

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

decorated veteran, Chester Devenow received a degree in political science from New York University and attended Harvard Law School.

President Theodore Roosevelt noted "We demand that big business give the people a square deal; in return we must insist that when anyone engaged in big business honestly endeavors to do right he shall himself be given a square deal." Chester Devenow earned this distinction among the industry's titans.

We offer our sympathy to Maudette, loving wife of 27 years; his brother Leonard; sons Mark and Jeffrey; daughter Susie; stepchildren William and Abigail Schachner; his six grandchildren; and his numerous friends. May they find some small peace as Chester Devenow joins his daughter Sara and the Creator of us all.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT THOMAS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to honor Mr. Robert Thomas, the City of Sacramento's City Manager, who is retiring this week from a distinguished career of public service. As his friends, family and co-workers all gather to celebrate his career, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring one of Sacramento's finest citizens.

Mr. Thomas began his career in Sacramento with the North Highlands Recreation and Park District and later worked with the County of Sacramento, Southgate Recreation and Park District and City of Santa Cruz. At each step of his career Bob eagerly took on increased responsibilities for the recreational facilities that make Sacramento and California such a wonderful place to live.

In 1981, he returned to Sacramento as the Director of Parks and Community Services. For ten years Bob headed the department, managing over 600 employees and hundreds of volunteers. Under his direction the department increased revenue, grant funding and accomplished many important projects, including an expansion of the Crocker Art Museum.

Recognizing his management abilities, Bob was appointed Deputy City Manager in 1991, and he served in that position until being named Sacramento County's Executive in 1996. While with the County, he implemented the Board of Supervisors' policies and was ultimately responsible for managing over ten thousand employees and an annual budget of 1.4 billion dollars. Among the long list of achievements with the County, he was able to effectively reorganize the Economic Development Program and helped implement reuse plans at McClellan and Mather Air Force Bases, both of which were shut down.

From 1999 until the present day, the people of Sacramento have been incredibly fortunate to have Mr. Thomas serve as Sacramento's City Manager. He has been an effective leader, working with the City Council on many issues of great importance. These include flood control projects, major transportation upgrades across the city and managing the development of many new neighborhoods. In recognition of his superb work, Mr. Thomas was named Public Administrator of the Year in

2005 by the American Society for Public Administration.

Bob was also an active member of the California National Guard 175th Medical Brigade until his retirement from the Guard this year. Given his extensive background in municipal government, work with the California National Guard and decades spent living in Sacramento, I was always confident that Sacramento was being taken care of with Bob Thomas at the helm, as was my late husband Congressman Robert Matsui.

Whether it has been with the California National Guard, County of Sacramento, or with the City of Sacramento, Bob Thomas has left a legacy of successful public management and service that will be hard to match. On behalf of the people of Sacramento and the Fifth Congressional District of California, I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking Bob Thomas for his public service and to wish him a healthy and happy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JACK WILSON

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Jack Wilson, a prominent real estate developer, who helped the Tampa Bay area evolve into the vibrant, bustling community it is today.

Born in Royston, Georgia, Jack earned his bachelor's degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology and his master's degree from Harvard Business School. He came to Tampa in the 1970's as Florida president of the Landmarks Group, but soon he was developing important projects through his own company, the Wilson Co.

Jack rapidly put his mark on Tampa. The cofounder and first president of the Westshore Alliance, Jack helped turn this area around and make Westshore a hub of business activity. Jack also worked on revitalizing Tampa's downtown, renovating the Franklin Exchange and a number of office towers. Thousands of Tampa Bay residents have come to know Jack's projects—whether they work in Bayport Plaza or Cypress Center, have visited the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay, or reside in one of the thousands of affordable rental housing units that Jack built.

Tampa's sports fans owe a huge debt of gratitude to Jack as well. He supervised the construction of the New York Yankees Legends Field, helped secure public funding for Raymond James Stadium and headed up the task force that brought Super Bowl XXXV to Tampa.

But Jack was always focused on more than just building his business. He also cared deeply about building up his community, and it showed in the quality of his work, the foresight in his development plans and the attention he paid to the impact of his projects on the environment. In fact, Jack was the first developer to receive an award from the Tampa Audubon Society.

Jack served Tampa's business community as well, working as chairman of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce and the Tampa Bay Partnership and volunteering his time for a long list of other business and chari-

table organizations. In 2001, he was inducted into the Tampa Bay Business Hall of Fame.

Those who had the privilege of getting to know Jack will remember his generosity, his Southern charm, his thoughtfulness and his constant willingness to help others. There is no doubt about it—Jack had an enormous amount of class. On behalf of the residents of Tampa Bay, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Jack's family. His legacy will live on not only in the structures he built but in the community he improved.

CFTC REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express concerns with Title II of H.R. 4473, which reauthorizes the Commodity Exchange Act (CEA). When the CEA was previously reauthorized in 2000, changes were made that brought much needed legal clarity to over-the-counter derivatives and foreign currency markets. In the same legislation, the regulatory structure of U.S. futures exchanges was enhanced, providing a more flexible approach to the oversight of complex financial instruments. Together, these two developments provided a structure that has promoted the depth and breadth of U.S. capital markets throughout the world. Such vibrancy of U.S. capital markets is critical to creating new jobs, building wealth, and attracting investment.

While the reauthorization of the CEA is essential to the efficient functioning of our Nation's capital markets, I am concerned that title II of H.R. 4473—while well intentioned—may disrupt the balance created through the reauthorization of the CEA in 2000. Title II of H.R. 4473 provides the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) with expansive new powers that may be interpreted as applying the CEA to over-the-counter natural gas contracts. Doing so may jeopardize the legal certainty of certain natural gas contracts, potentially undermining the efficiency and robustness of the very markets that proponents of Title II are seeking to promote. The Federal Reserve and the Department of Treasury have raised similar concerns about this legislation.

In addition, other concerns have been expressed about H.R. 4473. Section 201 provides the CFTC with new market surveillance powers, which require the CFTC to investigate any highly unusual price changes in futures contracts for natural gas. Such new powers may not be the most appropriate policy response to address widely fluctuating natural gas prices. The Federal Reserve has noted that wide swings in natural gas prices are not a result of weak regulation, but rather due to supply and demand imbalances related to insufficient infrastructure necessary to produce and transport the underlying commodity. Further, section 202 imposes new position reporting standards on holders of natural gas futures or options contracts, requiring that records of such contracts be maintained for five years and provided to the CFTC as their request. These new requirements are not without costs, which could be significant and may be