

and cooperation among political parties, faith groups, people of different races and economic class. In other words, it's something that can help us all—and that positive effect can begin during this holiday season.

In the year 2000, the Congress adopted a similar resolution asking the president to issue an annual proclamation recognizing this special day, and in 2001, following the tragedy of 9/11, the United Nations General Assembly followed suit. Heads of state in more than 20 countries have personally endorsed the initiative. However, there is little public knowledge that this important tool for peace already exists. Members of Congress can remedy that.

We all know how powerful an influence holidays have in our lives. Our earliest memories are often of family gatherings at Thanksgiving, or parades on the Fourth of July. Holidays teach us about the beliefs that our families hold, they inspire us, they reunite us and remind us annually about the ways in which we ought to behave.

As we approach the 20th anniversary next year of our national celebration of the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, I ask that the Congress take the time to ratify once again its recommendation that our increasingly interdependent world celebrate each year with a holiday of peace and sharing that belongs equally to all our human family.

Mr. Speaker, many Americans are troubled by our deteriorating image in the world, by the growing disputes among our elected leaders, by the dangers of terrorism and by the suffering of others, both at home and abroad. Yet they feel helpless to do anything about it.

Global Family Day provides a way in which every man, woman and child in the United States can help to reduce suffering at home, repair our damaged image abroad, and help us remember that in the end, all peoples belong to the same family.

I urge immediate action on this resolution.

CONGRATULATING THE HIGHLAND PARK'S TEAM TENNIS FOR WINNING ITS THIRD STRAIGHT TEXAS CLASS 4A DIVISION I HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Highland Park Scots Tennis Team for winning its third straight State Championship. On Saturday, November 5th, the Scots defeated New Braunfels High School 10-3 for the title.

This program and its coach have shown an incredible amount of character since losing to San Antonio Alamo Heights in the 2002 state finals. They have not lost a single match since then, winning a state record seventy straight team matches.

The team of twenty-five varsity players (thirteen boys and twelve girls) is so filled with talent that Head Coach Dan Holden had reserve players who are nationally ranked on the sidelines, a testament to the depth of this team. Coach Holden has not only prepared his players for the championship match, however; he has also helped them to seek higher education. This two-pronged approach to coach-

ing is what Coach Holden calls his "Win-Win" strategy. He kept practices shorter than normal so that the players could have time to work with their personal coaches to improve their abilities for U.S. Tennis Association Tournaments. These tournaments provide excellent recruiting opportunities for college scouts, in turn providing the exposure necessary for the players to impress scouts in the hopes of earning a college scholarship.

Proof of his success is evident. For example, Tyler Taransky, a senior at Highland Park, came back to Highland Park for his last year after a brief foray into the world of full-time competitive tennis and home schooling. As a result, he helped to lead his team to victory one last time before enrolling at Texas A&M, where he will play tennis next fall for the Aggies.

For his efforts, the United States Professional Tennis Association named Coach Holden the 2004 National High School Coach of the Year. He was also honored as the Dallas Morning News' 2004 All-Area Tennis Coach of the Year.

In closing, I would like to congratulate Coach Dan Holden and the Highland Park Scots' Team Tennis on their outstanding achievement. Their competitive spirit and domination in their field are truly inspirational.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4297, TAX RELIEF EXTENSION RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, reluctantly I rise to oppose a bill which has a number of provisions I support and others which I might have been inclined to back in a different economic and historical context. But this Congress jeopardizes America's fiscal house as it continues to "pay" for a war with tax cuts. This is, after all, the first time in our history—and perhaps the history of the world—in which a government has sent soldiers into combat at the same time it has reduced the public's tax burden. And just as war cannot be paid for with tax cuts, social balance cannot be maintained if the costs of rebuilding one region of the country devastated by hurricanes are coupled with the reduction of support for needy citizens in other areas.

I am an advocate of tax simplification—the replacement of a deduction-centric tax code with a simplified lower rate system. But I have doubts about taking the radical step of eliminating social progressivity with a flat, single-rate tax. The complexity of the current system is the result of a myriad of tax rules, not the fact that rates are slightly staggered. What has been missed in today's debate is that the taxation of dividend income at substantially lower levels than earned income means that the working middle class will be taxed at much steeper rates than upper-income citizens. The approach on the table today will not only eliminate tax progressivity, it will create an inverted tax system, one that is profoundly regressive.

No tax system can stand the test of common sense if a high school principal, elec-

trician, or registered nurse are taxed at a higher rate than a billionaire who receives his income from dividends. Yes, there is an argument that taxing dividend income may, in some cases, represent "double" taxation, but this concern is not as compelling as many assume because the deduction-oriented tax codes allow many large companies to have negligible income tax liabilities. This is why, according to a University of Michigan study, many of America's largest estates have been subjected to surprisingly little, if any, taxation in the accumulating years.

Priorities are askew. When Congress attempts to cover the cost of man-made wars and nature-made hurricanes while expanding tax breaks that disproportionately benefit higher income individuals, it is forced to limit spending on programs for low-income students and our needier citizens to keep the fiscal deficit from skyrocketing.

As long as this war continues, Congress is obligated to keep its eye not only on fiscal responsibility, but social justice. If it does not pay attention to fairness, the kind of internal strife that has broken out in recent weeks in France and the kind of internal division which was evidenced in the wake of Katrina in New Orleans will be magnified at great social cost.

A thriftier government may be a credible goal, but Congress is obligated to pay for whatever commitments it makes. I did not vote for the Iraq war primarily because of policy rather than expense concerns. But there is a cost dimension and the burden of responsibility for funding public commitments falls at this time particularly on those who chose to authorize this war. Failure to accept this responsibility weighs down the public balance sheet and pushes payment of debt obligations to future generations.

Accordingly, I am compelled to register my opposition to the fiscal irresponsibility implicit in this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CHESTER DEVENOW

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to pay tribute today to Mr. Chester Devenow, an Ohio business and civic leader whose recent loss our community has sustained. Regarded as a "titan of industry," Chester Devenow always took on broader missions to those beyond his board and firm. He located Sheller Globe's headquarters in the heart of our community to strengthen it economically, and struck labor agreements with its employees that helped build our region's middle class. He was highly regarded for his philanthropy and contributions to the institutions of our community.

His business acumen enabled him to create a Fortune 500 company, and he was truly a leader in industry. In his later career, his skills were often utilized in the mediation of labor-management disputes. Even after a well-earned retirement, Chester Devenow's abilities remained valuable to area business leaders. His knowledge and institutional memory were well-regarded by his peers.

Upon graduation from high school in Detroit, he studied music at the Julliard School. A