001 tax bill.

The President's bill gave big tax cuts to the wealthiest citizens and funded these tax cuts through borrowing. While we want every child in America to benefit from tax cuts, we do not want to pass the cost of what we do to our children and grandchildren in the form of more national debt. The cost of the bill would be offset by a combination of the corporate tax shelter and Enron-specific provisions that passed the Senate and Mr. NEAL's bill stopping corporate expatriation.

The legislation we propose has two key sections:

LIBERALIZATION OF REFUNDABLE FAMILY CREDIT

Under current law, the per-child tax credit is partially refundable (i.e., paid even if the family has no income tax liability). The amount of partial refundability is 10 percent of taxable wages above \$10,000. Under the 2001 tax act, the amount of refundability is increased to 15 percent of taxable wages over \$10,000 effective in 2005 and thereafter.

This legislation accelerates the 15 percent partial refundability and lowers the threshold for partial refundability from \$10,000 to \$7,500. It would increase the number of families eligible for partial refundability.

The military serving in combat zones receive an exclusion for their pay while serving in the zone. As a result, many in the military will not be eligible for the partial refundable family credit because they do not have taxable wages. The legislation solves this problem by disregarding the combat pay exclusion when computing the size of the partially refundable family credit.

MARRIAGE PENALTY RELIEF IN EARNED INCOME CREDIT

The 2001 tax act provided three types of marriage penalty relief, an increase in standard deduction, an expanded 15 percent rate bracket, and an increase in the dollar amount at which the earned income credit begins to be phased out. The recently enacted tax cut accelerates the first two types of marriage penalty relief, but does not accelerate the relief in the earned income tax credit.

This legislation will accelerate the marriage penalty relief in the earned income tax credit.

When the Republicans brought their final tax cut bill up in the House in the middle of the night, I argued on the House floor that the bill did almost nothing for working people while rewarding the wealthiest people in our society who have lots of unearned income. The Republicans accuse me of engaging in "class warfare" and expect me to back down. But I agree that it is class warfare. The Republicans have declared war against those who earn their living through work, even when those individuals are serving their nation in the armed service. This legislation shows that in this

class warfare, we are on the side of working men and women.

RECOGNIZING THE IMAGEN
FOUNDATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the outstanding achievements of the Imagen Foundation. Since its establishment sixteen years ago through the leadership of Helen Hernandez, the Imagen Foundation has led the fight to increase career opportunities for Latinos and Latinas in the entertainment industry and transcend the stereotyped media roles Latinos have been pigeonholed into.

The Imagen Foundation has helped to positively influence the role of Latinos in the media. It is critical for our community to be accurately portrayed because of the influential power the media holds in forming public opinion. Unfortunately, our community is underrepresented and misrepresented throughout all major media networks. Reports show that only 4 percent of people on prime time TV are Latinos, and Latinos who hold more permanent roles only make up 2 percent of actors. It is important to expose the world to the reality that Latinos are also doctors, lawyers, business executives and Members of Congress, and refute the stereotypes perpetuated by the entertainment industry.

Through various tools such as education, mentorship opportunities and workshops, the Imagen Foundation has created openings for Latinos in the entertainment industry. I have had the privilege of attending several workshops and I have seen the incredible talent that exists in the Latino community. The Imagen Foundation has been an amazing force working to develop, showcase and honor the talent in our community. It is my privilege to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Imagen Foundation.

Through groups such as the Imagen Foundation and people like Helen Hernandez, more doors are beginning to open for Latinos in the entertainment industry. While much has been accomplished, we cannot stop here. There is still much to be done and we need to continue to work together. Hispanics are a fundamental part of this nation's history, a significant part of our present, and will play a vital role in the future success of this country's collective prosperity. I know that this is just the beginning, but with institutions such as the Imagen Foundation, who are committed to fighting prejudices and are concerned with bringing truth and a cultural sensitivity to television and society, I look forward to the accomplishments that are yet to come.

HONORING JOHN RHYMES

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, as a former teacher, I am happy to rise before you today

to recognize Mr. John Rhymes, who is retiring as Principal of Gundry Elementary School, in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Armed with a desire to teach, John Rhymes, a native of Hazlehurst, Mississippi, started his college career at Mississippi Valley State University, where he received his Bachelor's Degree in 1970. He later arrived in Michigan, where he earned a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling from Eastern Michigan University, and also studied Educational Leadership at Wayne State University in Detroit.

Moving to Flint 32 years ago with his new wife Lessie Odom Rhymes, John began his tenure with the Flint educational community as a teacher, Social Service field worker, Assistant Principal, and ultimately Principal. In addition to serving as Principal of Gundry Elementary, John is also Executive Director of the Sylvester Broome, Jr. Training Technology Center. At the Broome Center, he oversees the Amistad Academy After-School School, which offers young people classes in computers, public speaking, performing arts, and character development, among other things. To date, there have been 308 graduates of the Academy, with a long waiting list of students eager to be placed into the program.

John's commitment to education is matched only by his tremendous commitment to improving the community. He has been recognized many times for his work by such groups as the Flint Human Rights Commission, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, and the City of Flint Youth Council, to name a few. As mentor and advisor for the Gamma Delta Kudos of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., John helps young men enhance leadership skills as well as self-esteem, and for many, serves as a strong, positive role model.

John's professional affiliations include the Congress of Flint Administrators, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Province Guide Right, and the National Guide Right Board. He is also a member of Metropolitan Baptist Church, where he has served as Youth Fellowship Director, Vacation Bible School Director, Sunday School Superintendent, and the church's Day Care Center's Board of Directors. Presently he is President of the Inspirational Voices Choir, Sunday School teacher and instructor, and Assistant Director of Christian Education.

Mr. Speaker, many of John Rhymes' students, as well as the various faculty members under his leadership, both past and present, have greatly benefited from his insight, as has the entire Flint community. He has always been a staunch fighter for education, for he believes that a strong educational background is the basis toward improving the quality of life. I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating him on his retirement, and wishing him and his family, the best in their future endeavors.

DENTAL OFFICER RETENTION ACT:
TO AMEND TITLE 37, UNITED STATES CODE, TO REMOVE THE PROHIBITION ON THE ABILITY OF QUALIFIED DENTAL OFFICERS IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL SPECIAL PAY WHILE UNDERGOING DENTAL INTERNSHIP OR RESIDENCY TRAINING

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the Dental Office Retention Act, a bill to allow dental officers in military service to receive additional special pay while undergoing an internship or residency.

Aspiring dentists leave medical school owing hundreds of thousands of dollars, often substantially more than \$100,000. Shouldering this burden places a large financial strain on these men and women. The loss of additional special pay during their dental training program further aggravates this problem at a time when these dentists can least afford it.

Dental officers with 3–10 years of service lose \$6,000 in additional specialty pay. Dental officers with more than 10 years of service lose \$15,000. Military dentists face further incentives to leave the service. This is because they receive salaries 30–50 percent lower than their civilian counterparts. We should not be cutting compensation to our military dentists when they need it most.

There are 3,000 dentists in Connecticut and they tell me that the most pressing concern for them in pursuing a career in the military dental corps is how to repay their loans.

Dr. Mark Desrosiers, a dentist from my congressional district in eastern Connecticut, says, "Having been in the military, and a practicing dentist myself, I think this would be a great way to ensure that residents in military specialty programs not be penalized financially by losing their special pay."

Another dentist explains during an exit interview why, though he would rather have stayed in the military, his financial burden forced him to leave. "The main reason for my decision to leave the Air Force is my financial situation. I have enjoyed my time in the Air Force and believe it is one of the best ways for a young dentist to gain experience both as a dentist, leader and follower. It was a difficult decision to make because my wife and I enjoy the military way of life, but we cannot pay our debt with the salary I am paid."

Mr. Speaker, in order to keep a sufficient number of quality dentists in the dental corps, thereby ensuring the dental readiness of America's forces, it is important to eliminate this disincentive that drives officers from the dental corps. Removing the restriction that the officers not receive additional special pay (ASP) while participating in a dental internship or residency training program would help achieve that end.

I urge all my colleagues to support my legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
LARRY COMBEST

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to be here tonight. I am honored to have served in the House of Representatives as a colleague of an outstanding Member of Congress, the gentleman from the 19th District of Texas. I have been especially privileged to serve on the House Agriculture Committee under the chairmanship of LARRY COMBEST. Chairman COMBEST'S example of leadership, commitment and integrity serve as a model for all of us in Congress, especially those of us who care deeply about agriculture.

When I came to Congress, I knew it was important to me to be associated with people who understood and cared about agriculture and the farmers and ranchers of America. It was my honor to become acquainted with Chairman COMBEST. He has been a mentor for me since that time of my arrival seven years ago.

Those of us who represent agriculture in the House of Representatives are a minority. There are not enough of us, so what it takes is people who go beyond their numbers, who more than 1 out of 435 can make a difference.

And the gentleman from Texas has done that because he is knowledgeable and understands the issues. Agriculture is in his blood. That is where he comes from. It is who he is. Farming and ranching is LARRY COMBEST. And he is a leader; he cares about using that information and knowledge on behalf of those engaged in everyday activities trying to earn a living on America's farms and ranches.

Mr. COMBEST'S leadership in the Committee on Agriculture is extraordinary. It is just something that we have relied upon and at times perhaps taken for granted. As we worked our way through a farm bill in this last Congress, it is clear to me that because of his leadership—and sometimes only because of his leadership—things happened.

LARRY COMBEST has a commitment to what he believes in, and he believes in farmers and ranchers. He wants to see our family farms survive and prosper. He wants that rural way of life to continue. He has a commitment to serving his constituents and to helping American agriculture be here today and tomorrow.

Perhaps most importantly, he has integrity. I have never known anyone I could trust more than LARRY COMBEST. His word can be taken for what it is, his word. What he says is what he means. His advice is honestly given. I have never known him to mislead anyone. And it was that character and that integrity that made it possible for us to do things in agriculture on this House floor. People trusted him, they respected him, and they honored what he was about.

As he returns home to Texas, it is with some sadness that we see our friend LARRY COMBEST leave. We all invest in other people in this place. Often I suppose we spend too much time worrying about things that are not so important. But the thing that is important is the relationships, friendships, and understandings that we have with other Members of Congress. I consider it the highest honor to have been associated with LARRY COMBEST during his term as a Member of Congress.

His relationships with other Members of the House will not end with his departure. His friendship with President Bush has been beneficial to those of us who care about rural America, and we look forward to his continued involvement in issues that matter to us and to farmers and ranchers across the country.

Public service is something that we all talk about and engage in as Members of Congress, but we would do well to learn from the example of LARRY COMBEST. He exemplifies the role of a true public servant, who did what he thought was right, who fought the fight and made a difference on behalf of his constituents, on behalf of all Texans, and on behalf of the people of America.

Mr. Speaker, I wish both LARRY and his wife Sharon the absolute best in their future years. I thank them both for their friendship. I honor and respect them, and I hope the fish bite. Thank you, LARRY.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, June 3, 2003 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 4

9:30 a.m.
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 To hold oversight hearings to examine activities of the Federal Communications Commission. SR-253

Foreign Relations
 To hold hearings to examine Iraq stabilization and reconstruction, focusing on international contributions and resources. SD-419

Governmental Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine transforming the Department of Defense Personnel System, focusing on finding the right approach. SD-342

10 a.m.
 Indian Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine S. 281, to amend the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century to make certain amendments with respect to Indian tribes, to provide for training and technical assistance to Native Americans who are interested in commercial vehicle driving careers, and S. 725, to amend the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century to provide from the Highway Trust Fund additional funding for Indian reservation roads. SR-485

Judiciary
 To hold hearings to examine S. 1125, to create a fair and efficient system to resolve claims of victims for bodily injury caused by asbestos exposure. SH-216

Energy and Natural Resources
 Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine S. 714, to provide for the conveyance of a small parcel of Bureau of Land Management land in Douglas County, Oregon, to the county to improve management of and recreational access to the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, S. 391, to enhance ecosystem protection and the range of outdoor opportunities protected by statute in the Skykomish River valley of the State of Washington by designating certain lower-elevation Federal lands as wilderness, S. 1003, to clarify the intent of Con-

gress with respect to the continued use of established commercial outfitter hunting camps on the Salmon River, H.R. 417, to revoke a Public Land Order with respect to certain lands erroneously included in the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, California, and S. 924, to authorize the exchange of lands between an Alaska Native Village Corporation and the Department of the Interior. SD-366

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
 To hold hearings to examine democracy, human rights, and justice in Serbia today. 334, Cannon Building

2 p.m.
 Indian Affairs
 To hold oversight hearings to examine the impacts on tribal fish and wildlife management programs in the Pacific Northwest. SR-485

Small Business and Entrepreneurship
 To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2004 and proposed legislation authorizing funds for the Small Business Administration. SR-428A

JUNE 5

2:30 a.m.
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 To hold hearings to examine Title XI. SR-253

9:30 a.m.
 Environment and Public Works
 Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine S. 485, to amend the Clean Air Act to reduce air pollution through expansion of cap and trade programs, to provide an alternative regulatory classification for units subject to the cap and trade program, focusing on emissions-control technologies and utility-sector investment issues. SD-406

Judiciary
 Business meeting to consider pending calendar business. SD-226

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine financing AMTRAK. SR-253

10 a.m.
 Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the Defense Production Act. SD-538

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
 To hold hearings to examine arming rogue regimes, focusing the role of OSCE Participating States. 334, Cannon Building

10:30 a.m.
 Governmental Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine the nominations of C. Stewart Verdery, Jr., of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning/Border and Transportation Security Directorate, Michael J. Garcia, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Joe D. Whitley, of Georgia, to be General Counsel, all of the Department of Homeland Security. SD-342

2 p.m.
 Appropriations
 Foreign Operations Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2004 for foreign operations. SD-192

Judiciary
 To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Eduardo Aguirre, Jr., of Texas, to be Director of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security. SD-226

Rules and Administration
 To hold hearings to examine Senate Rule XXII relative to the cloture rule and proposals to amend this rule. SR-301

2:30 p.m.
 Foreign Relations
 East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine life inside North Korea. SD-419

JUNE 10

9:30 a.m.
 Governmental Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine castaway children, focusing on whether parents must relinquish custody in order to secure mental health services for their children. SD-342

10 a.m.
 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
 To hold hearings to examine the Head Start program. SD-430

2:30 p.m.
 Energy and Natural Resources
 National Parks Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine S. 499, to authorize the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish in the State of Louisiana a memorial to honor the Buffalo Soldiers, S. 546, to provide for the protection of paleontological resources on Federal lands, S. 643, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with the University of New Mexico, to construct and occupy a portion of the Hibben Center for Archaeological Research at the University of New Mexico, S. 677, to revise the boundary of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area in the State of Colorado, S. 1060 and H.R. 1577, bills to designate the visitor center in Organ Pipe National Monument in Arizona as the "Kris Eggle Visitor Center", H.R. 255, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to grant an easement to facilitate access to the Lewis and Clark Interpretative Center in Nebraska City, Nebraska, and H.R. 1012, to establish the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site in the District of Columbia. SD-366

JUNE 11

9 a.m.
 Governmental Affairs
 Investigations Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine patient safety, focusing on instilling hospitals with a culture of continuous improvement. SD-342

10 a.m.		JUNE 17		JUNE 24
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions		10 a.m.		9:30 a.m.
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.		Governmental Affairs		Governmental Affairs
	SD-430	Business meeting to consider pending calendar items.		To hold hearings to examine controlling the cost of Federal Health Programs by curing diabetes, focusing on a case study.
Indian Affairs			SD-342	
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Charles W. Grim, of Oklahoma, to be Director of the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services.		JUNE 18		SD-342
	SR-485	9:30 a.m.		JUNE 25
		Governmental Affairs		10 a.m.
		To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Fern Flanagan Saddler, Judith Nan Macaluso, Joseph Michael Francis Ryan III, and Jerry Stewart Byrd, all of the District of Columbia, each to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.		Energy and Natural Resources
JUNE 12				Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
9:30 a.m.				
Foreign Relations				SD-366
To hold hearings to examine repercussions of Iraq stabilization and reconstruction policies.				
	SD-419			JUNE 26
10 a.m.		10 a.m.		9:30 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions		Indian Affairs		Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine private sector lessons for Medicare.		To hold oversight hearings to examine Native American sacred places.		To hold hearings to examine the need for Federal real property reform, focusing on deteriorating buildings and wasted opportunities.
	SD-430		SR-485	
		JUNE 19		SD-342
2 p.m.		10 a.m.		10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions		Governmental Affairs		Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine certain issues relative to TWA.		To hold hearings to conduct an initial review of the ULLICO matter, focusing on self-dealing and breach of duty.		To hold hearings to examine the Department of State's Office of Children's Issues, focusing on responding to international parental abduction.
Room to be announced				
				SD-419