

Great Lakes States to conduct a study on the feasibility of a variety of approaches to eradicating Asian carp from the Great Lakes. The legislation specifically directs the agencies to study the feasibility of temporarily harvesting Asian carp as a means to eradicate the invasive species in an environmentally responsible manner.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to explore all possibilities to effectively eliminate the threat that this dangerous species poses to our Nation's most precious natural resource.

RECOGNIZING BARBARA KUJAWA
OF WEEKI WACHEE, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Barbara Kujawa of Hernando County, Florida. Barbara will do something later this year that all of us strive to do, but that very few of us will ever accomplish, celebrate her 100th birthday.

Barbara was born December 5, 1909 in Ironwood, Michigan. After attending schools in Detroit at St. Stanislaus and Resurrection schools, Barbara went on to work as an assembly line worker. Happily married to Aloysius Kujawa, she had four wonderful children, thirteen grandchildren and twenty-one great grandchildren.

Her proudest moments were seeing all of her children get married and the happiest moment was when she gave birth to her daughter. Growing up in Michigan, some of her fondest childhood memories are of sledding on a big hill in Grand Rapids with her cousins and walking out on the ice to see her father ice fish.

Moving to Hernando County in the 1980's because it was a nice place to live, Barbara said the things she likes most about Weeki Wachee are that it's peaceful and quiet. Today, reading gives Barbara the most pleasure. If she could live her life over, Barbara would not have gotten married but would have traveled the world and made sure she had gotten a better education. Her advice to young people today is to work hard, be honest, don't drink or do drugs, and honor your parents.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Barbara Kujawa for reaching her 100th birthday. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as her.

HONORING ALEXANDER THOMAS
TRITICO

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander Thomas Tritico of Kansas City, Missouri. Alexander is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alexander has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Alexander has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alexander Thomas Tritico for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE
AND SACRIFICE OF SERGEANT
PRESTON R. MEDLEY, UNITED
STATES ARMY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Sergeant Preston Medley, United States Army. Sergeant Medley was killed in action on October 14, 2008 while serving our nation in Qazi Bandeh, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Sergeant Medley was assigned to D Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

A 2003 graduate of Baker High School, Preston played football and was involved in the broadcasting program. "He was the energetic, joyful kind of person that helped make our program successful," one teacher said. After his mother passed away in 2005, Preston decided he wanted to serve this nation and joined the Army. He will now go to his eternal resting place next to his mother in the Pyron Chapel Cemetery in Baker, Florida.

While Preston was serving on active duty at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, he met his beautiful wife, Sarah, who was a fellow Soldier. Sarah gave birth to their daughter, Raelynn, in September 2007 and gave birth to their son, Preston Ray Medley Jr. on December 8, 2008. Preston's name, his fighting spirit and his caring soul will continue to live on through Raelynn and Preston, Jr.

I am always reminded of the greatness of our country by the patriotism of those like Preston and the dedication of our military families like Sarah and the Medley family. We have an all-volunteer military and continue to ask our sons and daughters to travel to far-away lands to fight for our freedom. Men and women like Preston Medley continue to answer the call.

The people of Northwest Florida have reason to be proud of Sergeant Preston Medley for his service and sacrifice for freedom. While his passing is a tremendous loss for our country, his selfless service stands as a pillar of strength for us all. Vicki and I will keep Preston's entire family in our thoughts and prayers. I trust that all the people of Northwest Florida and our nation do the same.

THE FAIR AND SIMPLE TAX ACT

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, virtually everyone is talking about the need for us to have a second economic stimulus package. From falling home prices to rising unemployment, there is no doubt that the economic volatility our nation has experienced over the past few months has caused great uncertainty and there are many needs that have to be met. As we seek to get our economy back on track, I am very proud to be introducing what I think is the closest thing to a panacea to the economic growth challenge that we are facing.

This plan, known as Fair and Simple Tax Act, or simply FAST, would cut the number of tax brackets in half, with three simple tax rates—10 percent on the first \$40,000 in income, 15 percent on incomes between \$40,000 and \$150,000 and 30 percent on any income above \$150,000, significantly reducing the burden on taxpayers at all income levels. Furthermore, it will dramatically simplify the tax filing process by creating a one-page tax form that implements the three-tier simplified marginal rate structure, while retaining many of the popular deductions, including mortgage interest, state and local taxes, charitable giving, the personal exemption and the child tax credit.

But the FAST Act is about much more than just lowering marginal tax rates for working families or making that April 15 deadline easier to meet each year. It's about getting our economy growing again and creating new opportunities. This bill reduces the capital gains rate from 15 percent to 10 percent, lowers the top corporate rate from 35 percent to 25 percent and permanently extends the research and development tax credit. These provisions will not only promote new economic growth, but they will also make the U.S. economy more competitive and help to provide the tax certainty that spurs investment and capital improvements.

The FAST Act will permanently end the death tax and will further index the alternative minimum tax (AMT) to inflation, ensuring that fewer taxpayers are impacted each year. It also permanently extends the 2001 and 2003 pro-growth tax cuts.

Finally, the FAST Act will enable Americans to better prepare for their future needs. This legislation creates three new, tax-free savings accounts: the Retirement Savings Account and the Lifetime Savings Account, both providing a \$5,000 tax-free contribution, and the Lifetime Skills Savings Account, which provides a \$1,000 tax-free contribution. Additionally, the FAST Act provides a \$7,500 tax deduction for individuals and a \$15,000 tax deduction for families who do not receive employer-sponsored health coverage. This expanded deduction will provide individuals and families with additional assistance to purchase healthcare and allows unspent funds to be allocated to a Health Savings Account (HSA). Each of these provisions will help Americans to secure their financial futures by saving for healthcare costs, continuing education and retirement.

Madam Speaker, our nation is facing a severe economic crisis that must be addressed