

was appointed principal of the Howland Elementary School, and this set the stage for the rest of his life's work, dealing with the needs of underprivileged children.

Joe's daughter Arlene stated that "All of our lives, all of our family, friends and relatives, if they had clothing to pass on, would take them to my dad and he would take them to school. He would take clothes for adults too. He had kids get eye exams and had an arrangement with those doing the testing to provide glasses for a very low fee."

Mr. Rosen established an after-hours social center at Howland for elementary and high school pupils to keep them off the streets. As the neighborhood was changing, he instituted intergroup understanding as part of the curriculum.

When he became Superintendent of District 10, he established the Farragut Outpost, an alternative school for Farragut students who were not progressing well with the regular straight academic curriculum. The Outpost kept young people in school and attracted many dropouts back.

Joe was indeed an innovative educator who was able to do a great deal with teaching approaches and techniques. He was an avid supporter of early childhood education and established several Head Start and daycare center programs in his district.

Joe would be pleased to know that we are here tonight talking about the earned income tax credit program that is designed to help those at the very bottom. Joe promoted back-to-school activity. He promoted breakfast and lunch programs for children, understanding that they could not learn well if they were hungry.

However, many people knew him best through his partnership with Mrs. Ida Mae Fletcher, Ma Fletcher, a pioneer leader and education activist. Through their efforts, community involvement and parental participation became buzz words associated with public education in the Chicago area.

Joe was forced to retire at the age of 65 because of an age requirement. However, he continued to work both formally and informally for many years. He met his first wife, Ms. May Berg at a dance and they were married in 1939. After her death, he met Ms. Carol Bauer and they were married in 1984.

Joe leaves to mourn his passing his sons Laurence and Robert; stepson Harlen Bauer and stepdaughters Betsy Bauer and Susan Bauer; Yetta Rothstein, his sister; brother Walter Rosen; and four grandchildren.

Joe continued to be active and serve on various boards and committees right up to the end of his life. He was a member of our Seventh Congressional District Education Task Force and the Westside Association for Community Action.

Joe never gave up on his inner-city community, and the community never gave up on him. He leaves a tremen-

dous legacy of commitment, dedication and commitment, to serving those who needed help. That is why Joe would be pleased to see my colleagues here extolling the virtues of tax relief or tax cuts for those who really need it, and not for those who do not, those who can benefit if we are real about what is needed.

HONORING JOHN MEHRMANN OF MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Manchester's John Mehrmann, New Hampshire's winner of the VFW Voice of Democracy Scholarship Contest. This contest is held each year to give high school students the opportunity to voice their opinion on their responsibility to our country.

The following is Mr. Mehrmann's essay, which I found both compelling and profound, and which is why I want to read it on the floor of the United States Congress.

"We were just kids. All our lives, everything was perfect; everything worked. Everything was planned. We went to school. We came home. We slept. And somewhere along the road of our lives, we would graduate from school. After graduating from school, we would go to a new school, we would come home, and we would sleep. There was nothing to fear; there would always be food in the fridge and gas in the car. Every time we flicked the light switch, there would be light.

"Then something happened. Suddenly something, somehow, somehow, somewhere shattered. As the dust settled and the magnitude of what we had lost became clear, it wasn't the death of an age for us, and it wasn't the death of jokes. But as we walked across the street or through the halls or drove our cars, something was different. The world was smaller that day. And all the faces, you with your expensive car, or you who always had something important to say, they all looked so much alike. They didn't all have the same hair color or the number of freckles. Some had straight teeth and some had big chins.

□ 1900

But they were all sad, all thinking. Innocence died that day, the innocence that let us worry about the grades or the pimples on our noses, the freedom to do what we wanted, when we wanted, was lost somewhere in 100 stories of broken steel and dust. We didn't grow up when we got our driver's licenses, and we didn't grow up when we got our first jobs, or even when we turned 18. We all grew up when we had to.

We heard a lot of talk after our abrupt maturation about freedom and responsibility. There were a lot of speeches, and everyone seemed very se-

rious. But mostly, we knew. We knew we could never be kids again. We finally realized what it meant to be responsible. Being responsible was doing our best, even when no one was watching. The responsibility thrust on some of us unexpectedly one late summer morning opened our eyes. We learned to think with our minds and feel with our hearts. Now the people we heard speaking French or Swahili when we came to school each day weren't foreign, they were victims of reality, like the rest of us.

We never knew how or when we would grow up. We didn't know why we had to. We saw the photos and the film clips of men and women leaping from flames only to careen hundreds of feet to their deaths. Again and again, we saw the missiles which we had all thought so harmless piloted to murder what could have been our entire school in an instant.

Freedom wasn't a badge. Freedom isn't a badge. It isn't a prize trophy to be flaunted and waved in the faces of the enslaved. Freedom is a burden, but a burden worth its price. Responsibility is the price of freedom. Freedom does not unequivocally allow for self-indulgence. Self-indulgence and selfishness are not responsible, and it is irresponsible to self-perpetuate at anyone's expense.

We think identities to be so important, and we imagine our lives to be so worthy of greatness that we forget the community of mankind of which we are so preciously minuscule a part.

Obsequiousness and submission are not the stigmas they were before adolescence was made extinct. Freedom is not a right to individuality but a right to community. It is a right of individuals to determine their sociality within the bounds of a world not limited to oceans or lines drawn on a map, but one which spans the entirety of a globe, encompassing a myriad of peoples with innumerable concerns. It is the responsibility of the world's free people to determine which concerns take precedence. The free peoples of the world must recognize the greater good for which to strive. Absolute singularity is no longer an option.

These are the words of John Mehrmann of New Hampshire.

THE UNKINDEST CUT OF ALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on April 26, President Bush stated in his weekly radio address, "My jobs and growth plan would reduce the tax rates of everyone who pays income tax," "everyone who pays income tax."

On May 29, after the GOP tax bill, which included the provision of the President's plan, in full or in part, had been passed by Congress, now, one ought to understand that it was delivered at 8:45 p.m., a very large tax bill,

all sorts of provisions that had never been seen in full by any Member of this House reported out at 8:45. We were called back at approximately 10:30. It was passed at 1:55 a.m. in the morning, in the dark of night because in my opinion the majority wanted to hide this bill. They wanted to take credit for the tax cut, but they wanted to hide the specifics of the bill.

It was signed by the President. The White House Press Secretary, Ari Fleischer, stated, "This certainly does deliver tax relief to people who pay income taxes."

Now, my friend, the gentleman from Texas, not the gentleman who just came on the floor but who previously spoke, a new Member of the House, reiterated that mantra, that everyone who paid taxes was going to get a reduction.

Let there be no mistake, these statements are blatantly and unabashedly wrong. As the Tax Policy Center has reported, more than 8 million lower- and middle-income taxpayers who pay billions of dollars in taxes a year will receive absolutely no tax reduction under the GOP tax bill. That figure, Mr. Speaker, includes 1.8 million taxpayers who pay more than \$1,000 in income tax. They will receive no relief.

In the unkindest cut of all, 6.5 million minimum-wage families with nearly 12 million children will not receive the \$400 per child increase in the child tax credit in the GOP bill. Why did that happen? It happened because they said that they were going to leave their bill at a \$350 billion cut. Why? Because they needed to get some Republican members of the Senate to vote for it, and they could not get them to vote for any number larger than that.

So who do they look to to cut out? Did they look at Warren Buffett? Frankly, did they look at the gentleman from Maryland (STENY HOYER)? I could have afforded it. No, they did not look at us. They did not look at the wealthy; they looked at the poorest Americans and cut them out of this bill.

As a matter of fact, most of us probably did not know that, and the President has now said he is going to fix it. But frankly, he did not offer it in his tax bill. The Republicans did not offer it in their tax bill that passed the House. It was a Democratic amendment offered by Senator LINCOLN, adopted, and was in the conference. We all thought it was going to stay in the conference, but it was dropped in the dead of night without any Democrats in the room and unbeknownst to most Members.

Mr. Speaker, we could have extended the child tax credit to all families, as we sought, simply by limiting the reduction in the highest marginal income tax rate to 35.3 percent rather than 35 percent. We needed to pay for it, and we could have done it.

Now, that same gentleman from Texas observed that we needed to reduce the taxes because we needed to

get the economy moving. We had a plan. It was fast-acting, fair to all Americans, and fiscally responsible. It did not harm us in the long term.

That plan was not allowed to be offered. The plan that was offered, however, was not fair, was not fast-acting, and is not fiscally responsible. In fact, we have gone from \$5.6 trillion purported surpluses that the President told us we had to a, now, almost \$3 trillion deficit, and we are going to be facing what they say is a \$44 trillion deficit in the future. That will be a substantial tax increase for many children in America and many children unborn who will have to pay the interest on that incredible debt that we are incurring.

But lo and behold, in the clearest possible demonstration of the majority's values and priorities, the GOP has shown once again that when push comes to shove, it will fight for the Bush class over the working class every single time. The GOP's mantra really ought to be, leave no millionaire behind.

Mr. Speaker, on April 26th, President Bush stated in his weekly radio address: "My jobs and growth plan would reduce the tax rates of everyone who pays income tax."

And on May 29th, after the GOP tax bill—which included the provisions of the President's plan in full or in part—had been passed by Congress and signed by the President, White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer stated: "This certainly does deliver tax relief to people who pay income taxes."

Mr. Speaker, let there be no mistake: These statements are brazenly, blatantly and unabashedly false. As the Tax Policy Center has reported, more than 8 million lower and middle-income taxpayers who pay billions of dollars a year in income taxes will receive absolutely no tax reduction under this GOP tax bill.

That figure includes 1.8 million taxpayers who pay more than \$1,000 in income tax. What do they receive? No tax relief whatsoever. Nothing. Not a thing.

And the unkindest cut of all, 6.5 million minimum-wage families, with nearly 12 million children, will not receive the \$400-per-child increase in the child tax credit in the GOP bill.

Mr. Speaker, let's be clear: We could have extended the child tax credit to all families—as Democrats sought—simply by limiting the reduction in the highest marginal income tax rate to 35.3 percent rather than 35 percent.

But lo and behold, in the clearest possible demonstration of Republican values and priorities, the GOP has shown once again that when push comes to shove it will fight for the "Bush class" over the working class every single time. The GOP's mantra really ought to be—Leave no millionaire behind!

While minimum wage workers and their children get left out in the cold under the Republicans' tax bill, the Grand Old Party ensured that 184,000 taxpayers with incomes of more than \$1 million would receive an average tax cut of \$93,500.

Ladies and gentlemen, in the Republican vision for America, apparently that's what passes for compassion. And if you don't agree, well the GOP vilify you, charging that you're practicing class warfare.

Mr. Speaker, let's be honest.

Class warfare is precisely what the Republican Party has been practicing on working men and women in this country on issue after issue after issue.

The failure to provide the Child Tax Credit to minimum wage workers while fattening the bank accounts of millionaires is only the tip of the iceberg.

In this report session of the 108th Congress, the Republican majority passed a budget resolution that betrays our values and fails to meet our needs. It would take hot lunches out of the mouths of poor children; force the elderly out of nursing homes as the result of Medicaid cuts; and slash veterans' health care.

This Republican majority had to be dragged kicking and screaming not once but twice to extend unemployment insurance benefits—even as we face the highest unemployment rate in nine years and the loss of nearly 3 million private-sector jobs since George W. Bush took office.

This majority passed a Welfare Reform bill that would force mothers with children under the age of 6 to double the number of hours they must work every week. It passed a medical malpractice bill that would compound the pain of patients with the worst injuries while failing to reduce physicians' insurance premiums.

And it loaded up legislation such as the Defense Authorization bill—legislation that traditionally is overwhelmingly bipartisan—with extraneous, partisan measures that would harm the environment and strip Federal workers of their rights.

And of course, this majority has refused to close tax loopholes for offshore corporate tax havens.

It has refused to consider Democratic legislation to raise the minimum wage, which has not been increased since 1997.

And it even has refused to give the Members of this House the opportunity to vote on a Democratic amendment to increase funding for Homeland Security by \$2.5 billion—a pittance compared to the costs of the GOP's unaffordable and unfair tax bill.

Meanwhile, this Republican majority refuses to address the most pressing unmet needs in America today:

The 41 million Americans who have no health insurance;

The millions of children who are eligible for Head Start but have no seat at the table; and

The millions of seniors who need and deserve a prescription drug benefit under Medicare.

On issue after issue after issue, this Republican majority has sided with powerful special interests over the interests of working Americans.

Mr. Speaker, that is certainly not the Democratic Party's vision for America. And we will never stop fighting for a positive agenda that meets the needs of all our citizens.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1474, CHECK CLEARING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-138) on the resolution (H. Res. 256) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1474) to facilitate check truncation by authorizing substitute