

to guarantee profits for pharmaceutical companies and HMOs at taxpayer expense. And all Americans will be affected by the rising interest rates caused by our out-of-control Federal deficit.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is fiscally irresponsible, completely unnecessary and threatens America's fiscal security, as well as our national security. President Bush's fiscal year 2007 budget calls for \$247 billion in interest payments on our national debt. This is \$247 billion not going to educate our children or keep America secure, but instead is going to wealthy investors and foreign governments that have purchased our Nation's debt. Now, this Republican Congress is adding almost \$80 billion more on the national debt, adding to the federal budget deficit and our Nation's fiscal insecurity. This is an irresponsible and dangerous piece of legislation that makes America less secure. I urge my colleagues to reject this latest Republican cut-and-run tax giveaway and focus on the needs of American families.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN
ANGUS ASSOCIATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the American Angus Association, based in St. Joseph, Missouri. This month will mark the 50th anniversary of the American Angus Association's move to St. Joseph from Chicago in 1956.

The American Angus Association is a member-based not-for-profit organization that was founded in 1883. The Association maintains ancestral records and performance information on purebred Angus cattle in the United States, as well offers a variety of programs and services to over 34,000 members across the nation. All of these programs are managed by a very hardworking and dedicated staff.

In the 50 years since moving to St. Joseph, the Association and its entities have grown to employ nearly 200 people. That growth has seen the expansion of the original building that was once on the edge of the city. After several additions to the structure, the Association was able to house two of its entities: Angus productions, Inc. and the Angus Foundation. From humble beginnings in the home of its early executives, the American Angus Association has come a long way in 123 years of service to America's cattlemen.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing the American Angus Association. The Association has been remarkable in its many years of service and the city of St. Joseph is proud to be their home. I wish to thank the American Angus Association for all that they do and I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
MR. CHUCK AND MRS. EVELYN
SEBES IN CELEBRATION OF
THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY:
JUNE 16, 2006

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Chuck and Evelyn Sebes, as they celebrate 50 years of love and commitment that continues to lift the lives of family, friends, and extends outward into our community.

Chuck and Evelyn met in 1953 and wed 3 years later on June 16, 1956. In 1959, they bought their home in Parma, where they still live. Evelyn was employed by Ohio Bell for several years and decided to leave the workforce to devote her time to her children. Together, Evelyn and Chuck lovingly raised their four children: Joe, Jim, Janet, and Joyce. Later, Evelyn returned to work part-time for Higbees and Dillard's, and worked at both stores for a total of nearly 30 years.

Chuck worked for National Tool Company for 22 years until the company closed. While there, he served as President of the United Steel Workers of America, Local 4827, a tenure which reflected his unwavering focus on the rights and welfare of workers and their families. Chuck was later appointed to the Ohio Regional Board of Review for Worker's Compensation by then Governor Richard Celeste. In 1991, he was appointed by Martin E. Vittardi, Clerk of Parma Municipal Court, to serve as his Chief Deputy, where he continues his service today. Chuck has served as a Cuyahoga County Democratic Party Precinct committee person and as an Executive Committee member and is the longest serving City Leader for the Parma Democratic Party. He is an active member of Parma Southwest COPE, AFL-CIO and together with Evelyn they belong to Parma Elks Lodge 1938. Chuck and Evelyn's passionate sense of volunteerism, especially on behalf of improving wages and working conditions for workers, continues to positively impact countless families throughout our community.

The bond they share with their children comes from life lessons that Chuck and Evelyn taught them while growing up. To be selfless, to lead a life of volunteerism, to live by the golden rule—"do unto others as you would have them do unto you"—and to remember that there is nothing as important as God's gift of family. The memory of their mother's soft skin while holding them reminds them of a safe and loving childhood. It was the sound of their father's voice telling them colorful stories and jokes that brought laughter into their home. Their grandchildren Danielle, Shelley, Jackie, Christopher, Lauren, Samantha, and Jamie fill Chuck and Evelyn's lives with pride and love. At gatherings, it is Evelyn's potato salad and Chuck's ethnic dishes that everyone looks forward to. Time spent with friends playing pinochle and poker or bowling has formed lifelong friendships. Their legacy will be one of dedication to one another, to their family, and to their community.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of my dear friends, Chuck and Evelyn Sebes, as we join them in

celebration of this momentous occasion—their 50th wedding anniversary. Their devotion to each other, to their children, grandchildren and friends, and their commitment to giving back to others continues to touch the lives of everyone they I know, including my own, and serves to strengthen and uplift our entire community.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 5638, PERMANENT ES-
TATE TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5638, the Permanent Estate Tax Relief Act of 2006, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against it.

As a part-time farmer myself, I support tax relief that helps our farms and small businesses grow. I have supported raising the estate tax exemption level several times in previous years. However, this must be done in a responsible manner that does not dishonor our values, shortchange our essential services, or heap more debt on our children and grandchildren. Unfortunately, H.R. 5638 fails this basic test. H.R. 5638, the Permanent Estate Tax Relief Act of 2006 is far from the "compromise" that its authors claim. This bill would result in almost 80 percent as much lost revenue as a full repeal of the estate tax. H.R. 5638 would cost the American people \$762 billion in the first 10 years of its enactment.

The Permanent Estate Tax Relief Act of 2006 is the latest example of this Congressional Majority's misplaced priorities. Less than 1 percent of estates will pay the estate tax this year under the exemption in current law and only 7,500 estates nationwide would be taxable under the \$3.5 million exemption that would take effect in 2009. Under current law, 997 of every 1,000 estates would not pay any part of Federal estate taxes. Given current circumstances, the timing could not be worse for giving tax breaks that only apply to multimillionaires' estates.

I am very proud that during my first term in the U.S. House, Congress and the President balanced the Federal budget for the first time in a generation. Until just a few years ago, the budget remained balanced and the surpluses we produced were being used to pay down the national debt and strengthen Social Security. The current Republican regime in the White House and Congress has reversed that progress and the Nation is much worse off because of their policies. Today the national debt stands at \$8.4 trillion. We face the danger of being forced to borrow more money from countries like China to pay our national debt and putting ourselves at the mercy of their rising interest rates. A nation at war cannot justify adding almost \$800 billion to this staggering debt. We cannot continue to pile on debt that our future generations will be forced to pay.

Increasing this budget shortfall only makes it more difficult to invest in our true priorities. We are still a nation at war and some of our soldiers lack the best armor. We are facing another hurricane season while continuing to rebuild the Gulf Coast following Hurricane

Katrina. Already the Republican budget resolution cuts funds for homeland security, including port security by \$6.1 billion over 5 years, cuts essential services for working families by \$9.4 billion, and slashes funding for health by \$18.1 billion below current services. As the former Superintendent of North Carolina's public schools, I find the budget cuts for education especially disappointing. Instead of investing in our future Congressional Republicans are eliminating 42 Federal education initiatives. The budget also eliminates vocational education (\$1.3 billion); Perkins Loans (\$730 million); Safe and Drug-Free Schools State grants (\$347 million); and Even Start family literacy services (\$99 million). The Republican budget cuts \$15 billion from the amount authorized for the No Child Left Behind education reform effort and reduces the 17.7 percent Federal contribution to Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to 17.0 percent. The loss of revenue from H.R. 5638 leaves a huge budget hole that will have to be filled by the States and the burden will be placed on middle class and low income families.

In contrast, the Pomeroy Substitute is an alternative that offers a simpler solution without the damaging economic effects of H.R. 5638. Unlike the Republican bill, the Pomeroy Substitute would offer immediate tax relief by raising the estate tax exemption level to \$6 million per couple and growing to \$7 million per couple in 2009. This would exempt 99.7 percent of all estates in the nation while costing only 60 percent of H.R. 5638. While there is no plan to make up for the huge losses in revenue resulting from H.R. 5638, the Pomeroy Substitute would be paid for by closing the gap in unpaid taxes. Additionally, the estate tax revenue collected under the Pomeroy Substitute would be transferred as receipts used specifically to shore up the Social Security trust fund. According to the Social Security Actuary, this would eliminate one quarter of the trust fund's shortfall.

The Pomeroy Substitute offers immediate tax relief without adding to the crippling debt now facing future generations. This is the type of sound tax and budget policy Congress should pass. We owe the American people nothing less.

RECOGNIZING JERRY DARNELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jerry Darnell of St. Joseph, Missouri. Jerry will soon be retiring from the St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce, after years of distinguished service as the Director of the Small Business Development Center.

As the Director of the Small Business Development Center, Jerry has provided free management assistance and guidance to current and prospective small business owners all throughout the St. Joseph area. He has offered his experience and guidance to the enterprising citizens of my district for many years, as those entrepreneurs sought advice on the start-up, expansion, sale, and marketing of their business. His job is especially important, as the collection of small business

owners are responsible for the growth and sustainability of our communities.

Before joining the Chamber in 2001, Mr. Darnell was employed as a broker for City-Street and served as an instructor at the Johnson County Community College. He has had over 10 years of experience in commercial lending after obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in Math and Business from Kansas State University and a Masters in Business Administration from Louisiana State University. These varied experiences have all made for a solid background in advising the small businesses of St. Joseph. In the community, Mr. Darnell is active in the Boy Scouts of America Diversion Program and the Service Corps of Retired Executives.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Jerry Darnell. His role in developing and assisting the small businesses of St. Joseph will be difficult to replace. I commend his record of service and accomplishment to the city of St. Joseph over the years and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ANDY ANDERSON'S RETIREMENT FROM GAINESVILLE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Dr. Andy Anderson for his 8½-year tenure as the hospital chief executive officer of Gainesville Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Anderson was the fourth administrator for Gainesville Memorial Hospital. The most notable of his achievements was his leadership in campaigning for a \$26.5 million dollar bond to build the North Texas Medical Center. Under Dr. Anderson's tenure, the quality of patient care increased, opportunities for continuing education improved, and nine tenure doctors were hired.

Retiring to pursue another challenge in life, the progress Dr. Anderson catalyzed substantially strengthened the health care quality throughout the 26th District of Texas, and I know his vision improved the lives of thousands.

As a doctor myself, I find personal inspiration in Dr. Andy Anderson and the devotion he had to his family, his hospital and his community. He is a role model, and I am proud to serve as his representative in Washington.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. HYACINTH CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the parish community of St. Hyacinth Catholic Church, as members and leaders celebrate 100 years of faith and hope throughout Cleveland's southeast side.

Throughout the past century, St. Hyacinth Parish has opened wide its doors to all who

seek spiritual renewal and fellowship. Its ministry reaches beyond the parish itself through the numerous members who have joined the clergy as a result of the guidance and fulfillment they found at St. Hyacinth.

St. Hyacinth began its ministry as a response to the influx of Polish immigrants in the "Jackowo" neighborhood. Feeling crowded in the existing parish, the residents bought land from the Board of Education and have remained at that location since opening in 1906. The newly instated Cleveland Bishop Richard Lennon will lead the Jubilee Mass at the parish in commemoration of the past one hundred years of service and in celebration of the next 100 years.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of every past and current member and spiritual leader of St. Hyacinth Catholic Church. Despite a growing and changing community, St. Hyacinth Catholic Church has consistently provided compassionate spiritual direction, in the heart of Cleveland and far beyond.

SENIOR INDEPENDENCE ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill which reauthorizes the Older Americans Act. This act was developed with the goals of improving the lives of older people in areas of income, housing, health, employment, retirement, and community service. At the outset, I have to commend and thank Chairman MCKEON, Ranking Member MILLER, Subcommittee Chairman TIBERI, and Subcommittee Ranking Member HINOJOSA for this incredible bipartisan bill. This has been one of the most bipartisan efforts in which I have engaged during my tenure in Congress. Also, I extend my sincerest appreciation to the majority and minority staff members for working diligently to address my concerns. Also, I would like to thank the delegates of the White House Conference I on Aging for their input on and promotion of this reauthorization. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have a Seniors and Eldercare Taskforce composed of a wonderful group of experts who advise me on key issues regarding seniors in my district—the great city of Chicago. I want to recognize and thank the cochairs of this taskforce—Karen Graham and Phyllis Mitzen—and the members of this taskforce for their leadership and attention to the needs of seniors in Chicago." This act advances many areas of concern to my district. Foremost, it expands access of younger grandparents to the National Family Caregiver Support Program, and it encourages states to adopt Kinship Navigator programs for relative caregivers. In the United States, 2.4 million grandparents are responsible for raising grandchildren in their homes. My congressional district has over 10,000 grandparent-headed households; it has the second highest percentage of children living in grandparent-headed households in the nation. This bill aids these caregivers with services that help in their care giving responsibilities. Further, the