

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALL-
EN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY
SERGEANT (SGT) GREGORY
LEROY TULL

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Sergeant (SGT) Gregory Leroy Tull who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on November 25, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SGT Tull was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near the armored Humvee he was riding in during combat operations in Anbar Province, Iraq. SGT Tull was the gunner on the Humvee. SGT Tull was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery, Iowa Army National Guard, Storm Lake, Iowa. At the time of his death, SGT Tull was temporarily assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery, Mississippi Army National Guard.

According to the Associated Press, SGT Tull enlisted in the Iowa Army National Guard in 2002 and graduated from Pocahontas Area High School the following year. He then attended South Dakota State University before volunteering for Operation Iraqi Freedom in November 2004.

Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Gregory O. Hapgood, a National Guard spokesman, said SGT Tull was proud of his service. "He was a very bright young man and he really was a go-to guy in his unit," LTC Hapgood said. "He was a guy who didn't shirk his duty. He wanted to be where it was happening."

Jeff Tuttle, a high school friend of SGT Tull, paid tribute to him in a post on a memorial website. "I have been a personal witness to his good deeds for many years," Jeff said. "He had tremendous character and strength and I don't ever remember him getting into any sort of trouble whatsoever. I carry a picture of him in my wallet and will do so for the rest of my life, to be reminded of his bravery for inspiration. He is greatly missed, especially by his parents and brother who handled this hardship with tremendous dignity and class."

Greg Tull, SGT Tull's father, thanked more than 100 people who posted tributes to his son on a memorial website. "I want to thank everybody for their support and for having Greg as a friend," Mr. Tull said. "I never knew how many lives Greg touched. He is a very special person and his mom and I miss him every day and every minute of every day. God bless you and pray for the rest of the soldiers killed in action or wounded or still over there fighting to keep us safe. God bless America."

SGT Tull's funeral was held at Faith Lutheran Church in Pocahontas, Iowa. It was attended by hundreds of people including family, friends, and fellow soldiers. Law enforcement officers from each of the Pocahontas County law enforcement agencies stood watch outside of the church. A sign in front of the church read, "SGT Greg Tull, The Go-To Guy." SGT Tull was buried at the Indian Mound Cemetery, south of Humboldt.

SGT Tull is survived by his parents, Gary and Eileen Tull; his brother, Bryan Tull; his grandparents, Bill and Janet Velau and Erland and Phyllis Nelson.

SGT Tull was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Army Good Conduct Medal,

the Combat Action Badge, and the Mississippi Medal of Valor.

SGT Tull demonstrated courage and bravery while proudly serving our nation. His sacrifice will always be remembered.

RECOGNIZING KYLE SUKHBIR FOR
THE MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL
VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kyle Sukhbir of Livingston for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Sukhbir joined the United States Army in 2008 and served during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He was injured during combat in June 2009 and was later awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor. After his retirement in 2012, Mr. Sukhbir's continued to serve veterans and others in his community.

Mr. Sukhbir owns a gunsmith business in Livingston. He donates customized firearms to the Montana Wounded Warriors program and to other service organizations. Mr. Sukhbir also volunteers to take veterans on hunting trips to enjoy Montana's great outdoors.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Kyle Sukhbir for his dedication and service.

GOP TAX SCAM

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 1, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is not enough to subject the GOP tax plan to the test of fiscal responsibility.

To keep faith with the nation's past, to be fair to the nation's present, and to safeguard the nation's future, the plan must also pass a "moral test."

This tax plan fails both the fiscal responsibility test and the moral responsibility test.

This tax cut package is a return to trickle-down economics.

This tax bill is a thoughtless and immoral GOP tax scam that will explode our nation's deficit and hurt poor, working, and middle class families.

It will explode the deficit by \$2.2 trillion over 10 years.

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office has concluded that the Senate bill would, on average, raise taxes or reduce federal expenditures for households with incomes below \$75,000 by about \$60 billion.

This tax cut bill is a repudiation of the social contract that F.D.R. announced in the New Deal.

The overwhelming portion of the bill is a lowering of the corporate tax rate, from the current 35 percent down to 20 percent.

In my home state of Texas, more than 1.7 million households earning less than \$127,000 would see a tax hike.

The proposed elimination of the personal exemption will harm millions of Texans by taking away the \$4,050 deduction for each taxpayer and claimed dependent; in 2015, roughly 9.3 million dependent exemptions were claimed in the Lone Star State.

In this tax bill, by taking away the student loan interest and educator expense deductions, more than 876,000 Texas students will lose an average credit of \$1,063, while nearly 354,000 Texas teachers who buy notebooks and erasers for their classrooms will lose an average credit of \$261.

The Republicans in Congress ASSUME that corporations will pass down savings to consumers.

But this never works. Corporations simply stash their money in tax havens.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the last time the GOP cut taxes for corporations, they spent as much as 90 percent of their windfall buying back shares, giving dividends to shareholders, stock options and executives.

This "tax bill" would lift a 1954 ban on political activism by churches, further blurring the line between church and state.

The House and Senate bills would circumscribe the ability of states and local governments to levy own taxes, which would force states to cut spending on health, care education, public transportation and social services.

The full 10-year plan for the bill reveals how bad it is: by 2027, individuals making between \$40,000 and \$50,000 would pay a combined \$5.3 Billion more in taxes, while those earning more than \$1 billion or more would get a \$5.8 billion cut.

To quote the former Chief of Staff of the congressional Joint Committee on Taxation: "[This tax bill] is not aimed at growth. It is not aimed at the middle class."

It is at every turn carefully engineered to deliver a kiss to the donor class."

According to the New York Times, in a recent survey of from the University of Chicago, only one of 38 prominent economists said the proposed tax cuts would yield substantial growth.

The proposed tax cuts would add to the long term federal debt burden.

This health bill would also alter healthcare in America.

Health Coverage would shrink in the United States, while wealthy estates would not pay at all.

The Senate version of the tax bill would cause 13 million people to lose health care and insurance premiums overall could rise by up to 10 percent.

This would result in savings of about \$53 billion, which the GOP will use to fund corporate tax cuts.

America will not be made great by financing a \$1.7 trillion tax cut for the rich by stealing \$1.8 trillion from Medicare and Medicaid, abandoning seniors and families in need, depriving students of realizing a dream to attend college without drowning in debt, or disinvesting in the working families.

This bill is opposed by colleges and universities, too.

The tax cut proposal would end the deductibility of tuition waivers for graduate students, repealing the deduction for interest paid on student loans and taxing university endowments.