

time of remembrance where we pay tribute to the brave men and women who have sacrificed their lives to protect the freedoms we hold so very dear.

I believe that it is especially fitting at this time to share a poem written by my constituent, Mr. Cordell A. Dickey of Roanoke, Virginia. Mr. Dickey is a veteran of World War II where his unit was part of the division that invaded Guadalcanal on August 8, 1942. The poem was written in the Southwest Pacific in 1943 to honor a fallen friend, Hiram DiAlfordi, who was killed in New Caledonia in 1942.

The commemoration of Memorial Day will likely be a trying time filled with vivid memories of the son or daughter, husband or wife, mom or dad who will never come home. It is the hope of Mr. Dickey that his poem will bring comfort to the family of those who sacrificed for a cause greater than one's self.

LOST VIGILANCE

(By Cordell A. Dickey)

Twas here I stepped, here I fell, and here
On this far, unfriendly shore,
A dream was lost and shattered forever:
Leaving only fragments scattered on the
sands.

To you who loved my life:
Whose heart knew pain when earth's cold
bosom

Embraced and held me fast;
I would not have you grieve too much!
Sing no more sad songs for me . . .

Wipe away your last falling tear.
For when I quietly slipped into the void,
To keep with destiny my final rendezvous;
I did not fear to face Infinity,
Or plunge into a dark abyss.

To you who still have life:
Whose shattered spirit needs a healing balm
To make you whole again;

I would that you should know much joy;
Find new faith and hope again!
This above all:

Learn to laugh and sing again . . .
The world is filled with beauty.

COSPONSORSHIP OF HOMEOWNER-
SHIP TAX CREDIT LEGISLATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, the low-income housing tax credit created by Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code, commonly known as the rental credit, is responsible for the production of more than one million affordable housing units valued at over \$100 billion since 1987. Because of its tremendous success, the Bush administration and a bipartisan group of Members have proposed the creation of a new credit modeled on the rental credit and targeted at creating affordable housing for purchase by low- and moderate-income families. Concerns have been raised, however, that a homeownership credit, not properly crafted, could have unintended, negative consequences on the highly successful rental credit and on the very low-income Americans who benefit from the housing produced by it.

Until today, these concerns have led me to withhold my support from H.R. 839, the "Renewing the Dream Tax Credit Act," which was introduced early last year by the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. PORTMAN and the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. CARDIN. I have decided,

however, that despite my continued reservations, I will add my name as a cosponsor today because the goal of increasing affordable homeownership opportunities is one I strongly support and a well-developed tax incentive could play an important part in that effort. Of course, I will work to ensure that the matters detailed below are considered carefully as the bill moves forward in Congress.

My prime concern is that the legislation when enacted not adversely affect the existing rental credit. How might this happen? Put simply, in the event that rental credits are less attractive than homeownership credits to equity investors, pricing for rental credits may fall and the program may be less effective in meeting the demand for high quality, affordable housing.

In addition, it is worth emphasizing that the affordable homeownership tax credit should be utilized in communities where a new subsidy is clearly needed to enable homeownership. In some parts of the country, the supply of new subsidized homes resulting from the credit's creation may endanger the economics of existing multifamily rental properties and cause the value of homes presently owned by low- and moderate-income households—the successful result of current affordable housing programs—to fall. We must be exceptionally wary of this possibility.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, despite the reservations I have raised that deserve continued analysis and deliberation, I am pleased today to add my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 839. Increasing affordable homeownership opportunities for my constituents and families across America has long been a top priority for me and this proposal can certainly help us work toward that goal.

UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AMENDMENTS OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, while I inadvertently missed the final vote on H.R. 3722, Roll Call Vote #182, I would have voted in favor of the resolution.

The Medicare and Prescription Drug Reform bill last year appropriated \$1 billion over four years to pay state and local health facilities for the costs they incur in treating illegal aliens. Without denying health care to anyone appearing in the emergency room for treatment, H.R. 3722 would have required that local hospitals turn over information to the Department of Homeland Security about the illegal aliens they treat, as a condition of being reimbursed under the new program.

If hospitals chose not to do so, they would still be free to continue treating undocumented aliens. They simply wouldn't receive payment for these services.

Although H.R. 3722 was not approved, as a member of the House Immigration Reform Caucus, I will continue to work with others in Congress toward meaningful solutions to curb the trend of illegal migration to the United States.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT L. HABUSH

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend congratulations to Robert L. Habush. On May 24, 2004, the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Jewish Committee will bestow upon Mr. Habush the 2004 Community Service Human Relations Award at the Pfister Hotel. The Community Service Human Relations Award honors individuals who have demonstrated outstanding service and leadership. Mr. Habush has shown through his significant contributions to Wisconsin and the law that he is richly deserving of this award.

As anyone in Wisconsin can tell you, Mr. Habush has achieved a high level of professional success. He has practiced law for forty two years as a litigator, principally for plaintiffs, and over the years has been involved in some of the most significant cases in Wisconsin, as well as the development of the law. His law firm, Habush Habush & Rottier S.C., is well known in Wisconsin with its ten offices throughout the state.

Mr. Habush is widely admired for his philanthropy, including his strong commitment to the two law schools in Wisconsin. He has established the Robert L. Habush Bascom Professorship in Trial Advocacy and the Robert L. Habush Moot Court Advocacy Fund at the University of Wisconsin Law School. At Marquette Law School, he has funded a scholarship and a gift to create the Howard Eisenberg Memorial Hall.

Mr. Habush has also been honored by serving as President of the Wisconsin Academy of Trial Lawyers and President of The Association of Trial Lawyers of America. In 2001, he was named by the National Law Journal as one of the top ten litigators in the United States. In 2002, he received The Association of Trial Lawyers of America's highest award, The Champion of Justice. Mr. Habush has also been named as one of the top Wisconsin leaders in the law, by the Wisconsin Law Review. In honor of Mr. Habush's esteemed work, The Wisconsin Academy of Trial Lawyers has named its Trial Lawyer of the Year award after him, as well as The Association of Trial Lawyers of America naming their endowment in his honor.

Today, I join the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Jewish Committee in offering my sincere congratulations for receiving the 2004 Community Service Human Relations Award. Robert Habush is one of Wisconsin's best and I am proud to recognize him today.

TRIBUTE TO BOB ERICKSON

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and neighbor, Bob Erickson, and to recognize him on the occasion of his retirement from the position of City Administrator for the city of Lakeville, Minnesota.

Over the past 44 years, Bob Erickson has compiled a distinguished record of public service. He has been honored by such groups as