

A TRIBUTE TO TIFFANY
JOHNSTON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ms. Tiffany Johnston of Graettinger, Iowa for being named a national recipient of the 2011 Teacher Mentor Award from the National Association of Agricultural Educators. Ms. Johnston is one of only six individuals nationwide who received this great honor.

Over the past six years, Ms. Johnston has been educating high school students at Graettinger-Terrill High School as well as Iowa's new agriculture teachers through the Iowa Association of Agricultural Educators New Teacher Program. Ms. Johnston's passion has reinvigorated our state's agricultural education through updated methodology and countless hours of dedication.

During the 2010 Iowa Association of Agricultural Educators Summer Conference, Ms. Johnston teamed up with fellow Iowa agricultural educator, Tara Fastert, to help other new teachers in the profession. Together they would help develop a new teacher program to provide teachers with more resources and ideas for their lesson plans, as well as introduce them to cutting-edge online resources to assist in further professional networking. Ms. Johnston's work to establish partnerships within an agricultural education program, starting at the local level, has culminated to her nationwide recognition through the Teacher Mentor Award.

Mr. Speaker, the commitment Ms. Johnston has shown to Iowa's agriculture, educators, and students is unparalleled. Her efforts embody Iowa's proud traditions of quality education and hard work, and it is an honor to represent Tiffany in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating her on this remarkable achievement and will wish her continued success in educational excellence.

TRIBUTE HONORING THE 109TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE ILINDEN UP-
RISING

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 109th Anniversary of the Ilinden Uprising. On August 2, 1903, the Macedonian people rose together to fight for their freedom. Today is a cause for true celebration.

The Ilinden Uprising's ideas were rooted in the ideals of the American and French Revolutions. The Macedonian people fought for an independent state, whose people would enjoy civil liberties and be free in their pursuit of happiness.

Macedonia's forefathers fought bravely for the Macedonian nationhood, and their dream became a reality in 1991, when the Republic of Macedonia became free, independent and sovereign.

I would also like to take a moment to congratulate the Macedonian-American commu-

nity in my district, in New Jersey, and throughout the entire United States on the progress their homeland has achieved. Today marks the Anniversary of a huge step towards an independent Macedonia, and I am happy to support the Republic of Macedonia as it continues to move forward on its path to full NATO membership.

I am always pleased to recognize and commemorate historic occasions such as this one. As a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Macedonia and Macedonian-Americans, I again commemorate the 109th Anniversary of the Ilinden Uprising in Macedonia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, all Macedonian people, and me, in recognizing the 109th Anniversary of the Ilinden Uprising in Macedonia.

JOB PROTECTION AND RECESSION
PREVENTION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 8, the Job Protection and Recession Prevention Act of 2012. I oppose this bill because it extends the 2001 and 2003 Bush tax cuts to millionaires who do not need it, have not requested it, and at a time when the nation cannot afford it.

The extension of this 2001 tax policy would keep the rates of all tax brackets at a reduced level. While this reduced level would keep more funds in the hands of American families, it provides for a disproportionate distribution of the tax burden on different income levels. These reduced rates give a greater break to the incredibly wealthy, placing unfair monetary responsibility on the middle class.

The extension of this tax policy also maintains a lower rate on capital gains, and taxes dividends at the same rate as capital gains instead of as ordinary income. In addition, this extension lowers the estate tax. Lower rates on such incomes further burden the middle class, as they further relieve the incredibly wealthy from their duty to give back to this country. As a result of these policies, the average income tax cut for households making more than \$1 million a year would be over \$74,000 in 2013.

Concurrently, as a result of H.R. 8, some of the tax cuts for working families which were adopted in 2009 would be allowed to expire, and eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit will be reduced. This bill also ends the American Opportunity Tax Credit, 85 percent of the benefactors of which made less than \$100,000 a year. These actions will effectively raise taxes on 25 million middle- and low-income households by an average of \$1000.

The conversation surrounding our nation's tax policies has focused on ensuring that tax cuts for the middle class are extended. It has been made clear, on both sides of the aisle, that this is imperative not only to helping American families get back on their feet, but also to the continuing recovery of the United States economy.

Unfortunately, my Republican colleagues are determined to use these middle class tax

cuts as leverage to make sure that the Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthy are extended. They use top-down economics as the argument for the validity of these cuts—that they help to restore our economy and reduce the unemployment rate, because the individuals earning incomes in the top two percent are “job creators.” Contrary to this claim, the facts demonstrate that fewer than 35 percent of small business owners make over \$250,000 a year. Allowing the Bush tax cuts for the upper class to expire would not affect the vast majority of “job creators” in the American economy, but it would help relieve the tax burden of working families.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose H.R. 8 not only because the policies included within it would inflict an unbalanced tax burden on working families, but also because it will prevent this Congress from helping to reduce America's budget deficit. My colleagues across the aisle consistently claim they are committed to reducing our deficit, yet they have fought to pass this bill, extending Bush's tax cuts for the wealthy. If we were to let these cuts expire, our deficit could be reduced by \$50 billion in 2013 alone. Simply stated, the tax plan laid out in H.R. 8 will not raise adequate revenue to fund our national priorities or repay our debt.

Instead of arguing over tax cuts for those individuals who don't need our help, this Congress should be working across the aisle to create a fair, comprehensive tax reform that unburdens our working families. The conversation should be focused on continuing to rebuild our economy and reduce our deficit, not give handouts to the wealthy few. When a bill that outlines real, fair tax reform comes up for consideration on the Floor, I will support it.

Mr. Speaker, it is for these reasons that I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing H.R. 8, the Job Protection and Recession Prevention Act of 2012.

RECOGNIZING MARK DAVIS FOR 45
YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE AIR-
LINE INDUSTRY IN SEATTLE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mark Davis of Auburn, Washington, for forty-five years of dedicated service to the airline industry.

In 1967, Mr. Davis began working on the ramp for Northwest Airlines, with a propeller-driven Lockheed Electra. Over the next 45 years, he served in a variety of capacities for his company. These included time as a ramp agent, cleaner, working in the commissary, fueling aircrafts, serving at the post office and, finally, as a freight runner.

At a special ceremony, Mr. Davis received a pin commemorating his 45 years of service. Delta Cargo leaders and employees surprised him by unveiling a ramp tug personalized with his name, employment date and years of service.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Mark Davis for a long career of service to the airline industry in Seattle, Washington. Employees like Mark make companies, our economy, and our country thrive.