

anything about it. And these people may very well be terrorists and a threat to the United States of America. I'll go on:

"After jotting down a fake name, using our subject's photo . . . the card sharks put it all together in a private office. Two hundred dollars and a couple of hours later, our subject picks up his documents . . . documents so real looking it's almost impossible to detect anything suspicious . . . identical seals, a new Social Security number, and even affirmation that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has given its okay. It's easy to get a good fake ID that can legitimately fool employers. And the Federal employment verification "Basic Pilot" cannot detect fraud, which means employers must fend for themselves when determining if a prospective employee is authorized to work in the U.S. What's the point of a system if it doesn't work?"

And that's my question tonight. What are we going to do? We have a system that invites illegal aliens to come into this country. They get education, they get health care, and we have even had legislation passed that would give them an apartment or a home to live in. It's just amazing.

And now we are not enforcing the laws that would stop these people from selling fake IDs, which could give a terrorist the ability to move about in a very easy way here in the United States of America.

This is tragic. Our FBI, our Homeland Security, the State police and the local police in this country need to enforce the laws against creating these fake IDs. It is absolutely essential to keep this country protected and to stop the flow of illegal aliens coming into this country. What's to stop them? Nothing. Right now they get fake ID and they can go anywhere they want, and the American people are sick and tired of it. You talk to any congressman and go to any congressman's district and they will tell you that the American people want this illegal immigration stopped. And we are not even enforcing the law and stopping the manufacture of fake IDs. We have to do something about it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE SIMPLIFIED USA TAX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about an issue that has been close to my heart since I came to Congress. Clearly, the

current tax code is far too complicated. It is riddled with obvious inequities. Its structure punishes savings and investment, which reduces economic and job growth and burdens domestic industries struggling to remain competitive in today's global market.

Although the U.S. Treasury Department has called for international tax reform and has advocated policies to advance U.S. competitiveness, increase national savings, and reduce our trade barriers, this Congress has failed to offer a substantive response.

Recently, we in the Ways and Means Committee have received a proposal that presents itself as tax reform but is, in fact, as you are going to hear later tonight, a Rube Goldberg device to raise taxes. In this context, it is important to consider other alternatives, and tonight I would like to discuss my own tax proposal which encompasses all of these concerns and would attract a broad cross-section of working Americans.

My proposal, the Simplified USA Tax, puts the right incentives in place to grow our economy and to create new jobs. The Simplified USA Tax has three key components:

One, it simplifies the tax code by a factor of about 75 percent; two, it takes the taxes off of savings to promote thrift and address a national dearth of savings; and, three, it makes America significantly more competitive, thereby creating and preserving better jobs within our borders.

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The simplified U.S.A. tax starts out with just three simple low rates, 15 percent at the bottom, 25 percent in the middle, and 30 percent at the top.

Through a payroll tax credit to all wage earners, SUSAT effectively lowers the income tax rates to the 7 and 17 percent range for nearly all Americans.

Under my proposal, and this is one significant departure from some tax reform blueprints, everyone would get a deduction for mortgage interest on their home. In addition, the SUSAT proposal allows charitable donations and tuition deductions.

To further ensure that the new Tax Code would be progressive, my proposal also permits all families to take a generous family credit, and qualifying families to take an additional refundable work credit. These two credits simplify and improve the current child credit and earned income tax credit.

I believe the Tax Code must also give Americans a fair opportunity to save part of their earnings. By taking the taxes off of savings, we will increase the savings rate and ultimately reduce the cost of capital.

My proposal encourages savings by allowing everyone to contribute to an unlimited Roth IRA. It also repeals the individual and corporate alternative minimum tax, Federal death and gift taxes.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, the individual tax system, under my proposal,

is designed to be simple. The tax return will be short, only a page or two for most people; but, more importantly, the tax return will be comprehensible.

My proposal also contains a new and better way of taxing corporations and other businesses that will allow them to compete and win in global markets in a way that exports American-made products, not American jobs.

All businesses are taxed alike under our proposal at an 8 percent rate on the first \$150,000 of profit, and a 12 percent on all amounts above that small business level. All businesses will be allowed a credit for the 7.65 percent payroll tax they pay under the current law.

One of the most pro-growth elements in SUSAT is that all costs for plant equipment and inventory in the United States will be expensed in the year of purchase. This is important because investment in state-of-the-art equipment is critical to manufacturing in a global economy.

The other key component of SUSAT which will make American business more competitive is that it will be border-adjustable. In other words, SUSAT would end the perverse practice unique among our trading partners of taxing our own exports. All export sales income is exempt and all profits earned abroad can be brought back home for reinvestment in America without penalty.

Because of a 12 percent import adjustment, all companies that produce abroad and sell back in the U.S. markets will be required to bear the same tax burden as companies that both produce and sell in the U.S. This policy would finally take away the bias in favor of imports built into our current tax structure, which, in my view, contributes dramatically to our trade deficit, which, in my view, continues to rise at record-breaking levels.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL DAVID POYTHRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ELLISON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Veterans Day, I proudly rise to honor a Georgia native, Lieutenant General David Poythress, who has served the State of Georgia as our adjutant general since 1999.

Two weeks ago, I attended the change of command ceremony for General Poythress as he stepped down from his post as commander of the Georgia National Guard.

General Poythress's long and distinguished military career began at Emory University in Atlanta, where in 1967 he received his law degree, and he graduated as a distinguished military graduate of the Emory ROTC program.

After graduation, Mr. Speaker, General Poythress served 4 years on active duty with the United States Air Force

as a judge advocate officer, including 1 year as chief of military justice at Da Nang Air Force Base in Vietnam.

Upon returning to civilian life, General Poythress remained in the Air Force Reserve, serving as a judge advocate officer in various positions of increasing responsibility. In 1991, General Poythress returned to active duty to oversee the reserve legal officers during Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield. He was promoted to brigadier general in 1994, and to major general in July of 1999.

It was in 1999 that General Poythress took over as the adjutant general of the State of Georgia, where he has commanded 12,000 personnel of the Georgia Army National Guard, the Georgia Air National Guard, and the Georgia State Defense Force now for nearly a decade.

Mr. Speaker, in 2006, General Poythress became the first adjutant general in Georgia's 273-year history to wear a third star as a lieutenant general. And for the past 8 years, General Poythress has led Georgia's Guard through some historic changes, and our men and women have performed admirably under his leadership.

Not only has General Poythress made a major impact on our Nation's military, but he has also been an irreplaceable asset, Mr. Speaker, to the State of Georgia. General Poythress spent much of his civilian career in public service to the citizens of our great State. He served first as deputy state revenue commissioner, then secretary of the State of Georgia, and finally, commissioner of labor in Georgia. Needless to say, General Poythress's retirement will leave huge shoes to fill in the State of Georgia.

Over the past several years, Mr. Speaker, I have enjoyed getting to know General Poythress and his lovely wife, Elizabeth, as personal friends, and I appreciate their singular dedication to our Guardsmen.

Last year, Mr. Speaker, I even had the opportunity to travel to Iraq with the general, and we met with Georgia's 48th Brigade Combat Team. I know it must have been a joy for General Poythress to see his troops and General Rhodheaver serving our Nation so honorably, but also a painful time, as he remembered the 26 fallen soldiers from the 48th who were lost in some of the most dangerous combat in the Sunni Triangle outside of the city of Baghdad.

Through all of the struggles, including the difficult task of assisting Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, General Poythress has led Georgia's Guard with the strength of a commander and the heart, Mr. Speaker, of a public servant.

And so I ask my colleagues tonight, join me in honoring Lieutenant General David Poythress for his dedicated service to defending the State of Georgia and the United States of America.

HONORING OUR VETERANS— VETERANS DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this coming week we will celebrate Veterans Day. As we remember the many who have given their lives in service to our Nation, I hope we pause not only to honor their memory, but also to express our gratitude for that which their sacrifices have secured.

The many American veterans that we honor today are a reflection of American greatness. The men and women of our Armed Forces throughout our Nation's history have not hesitated to make tremendous personal sacrifices for the cause of freedom. If it were not for our brave and selfless veterans, we would be a land of fewer freedoms and smaller liberties.

Throughout our history, our veterans have gone to foreign shores to fight the forces of injustice and tyranny. Today, many live in freedom thanks to their great sacrifices.

Our veterans are the first and the finest example of the American hero. They have preserved our peace and they have held back the tide of darkness when the call has sounded to protect our liberty. And these men and women have done and continue to do these things with a sense of duty that has never shirked the great sacrifices, but instead, upholds the mantle of democracy with strength and pride.

On Veterans Day, we rightly single out the members of our Armed Forces, past and present, and give them the honor that they do not ask for, but that they so richly deserve.

I do not say this lightly, that our veterans are the primary forces that keep and have kept the vision of America alive throughout the centuries. Ours is a vision of freedom for all, a vision of a land where any man or woman can breathe free and lay hold of prosperity, secure in the knowledge that their brave and selfless soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen and coast guardsmen have proven that our cause is worthy of the most profound of sacrifices.

We must not take our freedoms lightly. They have been purchased with the blood and sacrifice of many patriots. These patriots have answered the call to service, knowing that a life without liberty is hardly worth living.

They've shown us that our freedoms are invaluable and priceless beyond the paltry dividends of a life under the shadow of tyranny or fear or repression.

We have much to be grateful for in this Nation. Our freedoms are many and our sacrifices are few in comparison to what our veterans willingly give up. And these sacrifices are made on our behalf so that we might enjoy a liberty that is unrivaled throughout human history.

It is therefore a tremendous pleasure to honor the men and women who saw

the value of freedom and grasped the threat of tyranny and did not shrink into the twilight. As Thomas Paine said of our freedom on the eve of the American Revolution: "The sun never shined on a cause of greater worth."

I thank our veterans for recognizing this cause and rising to its defense with unflinching strength. Our gratitude is tribute to your great bravery and profound sacrifice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WATERS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HOLT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TAX BURDEN IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, tonight, it is our opportunity to talk about the tax burden that families in America unfortunately must pay.

I am a six-term Member of Congress. I represent the Eighth Congressional District of Texas. It's a great district that encompasses a great deal of east Texas from the Louisiana border over to I-45. I live in The Woodlands, Texas, just north of Houston, with my wife and our two boys, a kindergarten son named Sean and a third-grader named Will, who goes to public school, Sally K. Ride Elementary School. We are