

Rather than writing legislation, I am calling on my fellow fathers in Congress to lead by example. Doing so will leave a powerful and lasting legacy. It is my prayer that our actions will set a standard for fathers across America and awaken the hearts of many to the necessity and the responsibility of fatherhood.

NOTICE OF DISCHARGE PETITION ON CONCURRENT RECEIPTS

(Mr. MARSHALL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I will sign a discharge petition that I bring to right a wrong that has been done to disabled American veterans for more than a century.

In 1891, the United States of America imposed a tax on disabled veterans. We did not call it a tax. We called it a prohibition on concurrent receipts, something average Americans would not understand. Mr. Speaker, it is time to call the concurrent receipt prohibition what it is, the disabled veterans tax. It was wrong then; it is wrong now. It is time to end the disabled veterans tax.

Mr. Speaker, for years the majority and the Members of this House have cosponsored House Resolution 303, which would end the disabled veterans tax; and for years, House Resolution 303 has been bottled up in committee just like campaign reform was bottled up in committee. The discharge petition process forced a vote on campaign finance reform. I am using that same process to force a vote on ending the disabled veterans tax.

Mr. Speaker, at last count, 322 Members of this Congress have cosponsored House Resolution 303. Only 218 of these cosponsors must sign the discharge petition for it to be successful.

ALL-AMERICAN TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2003

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, last month this Congress, with the President's leadership, undertook to pass a tax relief measure that would get this economy moving again. Today, we will continue that good work with the All-American Tax Relief Act of 2003.

While some come to this floor, as we even heard this morning, and suggest that Republicans do not care about children, about 6.5 million families and 12 million children that they say were left out of the refundable per child tax credit, the truth is, Mr. Speaker, as we all know, it was Republican leadership that saw to it that that tax cut was already in place, set to take effect in 2005; but we will accelerate that today.

We will also encourage marriage by eliminating the marriage penalty. In the tax credit we will assist veterans

and the heroes in space, we will do justice, we will love kids, and we will provide the compassionate Republican leadership that is so characteristic of this institution when we adopt the All-American Tax Relief Act today.

IT IS TIME TO STOP PENALIZING DISABLED MILITARY RETIREES

(Mr. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, it is time to stop penalizing disabled military retirees for having served our country for 20 or 30 years. It is time to stop the disabled veterans tax that reduces military retirees' benefits when the Veterans Administration determines that they are disabled.

This issue is known by veterans as the concurrent receipt problem. I know it as the concurrent deceit problem.

Today, through the strong leadership of the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MARSHALL), the 300-plus House Members who have year after year cosponsored the Bilirakis bill to deal with concurrent receipt for military retirees can actually do something about passing that bill, rather than just taking credit for cosponsoring it as they speak at home to their veteran service groups.

It is time to be honest with America's veterans. It is time to stop the hypocrisy of year after year having a majority of the House cosponsor this bill and we never have a hearing, never have a vote on it.

If cosponsors will sign the gentleman from Georgia's (Mr. MARSHALL) petition today, we can have a vote on this bill before the 4th of July. Let us pass the Marshall discharge petition.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2004(b), and the order of the House of January 8, 2003, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation:

Mr. AKIN, Missouri.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON H.R. 1950, FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2004 AND 2005

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to file a supplemental report from the Committee on International Relations to accompany the bill H.R. 1950, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2004 and 2005.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1115, CLASS ACTION FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 269 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 269

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1115) to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants, to outlaw certain practices that provide inadequate settlements for class members, to assure that attorneys do not receive a disproportionate amount of settlements at the expense of class members, to provide for clearer and simpler information in class action settlement notices, to assure prompt consideration of interstate class actions, to amend title 28, United States Code, to allow the application of the principles of Federal diversity jurisdiction to interstate class actions, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE) is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend, the