

HONORING THE LIFE OF JERALD F. TERHORST

HON. JAMES P. MORAN
OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Mr. Jerald F. terHorst, longtime reporter, columnist, and White House Press Secretary, who passed away on March 31, 2010 at his home in Asheville, North Carolina. He was surrounded and supported by his four children in his final hours.

Born in Grand Rapids in 1922, Mr. terHorst discovered his passion for journalism while at Michigan State University. While working at the State News, the MSU college newspaper, he met Louise, his companion, confidante and best friend through 64 years of marriage. Mr. terHorst was a proud veteran having served as a Marine in World War II. Following the war, Jerry jumped head-first into his passion, reporting, while working for the Grand Rapids Press. During his time there, he covered future-President Gerald Ford's early political career during his successful bid for Congress. A few years later, after a stint in the Marine Corps, Mr. terHorst took a job as a political writer for the Detroit News. He moved to their Washington bureau and shortly thereafter became bureau chief in 1961.

In 1974, when then-Vice President Ford inherited the presidency after Nixon's resignation, Mr. terHorst signed on as Press Secretary for the man he had been closely covering for close to 20 years. It was to be a short-lived tenure, however, lasting one month. His resignation of the prestigious role was due to his strong disagreement with President Nixon's pardoning. In his resignation letter and personal statements in the years following, terHorst stated that his decision was ultimately because he believed Ford had displayed a double standard of justice in choosing to pardon Nixon, yet refusing to pardon conscientious objectors to the Vietnam War. Jerry's resignation, risking his entire career, was a testament to his strong ethical values that had brought him so far in his career. Mr. terHorst received the first Conscience-in-Media Award for his decision. Following his tenure at the White House, Mr. terHorst reentered the profession he loved, signing on as a syndicated columnist for the Detroit News, finally retiring in 1981 after a long and distinguished career.

Mr. terHorst was a friend, strong advocate for truth and justice, and inspiration to those who knew him and read his work. He forever left a mark on reporting and the role of the White House Press Secretary. Jerry will be deeply missed but his legacy lives on, serving as an example for future generations of journalists to model themselves after.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
ELAINE MARIE FORTNEY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Elaine Marie

Fortney, a woman who lived life with grace and a sense of service to community.

Ms. Fortney was a longtime leader in the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party and a staunch political activist, working on numerous local and national campaigns. Raised in East Cleveland, Ms. Fortney lived most of her life in Cleveland Heights, where she became president of the Cleveland Heights Democratic Club. Her energy spawned from a deep belief that the political process was a vehicle for change. She was regularly called upon by candidates seeking her expertise, including U.S. Senate candidate Mary Boyle, for whom she served as Ohio field director.

Although she lost her ability to walk in her early thirties, she never let a wheelchair slow her down. Ms. Fortney was a dedicated public servant, serving as executive assistant to former Cuyahoga County Commissioner Mary Boyle and as the district director for former United States Congressman Dennis Eckart. She led the Cuyahoga County Democrats as the Executive Director from 1982 to 1985. In 2009, Ms. Fortney retired from service after twelve years of managing worker's compensation claims for Cuyahoga County.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues please join me in honor and remembrance of Elaine Marie Fortney, whose great joy for life, energetic spirit and commitment to community inspired all of us who had the honor of knowing her. I offer my deep condolences to her sisters, Linda and Jane; to her brothers-in-law, Robert and Matthew; her nieces, Tricia and Elizabeth; her nephews, Shawn and Zachary; and her extended family members and many friends.

SUPPORT OF H.R. 4994 THE TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2010

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, across the United States, April 15th is Tax Day. As Americans file their taxes, H.R. 4994, the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010, improves taxpayer programs and protections. The "Tax Day" bill has a history of broad bipartisan support and continues to receive large support today.

Most importantly for the residents of the 7th District of Illinois and the Nation, the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010 includes programs that benefit low-income taxpayers. For example, H.R. 4994 increases funding for grants to provide low-income taxpayer clinics. Even in the absence of a specific appropriation, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program will be available for use because the Secretary of Treasury could allocate up to \$20 million of grant funding annually for the program. As recommended by the National Taxpayer Advocate, the bill allows IRS employees to refer people to these tax clinics as well. The Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010 also improves the IRS's ability to inform taxpayers about the availability of the Earned Income Tax Credit in prior years, a tax credit that we know helps low income households. In the 7th Congressional District alone, over 72,000 people participated in this program in 2007 with a savings of over \$172 million, with most of those taxpayers earning less than \$20,000 a year.

Further, the bill makes it easier for taxpayers to settle outstanding payments via the offers-in-compromise program. Importantly, H.R. 4994 contains provisions to assure the protection of taxpayers, such as requiring the IRS to notify taxpayers when it suspects that a taxpayer's identity, or a dependent's identity, has been stolen. Each of the bill's provisions provides timely assistance and improvements for taxpayers.

The Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010 also adapts the tax system to technology in several ways. By allowing the removal of cell phones from listed property, the bill eliminates a strict, outdated rule. The current rule requires individuals to keep detailed records regarding cell phones and similar equipment used for business purposes, imposing unnecessary burdens on companies and taxpayers. The IRS also will be given the opportunity to utilize the internet and other forms of mass communication to notify taxpayers of "unclaimed" or "undeliverable" funds.

Overall H.R. 4994 the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010 continues the tradition of the "Tax Day" bill by providing needed programs, protection to our taxpayers, and updates to outdated rules.

HONORING ISRAELI
INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY
OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 62nd anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, our great ally and friend.

Over 60 years ago, Israel's pioneers began to revitalize an ancient land. Today, Israelis remain pioneers at heart—pioneers for prosperity, democracy and progress. They are once again facing challenges in their homeland with determination and a vision for a better future for their children and for their country.

But even as we celebrate the founding of the State of Israel, we know that while sovereign independence is necessary, it is not sufficient—security of the State's people is also of paramount importance. The Jewish homeland must be kept safe, surrounded by neighbors who respect its right to exist in peace. Through sacrifice, ingenuity and innovation, Israel has managed to thrive for 62 years in a dangerous and unstable region of the world. Let us hope that the conflicts that have marked the difficult decades since Israel's founding will subside in the years to come.

Indeed, Prime Minister Golda Meir believed that one day there would be peace in Israel, because there are mothers and grandmothers—and let me add fathers and grandfathers—in Egypt, in Jordan, in Syria and the Palestinian territories who also want their children and grandchildren to live in peace. Today is an opportunity to both acknowledge history and look to the future. I am hopeful that someday soon Israel and its neighbors will finally find the keys to a peaceful future side-by-side in mutual security, and the conflict in the Middle East becomes relegated to the history books.