

SGT Rahaim will be remembered for his sacrifice and for demonstrating the qualities of a great soldier and American.

INTRODUCTION OF TAX RETURN  
PREPARER ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced, along with my colleagues Reps. ROBERT "BOBBY" SCOTT, CAROLYN MALONEY and ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, the Tax Return Preparer Accountability Act of 2017, which would provide explicit authority for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to protect taxpayers from unscrupulous tax cheats masquerading as bona fide tax preparers.

As we near April 15th, millions of taxpayers will pay someone to help them fill out their tax returns. Many of these tax preparers are honest and trustworthy. But, unfortunately, too many of them take advantage of their customers or help their customers engage in tax fraud themselves.

In Memphis, my Congressional district, a company named Mo' Money Taxes was caught charging taxpayers deceptive and outrageous fees and cheating them out of their refunds. The company also helped some customers prepare fraudulent returns that claimed bogus deductions and cheated the public of needed tax revenue. Fortunately, the Department of Justice has shut down the tax preparer company but there are many businesses just like them cheating taxpayers and the government alike.

The IRS issued rules in 2011 regulating the tax return preparer industry by requiring them to register with the IRS and meet certain education and testing standards. However, a federal court held that the IRS did not have the authority under existing law to issue these regulations and they could not come into effect.

That's why I introduced the Tax Return Preparer Accountability Act because it's important that anyone who assists in filing federal taxes is sufficiently trained and maintain a certain level of professional conduct.

I hope that Congress will quickly act on this bill to ensure that these dishonest business practices cannot continue, and protect the pocketbooks of middle-class families.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARTHA E.  
POLLACK'S SERVICE ON BEHALF  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Martha E. Pollack, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Michigan as she moves to the next chapter of her life. Ms. Pollack has led a distinguished academic career and helped the university effectively serve its students, faculty and the Ann Arbor community during her tenure with the school.

After receiving her doctorate in Information Science from the University of Pennsylvania in 1979, Ms. Pollack began her academic career with the nonprofit research organization SRI International. She then served as faculty for the University of Pittsburgh until 2000, when she joined the University of Michigan as a Professor of Computer Science and Engineering. Ms. Pollack distinguished herself through her outstanding scholarship and leadership. As a result, she was named chair of the School of Information in 2007 and Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs in 2013. As Provost, she oversaw academic and budgetary affairs for the entire academic enterprise, which includes the 19 schools and colleges within the university, as well as libraries, museums and other institutions in the University of Michigan system.

Ms. Pollack has received numerous accolades for her work as a leader and scholar at the University of Michigan. In 2007, Ms. Pollack received the Sarah Goddard Power Award for contributing to increased recognition and involvement of women in the sciences. She was also elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Association for Computing Machinery for her pioneering research. Under her leadership, the university has made important strides in improving affordability for students and continuing to attract world-class scholars to the University of Michigan community. Her leadership and experience will be missed as she moves on to become Cornell University's president this year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Martha Pollack and her years of service to the University of Michigan and Ann Arbor community. She has proven to be a capable and committed leader who has helped address the most challenging issues facing the university.

RECOGNIZING MR. MARC ARNUSCH

**HON. KEN BUCK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Marc Arnusch on being selected as the 2016 Rising Star in Colorado Agriculture. This honor is reserved for those who have made a significant contribution to the agricultural industry of Colorado and the United States.

Mr. Arnusch has an extensive background in Colorado agriculture. After receiving a degree in Agricultural Economics, he returned home and began working the land adjacent to his father's farm. He now operates Marc Arnusch Farms, LLC which stretches across 2,400 acres in Prospect Valley. Mr. Arnusch is a member of the Colorado Corn Administrative Committee and the Colorado Farm Bureau, and has held various leadership roles within the Colorado Farm Bureau.

His attendance and participation in local forums, appearance in television commercials, and efforts on behalf of agriculture have helped make him a prominent figure in his community. He has become a powerful voice for agriculture in Colorado and I look forward to learning of his future endeavors.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes as Mr.

Arnusch pursues his future undertakings. His passion and dedication to the agricultural industry makes him more than worthy of this distinct recognition. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Marc Arnusch for his accomplishments.

HONORING MAE BETH PALONE

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mae Beth Palone on her well-earned retirement from the Independent Bankers Association of Texas, after twenty-two years of dedicated service.

After graduating from the University of Texas with a bachelor's degree in journalism, Palone's distinguished career began at the Texas Capitol in 1975 working for Representative Elmer Martin. She then faithfully served Representative Walter Grubbs, Representative Jimmy Mankins, Representative Foster Whaley and even assisted a newly elected Representative Rick Perry before he had his own staff, finishing her Capitol career in the service of Representative Robert Earley.

Nearly twenty years later, she joined the Independent Bankers Association of Texas (IBAT) serving as IBAT's Government Relations Officer where she continued to cultivate her exemplary relationships with her legislative peers and promote the cause of community bankers in Texas. Palone's journalism degree was put to great use as the author of the script for IBAT's Annual Convention and other key IBAT events and communications. Palone was promoted to Vice President in 2000. She took the reins of the IBAT Leadership Division in 2004, the most treasured experience of her IBAT career, growing membership to over 590 and implementing a regional governance structure as she mentored the future leaders of the Texas community banking industry.

Despite her busy professional life, Ms. Palone also found time to give back to her community as a CASA volunteer as well as serving on the board of directors of her homeowners association. Palone is perhaps best known for her undying loyalty to her Texas Longhorns, attending every home football game and supporting them regardless of their ranking.

Palone's dedication, professionalism, and commitment to excellence have greatly benefited those who depend upon the Texas community banking industry. She has earned the respect and admiration of her peers.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the tireless efforts that Mae Beth Palone has made to the people of the great state of Texas and Texas community bankers. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Mae Beth Palone on her many years of loyal service.