

the Expedited Funds Availability Act, more commonly known as Regulation CC, to clarify the application of Regulation CC to American Samoa. Enacted in 1987, Regulation CC standardized hold periods on deposits made to commercial banks. It also excluded American Samoa from the definitions of "State" and "United States." Banks in American Samoa were deemed "Pacific Island banks," and checks drawn on Pacific Island banks were thereafter called "Pacific Island checks."

A crucial distinction between State banks and checks and Pacific Island banks and checks lies in the "hold time" permitted by Regulation CC. For example, State banks must release funds from deposited checks immediately for in-state checks, and shortly thereafter for out-of-state checks. Pacific Island banks, however, can hold checks for an undetermined amount of time before releasing funds for access or use. Another distinction permits a delay in the return of Pacific Island checks that are overdrawn. However, State checks that are overdrawn must be returned "in an expeditious manner."

Due to these distinctions, the people of American Samoa are subject to excessive hold times on funds that should be available in short order. This places a significant financial burden on my constituents. The legislation I have introduced today will amend Regulation CC to include American Samoa within the definition of "State" and "United States." As a result, banks in my district will be required to treat local patrons with the same level of services offered in the rest of the states and other territories.

In anticipation that this bill will be referred to the House Committee on Financial Services, I look forward to working closely with Chairman JEB HENSARLING and Ranking Member MAXINE WATERS to ensure that American Samoa is included within the provisions of Regulation CC.

HONORING ADELFA CALLEJO

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a leader in my community and esteemed civil rights lawyer, Adelfa Callejo.

On Friday, April 12, Adelfa Callejo was given a most deserving honor when the Dallas Independent School District, DISD, dedicated an elementary school bearing her name. At the dedication, Adelfa Callejo, now 89 years old, stood up from her wheelchair and proclaimed, "Only through education will we make the world a better place than when we found it." Throughout her life, Adelfa Callejo has improved the lives of countless individuals in my community through her life of good deeds and public service.

Adelfa Callejo was the first Hispanic woman to graduate from Southern Methodist University, SMU, Dedman School of Law. She has been in private practice in Dallas for more than 45 years. Working full-time during the day, Adelfa Callejo attended night school and graduated in 1961. Adelfa Callejo, an advocate for civil rights, has pursued community causes throughout her life and has won many awards for her years of service in the community and legal profession.

Mr. Speaker, Adelfa Callejo is an exceptional community leader and deserving of recognition for her contributions to society. Our country is a better one because of Adelfa Callejo.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO DENY THE REFUNDABLE PORTION OF THE CHILD TAX CREDIT TO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO BE EMPLOYED IN THE UNITED STATES AND TO TERMINATE THE USE OF CERTIFYING ACCEPTANCE AGENTS TO FACILITATE THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR ITINS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced legislation to prevent illegal immigrants from claiming the refundable portion of the child tax credit. The refundable child tax credit provides cash payment to low-income families who pay no income tax. The program was intended to be an additional cash benefit for families who receive the earned-income tax credit. While administered through the tax code, it is a means-tested welfare expenditure. Since Social Security numbers are issued only to those who have the legal right to work in the United States, illegal immigrants use Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs), which are issued by the IRS regardless of legal status. ITINs allow a person to file a tax return and thus claim the tax credit. The Internal Revenue Service's (IRS's) Certifying Agent Program, which allows a person to apply for an ITIN on behalf of an individual with no verification of their immigration status, has compounded the abuse of ITINs for fraudulent tax claims. With no verification of a person's status on their tax return or at the issuance of an ITIN, the system has a significant fault, which allows taxpayer dollars to go to those who are not eligible.

The Treasury Department's Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) has reported that illegal immigrants claimed \$4.2 billion through this child tax credit in 2010. With the federal government borrowing heavily to finance deficits of nearly \$1 trillion, we need to ensure federal benefits are only going to law-abiding citizens.

We must take steps to solve this waste of taxpayer money by ending this gap in the tax code. If enacted, this legislation would require those claiming the tax credit to list their social security number or other proof of lawful immigration status on their tax return. It would also require the IRS to verify the proper documentation before issuing ITINs. The TIGTA has estimated this legislation would reduce federal spending by \$8.4 billion over two years.

At a time when the federal government is operating under significant deficits, we must ensure scarce taxpayer dollars are used responsibly. Allowing them to go to those who are in this country illegally is grossly irresponsible. This simple and common sense measure will ensure better accountability to all taxpayers, while also saving money.

In short, this legislation will ensure this welfare program is only available to its intended recipients, ensuring those who follow the law can continue to receive this assistance. I look forward to working with my colleagues to move this legislation through Congress.

THE 369TH INFANTRY REGIMENT 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 369th Infantry Regiment on their 100th anniversary. Constituted in June of 1913, this regiment was the first African American Regiment to serve with the American Expeditionary Force during World War I.

The U.S. Army's 369th Infantry Regiment, popularly known as the "Harlem Hellfighters," was the best known African American unit of World War I. Federalized in 1917, it prepared for service in Europe and arrived in Brest in December. The next month, the regiment became part of the 93rd Division and continued its training, now under French instructors. In March, the regiment finally received its Federal designation and was reorganized and re-equipped according to the French model. That summer, the 369th was integrated into the French 161st Division and began combat operations.

While African American valor usually went unrecognized, well over one hundred members of the regiment received American and/or French medals, including the first two Americans—Corporal Henry Johnson and Private Needham Roberts—to be awarded the coveted French Croix de Guerre.

Spending over six months in combat, perhaps the longest of any American unit in the war, the 369th suffered approximately fifteen hundred casualties but received only nine hundred replacements. Unit histories claimed they were the first unit to cross the Rhine earning the epithet "Hell Fighters" from their enemies. After considerable effort by Colonel Hayward, the 369th was welcomed home with a parade in February 1919 and reabsorbed into the National Guard. More than one million people witnessed the triumphant parade from Lower Manhattan, up Fifth Avenue to my beloved village of Harlem. The marching band led the troops, and as they turned off 110th Street onto Lenox Avenue the band began to play. Today the lineage and tradition is carried on by the 369th Transportation Battalion, which has since become the 369th Corps Support Battalion. The Harlem Hellfighters continue to serve at home and overseas.

This year we honor a group of men whose selflessness and valor propelled them to protect and serve the very country that left them a perpetually marginalized group of American society. A group of men who fought to defend this country whose dream of freedom was ironically and unremorsefully built on the backs of their ancestors with no avail even as their sons fought for that same ideal decades later. The history of the Harlem Hellfighters is one of dedication and profound spirituality that reminds us that the efforts we make today has everything to do with the world we create for our future.