

site, which is speaker.gov/30something with the number 30, and learn all about our new member from Ohio and any other member of the 30-somethings they want.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. We are hopeful that, eventually that Mr. RYAN and Mr. MEEK and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, the veterans, will join us down here so that not only can the American people learn something about them on the Web site, but they can see them down here returned to their roots on the House floor as part of the 30-Something Working Group.

I thank the Speaker for giving us this time.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF GRAY PARSONS OF WILKES COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a fallen hometown hero from Wilkes County in North Carolina. Gray Parsons, a Millers Creek firefighter, fell in the line of duty earlier this month while responding to a fire near Wilkesboro, North Carolina.

Parsons was a dedicated member of the North Carolina Forest Service's Fire Attack Support Team, where he had served for the past 10 years. His funeral was a tribute to his many years of service to the local community as local fire departments from across Wilkes County came out in force to honor Gray Parsons' life.

Many of Parsons' friends and family have said that giving his life in the line of duty was just how he would have wanted to go. He was a committed firefighter, a skilled chain saw operator, and an amazing wizard when it came to repairing anything mechanical.

He was generous with his always-ready smile and his hands were continually working to help others. His coworkers knew Gray Parsons as a man who was dedicated to his work. In fact, the day he responded to his final fire in Wilkes County was his day off, but he had spent the day helping his partner at the Forest Service finish a project. That was just the kind of person he was, generous, hard-working and committed.

The Wilkes community hailed Parsons as a model local hero at his funeral. His life inspired everyone who knew him for his kindness and indefatigable pride in his work and those he served.

He was a true American hero, an everyday man, who took pride in the uniform he wore and who loved to serve his community and protect those in danger.

He will be profoundly missed and will leave a gaping hole in the Wilkes County community, Forest Service and local first responders. My thoughts and prayers are with the friends and family of this great man who gave his life in the service of others.

#### TREATING ALL CITIZENS EQUALLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I thank you for recognizing me this evening.

I was real pleased to see our 30-Something Group over there has expanded their folks, a lot of new faces, and new faces are good for Congress. It is good to see them, and even though my in my opinion they are a little misdirected, they certainly are entitled to their opinion. I am not here to debate them tonight. Maybe some other night I might be here for that purpose.

Tonight I am here because I have been raising and talking about an issue here in the last couple of weeks, probably now going on a month, about a change in the tax law that I proposed in the form of a bill that I introduced here to instigate the "Rangel Rule," which would allow ordinary citizens to be treated as nicely as CHARLIE RANGEL, the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, who by his own admission on the floor of this House failed to pay taxes for a period of quite a long time, something like 10 years or better. But he did catch up on those taxes when he finally realized kind of, whoops, I messed up for about 10 years, and maybe I ought to pay these taxes. It may have been a longer period of time than that. I don't know. It is not really relevant to the issue. The issue is that he was not assessed any penalties or interest by the IRS.

I really have a hard time figuring that out, because I have talked to a lot of people back home in Texas who have like not filed their taxes on April 15th, but have gotten an extension, and they ended up filing like on August 15th or October 15th, which is not a real long delay, nothing to compare with like 10 years or 20 years or whatever the period was. But they all got assessed penalties and interest by the IRS, and we really don't like to think that just because somebody happens to be the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee that they should be treated any differently than, say, those folks back there that I talked to in Texas or the folks that have contacted me from all over the country on this issue.

So I have been raising that issue, and in all fairness tonight I want to be fair to Chairman RANGEL, because he is a man that, of course, this House highly respects. There are other issues that have to do with Mr. RANGEL. We may go into some of those tonight. But in all fairness to the chairman, maybe I should have expanded this rule a little bit, because there are others who have issues that need to be dealt with, at least talked about.

You know, the current Secretary of the Treasury, Tim Geithner, I guess he had some issues that he had with taxes too. His were very confusing to me, be-

cause the other day, I couldn't find the board tonight, but we had a picture of a letter that a company sent, a fairly sizable check around \$30,000-plus that was sent to Mr. Geithner, telling him here was his money he was supposed to pay his taxes with, and he was signing, by the obligation of this form, he was obligating himself to pay his Social Security and Medicare taxes.

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And that he, by the signing of this document said, "I sure will. I promise you. I give you my word, that I will pay these taxes." And then, whoops, he just kind of let it slip his mind for about 4 years. And, in fact, it had completely slipped his mind until he became the subject of discussion in the United States Senate about whether or not he had a clear conscience to serve as the Treasury Secretary of the United States. At that point in time, he realized that, "Uh-oh, I believe I forgot something. I believe I forgot to pay my taxes for 2001 and 2002 and 2003 and 2004 and maybe some more." And so he rushed in and he paid those taxes.

Now, he didn't pay them all because he was slick enough or smart enough or maybe good lawyer, if he's lawyer, enough to know that the statute of limitations had run on 2 years of these taxes he was supposed to pay. And so I think he relied upon that statute to prevent him from having to pay that amount of money. But he, like Chairman RANGEL, he did some hustling and some catching up, and he caught up and he paid his taxes.

Now, you know, it's real upsetting to the IRS when people don't pay their income taxes. They get real upset about it. But my experience of being a lawyer and a judge for, well, going on 30-something years is that they get particularly irritated when you don't pay the Social Security and Medicare taxes you're required to pay, because they kind of feel like that's a whole lot bigger crime than slipping up and miscalculating on your income tax.

And they get downright serious about that. I've seen them padlock people's businesses over failing to pay those taxes. I have a good friend that used to run a place called Big G's in Round Rock, and he got padlocked all the time back in the '70s when I represented him. And he always got slapped with heavy penalties and heavy interest.

But Mr. Geithner, Secretary Geithner, he finally paid some of those taxes, and he paid some taxes, some interest. But once again, just like Chairman RANGEL, he wasn't assessed any penalties for intentionally not paying his taxes. And I say "intentionally" only by the state of the evidence that has been presented and the fact that he signed a document addressed to the IRS in which he pledged to them that he knew that the check they had sent him was for taxes and he knew he was obligated to pay those things.