

1084 On Agreeing to the Resolution, “yea” on rollcall vote 166, H. Res. 1077, “yea” on rollcall vote 167, H.R. 2016 the Grijalva of Arizona Amendment, “nay” on rollcall vote 168, H.R. 2016 the Bishop of Utah Amendment, “nay” on rollcall vote 169, H.R. 2016 the Bishop of Utah Amendment, “nay” on rollcall vote 170, H.R. 2016 the Bishop of Utah Amendment, “yea” on rollcall vote 171, H.R. 2016 the Altmire of Pennsylvania Amendment, “nay” on rollcall vote 172, H.R. 2016 the Pearce of New Mexico Amendment, “nay” on rollcall vote 173, H.R. 2016 On Motion to Recommit with Instructions, “yea” on rollcall vote 174, H.R. 2016 On Passage, “yea” on rollcall vote 175, H.R. 2419, “yea” on rollcall vote 176, H.R. 5489, “yea” on rollcall vote 177, H.R. 5472, “yea” on rollcall vote 179, H. Res. 1083, “yea” on rollcall vote 180, H. Res. 1038, “yea” on rollcall vote 181, H. Res. 1092, “nay” on rollcall vote 182, H.R. 2537 the Flake of Arizona Amendment.

THE DAILY 45: 23 CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN KILLED TO DATE

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today, Americans across the country are engaging in a debate on whether or not they are bitter. Whether it's bitterness about guns or bitterness about the economy.

Madam Speaker, this debate is a diversion from the real issue of the plague of gun violence in our communities. I rise, today, to mourn the gun-related deaths of far too many young people who were students at Chicago's public schools. As of today, that number stands at 23—all but two of those deaths was due to gun violence.

That's 23 young people who, in the pursuit of what other families take for granted—getting an education—have to duck and cover just to learn how to read and write.

Shannon Brown, 17, is the latest student to die from a gunshot. Described by his younger brother, Keishawn, as a “good big brother,” Brown was a happy and responsible child who enjoyed school and hanging out with his friends. He became the victim of gun violence following a fist fight in his neighborhood.

Like a scene from a bad Hollywood movie, he stumbled toward his home, while bleeding profusely, and collapsed on the stairs. Last week, law enforcement captured his alleged assailant, the 26-year-old who Shannon had bested in the fist fight.

When will Americans say “enough is enough? Stop the killings!

INTRODUCTION OF THE ROTH TSP ACT OF 2008

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Ms. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, today is tax day. This is a day when all Americans are reminded of the federal government's treatment

of their hard-earned money, investments, and retirement savings. Our servicemembers in Iraq and Afghanistan think about these issues as well. I firmly believe it is time to improve the options at their disposal to secure a comfortable retirement after their service to our Nation.

Currently, two common options available in the private sector used as retirement savings tools are the Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and a 401(k), which is an employer-sponsored retirement plan where the employer matches the employee's contributions up to a specified limit. Both can be structured as either a “Traditional” or “Roth” plan.

Many are familiar with the Roth and Traditional IRA options as Roth IRAs have been around since 1998. However, a Roth 401(k) is a fairly new option that is similar to the Roth IRA in that it allows after-tax contributions to fund tax-free retirement income.

The Roth 401(k) option was established as part of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (EGTRRA) and went into effect on January 1, 2006. The Pension Protection Act of 2006, signed into law by President Bush on August 17, 2006, makes the Roth 401(k) permanent, removing the December 31, 2010 expiration date that previously was in force.

Traditional IRA and 401(k) plans are funded through tax-deferred contributions or “before-tax” contributions, which means the money contributed is taken out of a person's pay before Federal and, in almost all cases, state income taxes are withheld. Any earnings are also tax-deferred. This means that an individual does not pay income taxes on contributions and earnings in their IRA or 401(k) account until their money is withdrawn, usually at retirement.

With a Roth plan, an individual does not receive the tax deduction for their contribution, but all the money in the account grows tax-free and can be withdrawn tax-free subject to certain criteria. For many, the Roth is the better deal.

As such, more and more companies have started to offer Roth 401(k)s since they were allowed to start doing so two years ago, and many firms that don't yet provide this option are considering adding it in the future.

However, in a glaring omission, this same option has not been extended to the federal Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), which is the federal government's in-house 401(k) retirement savings plan for the federal workforce and our men and women in uniform.

That is why today I have introduced the Roth TSP Act of 2008. This bill will simply provide the same 401(k) options available in the private sector to participants in the TSP. Currently, there are 3.9 million account holders in the TSP. These include civilians who are employed by the U.S. Government and our military personnel.

Our men and women in uniform and the federal workforce may find the option to structure their retirement plans as a Roth TSP to be a better deal. My legislation will place the same options available in the private sector at their disposal and provide another option when considering their long term financial and retirement planning. Allowing this option could provide greater growth potential and greater return on investment for their retirement savings than under the traditional TSP structure.

Consider the potential benefit to our military. If military personnel serve in a combat zone

as an enlisted person or as a warrant officer for any part of a month, all military pay received for military service in that month is excluded from their gross income. For commissioned officers, the monthly exclusion is capped at the highest enlisted pay, plus any hostile fire or imminent danger pay received. With a Roth TSP, these individuals could earn this pay tax-free, grow their investment in their Roth TSP, and then withdraw it all tax-free after age 59½, having never been required to pay taxes on the invested money.

The men and women of our military worry about consequences on a day-to-day basis that most Americans never even consider. The least we can do in return is provide our service members with choices and options that will allow them to plan for their future and help to ensure that they never have to worry about a secure retirement.

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

SPEECH OF

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this means to add my voice of support to the Head Start program. As you know, since the program began more than 40 years ago, it has served millions of low-income children and their families across the United States.

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to visit Head Start centers across Missouri's 4th Congressional District, which I have the honor to represent in Congress. I am always impressed by the dedicated staff who do so many good things to help prepare the children for their school careers. Every child in America has the right to a good start in life. It can make all the difference in their future. By partnering with parents to promote early childhood development, which is so critical, Head Start helps make sure that those futures are not jeopardized on the basis of a family's income.

This year, I have continued my strong support for Head Start funding and will work with my colleagues in the days ahead to see that this vital program's future is secure. Children truly are the hope of our Nation. They will be the leaders of tomorrow, and we owe it to them to see they have every opportunity to succeed.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EDGE HILL FIRE COMPANY

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Edge Hill Fire Company on the celebration of their 100th anniversary. Beginning in 1908 with just a few volunteers and hand drawn equipment, the Edge Hill Fire Company has developed into a modern, professional fire company.

In Philadelphia 272 years ago, Benjamin Franklin started the first fire department in

America. Franklin's brigade, comprised entirely of volunteers, was dedicated to looking out for their neighbors. Today, volunteers constitute 73 percent of all firefighters nationwide, and Franklin's proud tradition of volunteerism is being continued by the brave firefighters of Edge Hill Fire Company.

In 1909, following a serious fire in the village of Edge Hill, a few residents spearheaded the effort to protect properties and lives in their community against future destruction. By 1911, Edge Hill Fire Company was able to purchase a fire truck, the first motorized apparatus in Abington Township. In 1933, the company moved into a new firehouse, built and funded largely by the company's volunteers. This firehouse, located on Limekiln Pike at Cricket Avenue is still in use today, but has been renovated to serve as a meeting hall. As the community grew, so did the fire company, building a large addition in 1956 to include three truck bays, a service bay, hose tower, radio and recreation room.

Today, the company continues their proud tradition of providing the best service to the community. They, as the firefighters described by Benjamin Franklin, still "apply themselves with all vigilance and resolution," as well as dedication and courage, to the protection of their community in times of fire crises and as promoters of fire safety and prevention.

Madam Speaker, once again I congratulate the members of the Edge Hill Fire Company for their service, commitment, and sacrifice. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating this milestone and wish the dedicated firefighters another 100 years of success and safety.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT
COLONEL ALBERT P. BARRY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the late Lt. Col. Albert P. Barry, USMC (Ret.). On December 2, 2007, Lt. Col. Barry passed away at his South Carolina home with his loving wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor Barry, by his side. On January 16, 2008, he received full U.S. Marine Corps honors at Arlington National Cemetery. The date was very special in that it would have been Al and Liz's 20th wedding anniversary.

Madam Speaker, Al lived a full and courageous life even through his battle with glioblastoma, terminal brain cancer. He refused to give up and he and Liz filled their last year with hope, prayer, and as much laughter as possible. Sustained by family and all those who knew him well, Al's reaction was typical of the Marine within. He had been given his "orders"—by physicians this time—and he set out to "beat it." He never complained—and never failed to be Al Barry.

Albert P. Barry was born on April 12, 1936, in New Haven, Connecticut. He earned a Bachelor's Degree at Tufts University and a Master's Degree at Syracuse University. In 1958, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps, was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in December 1959, and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1979. His 21-year active duty service in the

Marine Corps included tours with three Marine Divisions. He served as a Marine Barracks Commanding Officer in the Personnel Management and Assignment Office at Marine Corps Headquarters, and completed his career in the Liaison Office to the United States Senate from July 1975 until November 1979. He spent two tours in the Vietnam War with duty as an Aerial Observer; he served as a Battery Commander twice, a Battalion Operations Officer, an Assistant Regimental Operations Officer, and a Marine Amphibious Unit Operations Officer and Fire Support Coordinator. He received many notable personal decorations during his military service, which include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with Combat "V," the Air Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal with the Combat "V," the Navy Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Navy Unit Citation, the Vietnam Staff Service Honor Medal and other campaign medals.

Following his U.S. Marine Corps Service, Mr. Barry served as a Legislative Director in the U.S. Senate and was appointed in 1981 as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense in the Reagan Administration. He was awarded the Department of Defense Civilian Distinguished Service Medal in 1985.

Mr. Barry's professional positions included Director of Legislative Affairs for Sikorsky Aircraft, Director of Washington Operations for Pneumo Abex Corporation, and Vice President of Washington Operations for AAI Corporation. He was active in defense and industrial associations, and officially retired in March of 2006.

Surviving family in addition to his wife, Elizabeth, include eight children, two step-children, five sons-in-law, one daughter-in-law, and eleven grandchildren. The children are Barbara Barry, Emily Helm, Paul Barry, Kathleen Mullins, Eileen Macleay, Beatrice McMurrer, Sarah Smith, Matthew Barry, Tanya Taylor, and Tom Taylor.

Madam Speaker, Lt. Col. Albert Barry was a true American Patriot. He was a man who loved his family and did his duty to his country. He was unselfish in service and he was a great friend to many, including myself. I want to conclude my remarks by commending him for his life well lived and I want to thank him for his many years of service in helping to make our country great.

TAX DAY, APRIL 15TH

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I have long known that the war in Iraq was costing our Nation far too much. But after less than a week here in Washington, I'm sad to say, it is even worse than I thought. Today, on the day millions of Americans pay their Federal income taxes, it is disheartening to point out that the average American's total tax bill pays for less than one half of one second of this unnecessary war.

At a time when hard-working, two-income families struggle to pay their mortgages, when gas prices force small businesses to raise prices on basic services and necessities, when support for college students continues to decline and CEO salaries rise faster than a

carnival balloon, it is time to bring a dose of sanity to our tax laws.

Madam Speaker, today we took an important step by passing legislation to deny government contracts to firms that are delinquent in tax payments. No longer shall we allow corporations to reap war profits while defrauding taxpayers by not paying their fair share.

We also took aim at the ridiculous practice of hiring outside collection agencies to harass American taxpayers at a cost higher than the money they take in. If America truly is the land of opportunity, then that opportunity must extend to all members of the American family. We cannot be nickel-and-diming hardworking families while losing tens of billions of dollars in waste, fraud and abuse in questionable contracts awarded to politically-connected firms doing business in Iraq.

Madam Speaker, I am new to this body, but I am not new to politics. I understand that the only way anything gets done in the halls of power is when someone stands up and insists on action. Today, on Tax Day, let us make a promise to work toward ending this devastating and costly war, providing middle-income tax relief and once and for all doing away with subsidies for oil companies. Only then, can Americans start to feel that Tax Day is something more than a shake-down of hard-working families.

CBO COST ESTIMATE FOR H.R. 5715,
THE ENSURING CONTINUED ACCESS TO STUDENT LOANS ACT
OF 2008

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, with respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and with respect to requirements of 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the House of Representatives and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee on Education and Labor received, subsequent to the filing of the Committee report, the following estimate for H.R. 5715 from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, April 15, 2008.

Hon. GEORGE MILLER,
Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 5715, the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Deborah Kalcevic.

Sincerely,
ROBERT A. SUNSHINE,
(For Peter R. Orszag, Director).

Enclosure.
H.R. 5715—Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008

Summary: H.R. 5715 would:
Alter repayment and eligibility terms on parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS),
Increase the annual and aggregate borrowing limits on unsubsidized loans,