

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING AND CONSERVATION STAMP PROMOTION ACT

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Promotion Act. I am proud to be joined by my fellow Sportsmen's Caucus co-chairman Representative JOHN TANNER and the distinguished members of the Migratory Bird Conservation Committee, Representative JOHN DINGELL and Representative CURT WELDON. This legislation will enable the Federal Duck Stamp office to use the Migratory Bird Conservation Funds (MBCF) to create a promotional program that will increase the sales of the duck stamps, just as the Postal Service uses its postage revenues to promote stamp sales and stamp collecting.

Since the Federal Duck Stamp was created on March 16, 1934, it has been one of America's most successful conservation initiatives. Since 1934, more than \$500 million has been raised through the purchase of Federal Duck Stamps. Indeed, 98 percent of the program's revenue has been dedicated to the purchase of prime wildlife habitat. It has made possible the purchase of more than 500 million acres of wildlife habitat benefiting waterfowl, other migratory birds, and wildlife in general.

Unfortunately, duck stamp sales have leveled off in recent years due to the absence of additional markets for the duck stamp. This act will permit a broader promotion of the stamp, increasing stamp revenues, that will allow more habitat to be purchased and protected.

This legislation is supported by the U.S. Federal Wildlife Service and the Federal Duck Stamp Office. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me by cosponsoring this legislation.

RECOGNIZING SCOTT ELARTON

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary achievements of Scott Elarton who was recently called to pitch for the Houston Astros, a National League Baseball club. Elarton is the 22 year old son of L.D. and Mary Elarton of Lamar, Colorado.

Elarton, who was Valedictorian of the Lamar High School class of 1994 and forfeited a full-ride scholarship to Stanford in order to play professional baseball, has enjoyed success in the National Baseball League. He was 9–4 with a 4.01 ERA in 14 starts for the Class-AAA Pacific Coast League in New Orleans. In

his first four minor-League seasons, Elarton went 44–23 with a 3.50 ERA in 96 starts. His best season was 1996, when he was 12–7 with a 2.92 ERA at Kissimmee in the Class-A Florida State League. Last year in 20 starts at Jackson in the Double-A Texas League, Elarton was 7–4 with a 3.24 ERA and leading the league in strikeouts. Elarton also made headlines when, pitching in Puerto Rico during the winter, he threw the league's first no-hitter in 15 years against a lineup that featured eight major-league players.

Elarton pitched his first major-league game in Houston against the Cincinnati Reds on June 20. However, the Colorado native soon found himself back at home pitching against the Colorado Rockies in front of a crowd including three hundreds fans who traveled from Lamar to see their favorite player.

As a Member of Congress representing the Fourth District in Colorado, I am proud to recognize this fine young man for the excellence he has achieved in every aspect of his life. He is a tremendous example of the success found when hard work and dedication are coupled with integrity. He is an asset to his community as he serves as a role model for young men and women. I feel privileged to represent Scott Elarton and his family and congratulate them on this milestone.

TAX CUT OPPORTUNITY

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend to the attention of my colleagues the following article, "Tax Cut Opportunity," written by Pete Du Pont for the June 18, 1998, edition of the Washington Times. This article notes the opportunity before us to reduce the tax burden on American citizens at this time of peace and prosperity.

[From the Washington Times, June 18, 1998]

TAX CUT OPPORTUNITY

(By Pete Du Pont)

As any healthy liberal will tell you, in times of war, pestilence, recession or social disorder, government spending must increase to meet the challenge. And so taxes must increase as well to pay the costs of government intervention.

But what of good times? In times of peace, prosperity, growth and harmony, should government spending and taxes still increase?

Surely the answer is no. In good times the rate of government should shrink. And so it is time for a significant tax cut.

There are many ways to cut taxes: end the marriage penalty, reduce the capital gains tax rate, or eliminate death taxes, for example.

But the best way is to cut income tax rates across the board by 23 percent. Why that amount? Because that would bring tax revenues as a share of gross domestic product (GDP) back to what they were when President Clinton took office. But since govern-

ment tax receipts have increased 35 percent since 1993, the 23 percent tax cut is far less than the five-year increase in revenues.

Recall that when Mr. Clinton took office in 1993, one of his first legislative acts was to increase taxes. Revenues have increased by approximately a tenth of a percent of GDP every single quarter since Bill Clinton became president.

Revenues were 19 percent of GDP in the first quarter of 1993 when he took office. They have risen almost continuously each quarter since then, and federal revenue now stands at 21.5 percent of GDP as of fourth-quarter 1997. With the GDP at \$8 trillion, this is equivalent to a tax increase of \$8 billion every three months for the last five years.

But suppose instead the fiscal policy of the Congress had been to hold the percentage of GDP consumed by taxes constant. Government revenues would have increased over the five years by \$292 billion (24 percent), and the taxpayers would have received a tax cut of \$419 billion, which is \$1,558 per person or \$6,230 for a family of four. We could have cut federal taxes by \$172 billion last year, and taxes as a share of GDP would have been no lower than they were before Mr. Clinton became president.

Despite the small tax cut enacted by Congress in 1997, forecasts indicate revenues as a share of GDP will remain at historically high levels for the foreseeable future. Last month, the Congressional Budget Office reported that revenues will be at least 21 percent of GDP until at least the year 2000, and are expected to be at least 20 percent of GDP until the year 2050. To borrow a phrase, rapidly increasing revenues stretch as far as the eye can see.

We are living in the best of times, in peace and prosperity. Our budget is balanced, our revenues are in surplus. Yet our tax burden is as high as it has ever been—in times of peace and war, in good times or bad. Now is the time to restore some balance in our fiscal policies. Now is the time to reduce the percentage of GDP taken by taxes back to its 1992 level.

Congress could do many things with the tax code to reduce its burden on us. But the best thing, the fairest thing, is to enact a 23 percent cut in federal income taxes. By reducing federal income tax rates by 23 percent, we would effectively restore the tax burden to its pre-Clinton level.

The United States is experiencing an unprecedented economic boom, and an unprecedented period of peace. Our current federal tax levels reflect neither of these realities. When the world is at peace, the budget is balanced and the economy the strongest in decades, tax policy should reflect the times in which we now live: peace and prosperity. The time for a tax cut is today.

TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, while I appreciate the efforts of the gentleman from

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Ohio, Mr. PORTMAN, and his desire to protect tropical rainforests worldwide, I wish to again go on record in strong opposition to H.R. 2870, the Tropical Forest Conservation Act.

As you know, I voiced my opposition to this when it passed the House International Relations Committee by voice vote, and voted "no" again when the House approved it by a vote of 356-61 on March 19, 1998.

Mr. Speaker, my concerns are simple. Foremost is the cost of this legislation. Specifically, the bill wastes more than \$300 million in existing resources over three years to facilitate "debt-for-nature" swaps with foreign countries.

This measure in effect forgives U.S. debts which are unlikely to be repaid fully by less developed countries. In exchange, these countries promise to protect their tropical forests. Common sense tells us a country that claims to lack the financial resources to repay its debts is unlikely to have the financial resources to restore and preserve their rain forests. More importantly, why should America pay another sovereign nation to do what is clearly their responsibility and in their own best interest? This "pay me or I'll shoot myself" scheme makes little sense.

As a businessman who survived the Texas recession in the 1980's and watched our local banks address the difficulty of non-performing loans, my other concern is a basic one: Is this the best and highest return for American loans financed by the hard-earned tax dollars of working families who struggle to make ends meet each month? The answer is no.

Loans made in good faith by United States taxpayers should be repaid in full, or in unique situations worked out for the highest and best return for the dollar. H.R. 2870, while well intentioned, is "feel good" legislation that leaves American taxpayers holding an empty bag and, I predict, will do little to preserve the world's rain forests.

SHARING SOLUTIONS

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, last week, the President invited people to the White House so he could share his concerns on school violence.

Once again, however, I'm afraid the President is headed in the wrong direction.

He has called for a federal manual on school violence—to be created here in Washington, D.C.—and directed at our local teachers, parents, and communities.

Well, Mr. Speaker, Nevadans have a better idea. Recently, we held a "Town Summit on School Violence" in Reno Nevada to gather local input on possible solutions. Local solutions that we would then send back here to Washington, telling the President how we want to solve our own problems.

Like most states, Nevadans are tired of the Washington borne, "Washington knows best," "The Washington way or the highway," attitudes here.

Local problems require local solutions and I commend all Nevadans who supported and participated in this important event.

I would encourage all members to hold similar events throughout their districts and to

share their solutions with us—the safety and future of our children demand no less.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 284, I was unavoidable detained on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

RECOGNIZING VICTOR WALTERS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of 8-year-old Victor Walters of Limon, Colorado who was recently named National Second-Grade Handwriting Champion. This is the second consecutive year he has received this national honor. The contest was sponsored by Zaner-Bloser, a manufacturer of pens and publisher of educational handwriting texts. Victor is the son of Ronald and Roberta Walters.

Walters, who received his award and a \$500 savings bond in a surprise ceremony at Limon Elementary School, was able to dash off the winning entry with a handicap. Victor's mother reported that the morning of the contest, his finger felt sore, but he decided to carry a Band-Aid in his backpack rather than wearing it on his hand for fear that it might hinder his writing style.

The penmanship awards won by Limon Elementary School Students have prompted the University of Colorado at Denver to conduct a research project at Limon to look at the link between good penmanship and overall academic performance.

As a Member of Congress representing the Fourth District of Colorado, I am proud of the accomplishments of this young man. Victor Walters has demonstrated his commitment to excellence and I congratulate him on his success.

Mr. Speaker, I hereby submit for the RECORD a copy of an article about Victor which recently appeared in the Denver Post.

BOY HANGS TOUGH, NAILS DOWN 2ND
HANDWRITING WIN
(By Nancy Lofholm)

Not even a hangnail can stop a national handwriting champ.

Victor Walters, an 8-year-old from Limon, once again topped 125,000 other penmanship pupils across the country and was named National Second-Grade Handwriting Champion today. The contest was sponsored by Zaner-Bloser, a manufacturer of pens and publisher of educational handwriting texts.

Walters, who will receive his award and a \$500 savings bond in a surprise ceremony at Limon Elementary School this morning, was able to dash off the winning entry with a handicap.

His mother, Roberta Walters, said he had a sore finger the morning of the competition and was afraid he wouldn't be able to write

well. He opted to carry a Band-Aid in his backpack rather than putting it on his finger, where it might hinder his writing style.

"He was worried, but when he came home he was real excited. He knew he did real well that day," said Walters. "He didn't have to erase very often."

What he didn't know until this morning was that he had won the award for the second year in a row. His parents and teachers in the Eastern Plains town of 2,500 wanted to keep the award under wraps until Victor could be honored in front of his 350 fellow students.

"He's been real antsy waiting to hear," said his dad, Ronald Walters.

Ronald, a case manager at the state correctional facility in Limon, said his son's talent—one he doesn't believe was inherited—has affected his own on-the-job script.

"My writing's not too good," Ronald said. "I find myself scribbling, and I think of my son and try to bring myself back into line again."

Victor's back-to-back achievements, as well as Limon student Bethany Head's win at the state level in her first-grade class three years ago, have also affected the school.

Principal Valerie Bass said the University of Colorado at Denver will be doing a research project at Limon to look at the link between good penmanship and overall academic performance. "We're very proud. A lot of our students have good penmanship," Bass said.

Someday, Victor may be doing his bit to carry on that tradition. He wants to be a teacher. His parents said he plays school every day with his 5-year-old sister, Ashley, and penmanship is one of the favorite play-school subjects.

Zaner-Bloser gives out the penmanship awards annually to promote good penmanship and also to publicize the pitfalls of messy writing. The company has compiled statistics showing that 38 million letters go undelivered annually because of illegible addresses, 58 percent of information on hospital charts is illegible and 66 percent of teachers say schools should place a higher priority on handwriting.

PATIENT PROTECTION ACT

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the House Republican Health Care Proposal, the Patient Protection Act. I believe this bill strikes a good balance between protecting patient rights without the heavy hand of big government. I am excited about many of the large protections in this bill, like giving patients a better and quicker appeal process when the HMO denies their claim, lifting any gag orders on physicians to ensure that patients are better informed, and providing greater access to specialists for women and children. I am equally excited about how this bill addresses the frustrating problems that upset so many people about their HMOs.

I am sure that many of you are like me in that every week I get a letter or call from someone upset because the HMO decides that the plan will no longer cover a specific prescription drug. Our bill will require HMOs to give at least 30 days notice before the HMO can remove a drug from the coverage list. These 30 days are essential in the care of the

patient, and for the physician-patient relationship. With the 30 day notice a physician can work with the patient and the local pharmacist to determine which drugs are suitable alternatives. It will also give the physician the opportunity to educate the HMO plan when he has a patient that has shown little or no progress with any of the alternatives on the plan's approved drug list.

I want you all to understand that this can be a life saving decision. Just last week I learned of a cancer patient that was experiencing great success with a drug that shrinks tumors. After paying for three treatments, the HMO arbitrarily removed the drug from their coverage list without any warning to the patient or physician. Because traditional treatments had not worked, by the time the appeal process was completed the patient was dead. Let's not allow this tragedy to repeat itself—support the Patient Protection Act.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF
CHOWCHILLA

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to The City of Chowchilla. This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the founding of Chowchilla, a thriving community in the County of Madera. Chowchilla is a productive and progressive community leading the way into the 21st Century.

In 1912, Chowchilla began to emerge from a cattle ranch of 108,000 acres to what would become a busy community rich in agriculture and commerce. In 1913, the conversion of the vast cattle ranch to diversified farming began. It was at this time when the first bank was started, the first school building was erected, and the first church was organized. A community newspaper was established and water was brought forth from 33 artesian wells.

The year 1914 brought further growth to the city and its facilities when the Chowchilla Pacific Railroad was completed. Electroliers were installed on two streets for a distance of a mile. Shortly there after, the community held its first fair, founded the Woman's Improvement Club and organized the first baseball team.

Today, The City of Chowchilla has grown to a population of 4,500 people and is a thriving agriculture and manufacturing community whose grain, cotton and dairy products make the city a vital element of California's economy.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to the City of Chowchilla on its 75th Anniversary. Chowchilla is a flourishing agricultural and commercial community leading the way into the 21st Century. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the City of Chowchilla many more years of success.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT "BUDDY"
LOCHRIE UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to bring to the attention of my colleagues the distinguished career of a friend, fellow Floridian and outstanding community leader. I am speaking of Robert "Buddy" Lochrie, Jr., who will retire from his position as Vice Chairman of Sun Trust, South Florida, N.A., at the end of the month.

Buddy is the third generation of a prominent family in Broward County, Florida. His grandfather, John Lochrie, began annual visits in 1917, built a home in 1923 and developed several citrus groves west of Fort Lauderdale and Fort Pierce. In 1928 he joined the group which organized the Broward Bank and Trust Company and became its first president, a position he held until his death in 1937.

Buddy's father, Robert B. Lochrie, was a director of the bank for forty-two years, and a founder and director of each affiliate bank. He was one of the founders of Broward Bancshares, Inc., of which he served as chairman from 1970 to 1976. Both John Lochrie and Robert B. Lochrie served as officers without compensation, other than regular directors' fees.

Buddy was elected to the boards of three affiliated banks in the Broward group in 1968, while serving as assistant to U.S. Congressman Paul G. Rogers in Washington, DC. In 1970, he was asked to join the company to handle regulatory, governmental and community affairs. Subsequently, he served as Executive Vice President, Treasurer and as a member of the board. After the merger with Sun Banks of Florida in 1983, he became Chairman and CEO of SunBank, South Florida and Vice Chairman when this bank and the Palm Beach SunBank merged.

During his career, Buddy has served as Chairman of the Florida Bankers Association Federal Legislative Committee and a director of the American Bankers Association Political Action Committee, as well as chairman of the Banking Division of the state association.

Statewide activities have included serving on the boards of the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, the Judicial Nominating Commission and the Florida Christopher Columbus Commission, as a Trustee of the Florida State Ringling Museum of Art.

From 1993 to 1996, Buddy served on the Board of Community Health Purchasing Alliance (CHIPA), District 10, at the request of the Governor of Florida. CHIPA was set up by the State Agency for Health Care Administration to expand health insurance coverage to small business owners and their employees.

Buddy has been Chairman of the Broward Center Performing Arts Foundation since its inception more than twelve years ago. During his tenure, the Foundation has raised more than twenty-three million dollars to support the Center and its programming. This achievement set a new milestone in the amount of money raised for a single purpose building campaign in Broward County.

Buddy's local community involvement also includes: Chairman of Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority, Chairman of the

Broward Chapter of the National Conference of Christian and Jews, Vice Chairman of the South Florida Community Television Foundation (Channel 2), Broward Chair of the Archbishop's Charities Drive, Vice Chairman of the Broward Workshop, Board Member of the Urban League of Broward, Board Member of the United Way of Broward County, Board Member of Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, Board Member Florida Philharmonic Orchestra, Board Member of South Florida Sports Authority, Board Member of Museum of Art, Member of the Opera Guild, Member of the Port Everglades Association.

Buddy is married to Susan Fry of Fort Lauderdale, and this year they celebrated their thirty-first wedding anniversary. They have three children. Two sons, Robert and Glenn, were born in Washington, DC, and a daughter, Katherine (Kate), was born in Fort Lauderdale. All three children have made Broward County their permanent home. Susan and Buddy share many of the same civic interests. Susan is a guidance counselor at Central Park Elementary and was recognized in 1997-1998 as Guidance Counselor of the Year for Broward County.

This is indeed a record of outstanding achievement and community involvement. I wish Buddy and his family much happiness and success in the future.

UNFAIRNESS IN TAX CODE:
MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight what is arguably the most unfair provision in the U.S. Tax code: the marriage tax penalty. I want to thank you for your long term interest in bringing parity to the tax burden imposed on working married couples compared to a couple living together outside of marriage.

I would also like to commend the leadership of House budget Chairman Kasich for including elimination of the marriage tax penalty as a top priority in his budget resolution. The Republican House Budget Resolution will save a penny on every dollar and use those savings to relieve families of the marriage penalty and restore a sense of justice to every man and woman who decides to get married.

Many may recall in January, President Clinton gave his State of the Union Address outlining many of the things he wants to do with the budget surplus.

A surplus provided by the bipartisan budget agreement which: cut waste; put America's fiscal house in order; and held Washington's feet to the fire to balance the budget.

While President Clinton paraded a long list of new spending totaling at least \$46-\$48 billion in new programs—we believe that a top priority should be returning the budget surplus to America's families as additional middle-class tax relief.

This Congress has given more tax relief to the middle class and working poor than any Congress of the last half century.

I think the issue of the marriage penalty can best be framed by asking these questions: Do Americans feel its fair that our tax code imposes a higher tax penalty on marriage? Do

Americans feel its fair that the average married working couple pays almost \$1,400 more in taxes than a couple with almost identical income living together outside of marriage? Is it right that our tax code provides an incentive to get divorced?

In fact, today the only form one can file to avoid the marriage tax penalty is paperwork for divorce. And that is just wrong!

Since 1969, our tax laws have punished married couples when both spouses work. For

no other reason than the decision to be joined in holy matrimony, more than 21 million couples a year are penalized. They pay more in taxes than they would if they were single. Not only is the marriage penalty unfair, it's wrong that our tax code punishes society's most basic institution. The marriage tax penalty exacts a disproportionate toll on working women and lower income couples with children. In many cases it is a working women's issue.

MARRIAGE PENALTY EXAMPLE IN THE SOUTH SURBURBS

	Machinist	School teacher	Couple	Weller/McIntosh II
Adjusted gross income	\$30,500	\$30,500	\$61,000	\$61,000
Less personal exemption and standard deduction	6,550	6,550	11,800	13,100 (Singles X 2)
Taxable income	23,950 (X .15)	23,950 (X .15)	49,200 (Partial X .28)	47,900 (X .15)
Tax liability	3592.5	3592.5	8563	7,185

Notes: Marriage penalty: \$1,378.
Weller-McIntosh II Eliminates the Marriage Tax Penalty—Relief: \$1,378.

But if they chose to live their lives in holy matrimony, and now file jointly, their combined income of \$61,000 pushes them into a higher tax bracket of 28 percent, producing a tax penalty of \$1400 in higher taxes.

On average, America's married working couples pay \$1,400 more a year in taxes than individuals with the same incomes. That's serious money. Millions of married couples are still stinging from April 15th's tax bite and more married couples are realizing that they are suffering the marriage tax penalty.

Particularly if you think of it in terms of: a down payment on a house or a car; one years tuition at a local community college; or several months worth of quality child care at a local day care center.

To that end, Congressman DAVID MCINTOSH and I have authored the Marriage Tax Penalty Elimination Act.

The Marriage Tax Penalty Elimination Act will increase the tax brackets (currently at 15% for the first \$24,650 for singles, whereas married couples filing jointly pay 15% on the first \$41,200 of their taxable income) to twice that enjoyed by singles; the Weller-McIntosh proposal would extend a married couple's 15% tax bracket to \$49,300. Thus, married couples would enjoy an additional \$8,100 in taxable income subject to the low 15% tax rate as opposed to the current 28% tax rate and would result in up to \$1,053 in tax relief.

Additionally the bill will increase the standard deduction for married couples (currently \$6,900) to twice that of single (currently at \$4,150). Under the Weller-McIntosh legislation the standard deduction of married couples filing jointly would be increased to \$8,300.

Our new legislation builds on the momentum of their popular H.R. 2456 which enjoyed the support of 238 cosponsors and numerous family, women and tax advocacy organizations. Current law punishes many married couples who file jointly by pushing them into higher tax brackets. It taxes the income of the families' second wage earner—often the women's salary—at a much higher rate than if that salary was taxed only as an individual. Our bill already has broad bipartisan sponsorship by Members of the House and a similar bill in the Senate also enjoys widespread support.

It isn't enough for President Clinton to suggest tax breaks for child care. The President's child care proposal would help a working couple

afford, on average, three weeks of day care. Elimination of the marriage tax penalty would give the same couple the choice of paying for three months of child care—or addressing other family priorities. After all, parents know better than Washington what their family needs.

We fondly remember the 1996 State of the Union address when the President declared emphatically that, quote “the era of big government is over.”

We must stick to our guns, and stay the course.

There never was an American appetite for big government.

But there certainly is for reforming the existing government does business.

And what better way to show the American people that our government will continue along the path to reform and prosperity than by eliminating the marriage tax penalty.

Ladies and Gentleman, we are on the verge of running a surplus. It's basic math.

It means Americans are already paying more than is needed for government to do the job we expect of it.

What better way to give back than to begin with mom and dad and the American family—the backbone of our society.

We ask that President Clinton join with Congress and make elimination of the marriage tax penalty . . . a bipartisan priority.

Of all the challenges married couples face in providing home and hearth to America's children, the U.S. tax code should not be one of them.

Lets eliminate The Marriage Tax Penalty and do it now!

WHICH IS BETTER?

NOTE: The President's Proposal to expand the child care tax credit will pay for only 2 to 3 weeks of child care. The Weller-McIntosh Marriage Tax Elimination Act HR 2456, will allow married couples to pay for 3 months of child care.

Which is better, 3 weeks or 3 months?

CHILD CARE OPTIONS UNDER THE MARRIAGE TAX ELIMINATION ACT

	Average tax relief	Average weekly day care cost	Weeks day care
Marriage tax elimination act	\$1,400	\$127	11

Let me give you an example of how the marriage tax penalty unfairly affects middle class married working couples.

For example, a machinist, at a Caterpillar manufacturing plant in my home district of Joliet, makes \$30,500 a year in salary. His wife is a tenured elementary school teacher, also bringing home \$30,500 a year in salary. If ythey would both file their taxes as singles, as individuals, they would pay 15%.

CHILD CARE OPTIONS UNDER THE MARRIAGE TAX ELIMINATION ACT—Continued

	Average tax relief	Average weekly day care cost	Weeks day care
President's child care tax credit	358	127	2.8

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 283, I was unavoidably detained on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

RECOGNIZING BRYCE WEAVER

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 6-year old Bryce Weaver of Fort Collins, Colorado who recently won second place in the fourth-annual Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Contest. “The Colors of the Rainbow” by Weaver was chosen from more than 340 entries. The Contest was sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Public Broadcasting Network Inc., which airs the Reading Rainbow children's series on KRMA-TV.

Weaver, a kindergartner at Krause Elementary School in Fort Collins, enjoys story telling and is excited to learn to read books on his own. Weaver's mom, Laura helped by writing down the story her son told her. Weaver used crayons for the illustrations. I commend to the Members of the 105th Congress, Bryce's creative story.

“THE COLORS OF THE RAINBOW”

(By Bryce Weaver)

“Once there was a rainbow who was sad because he didn't have any colors. So he went on a journey to find some colors and make himself beautiful.

"He spotted some orange trees, and he ate the oranges. YUM! Now he had the color orange.

"The rainbow went off on his journey again. He saw some red apple trees, and ate them. He got the color red.

"Next, the rainbow found some nice green grass, and he ate it. A green strip showed up next to the others

"At night, the rainbow looked up and saw the yellow moon. He thought, "There is a color I don't have" and he took a bite.

"He was off on his journey again and saw some sparkles. It was fresh clean water. He took a sip and got the color blue.

"The rainbow turned around and saw a picnic blanket with some purple grapes on it. He ate them and got a purple stripe.

"Some children came back to the park and saw the rainbow. They were so surprised, they shouted 'WOW, what a beautiful rainbow! The rainbow was happy.

"The end."

As a Member of Congress representing the Fourth District of Colorado, I am proud to present Bryce Weaver and his family, I believe that Bryce is an inspiration to others through his creativity and I congratulate him on this great success.

A TRIBUTE TO JACK BERKLEY

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on the passing of an outstanding man and great Kansan, Jack Belmont Berkley of Stockton, KS, who died last month at the age of 73.

Mr. Berkley was born June 25, 1923, in Hill City and was a resident of Stockton since 1956. A veteran of World War II, Jack served proudly as a member of the Army Air Corps and later was a member of both the local VFW post and the American Legion.

As a pillar of the community, Jack was involved in the banking industry for most of his life. Banking in small towns like Tescott and Stockton, business growth is often the result of risks taken together by a small town banker and a local business owner. At the Stockton National Bank, Jack was the bank president from 1961, and served for over 35 years in that capacity. In addition, Jack was also a leader in his community as an active member of the First Congregation Church and several local civic clubs and organizations.

Mr. Speaker, it is humble, dedicated men such as Jack Berkley that have helped shape our communities and this nation. As soldiers in war or stewards in peace, such men have defined our national heritage and have served as powerful examples for future generations. He will be missed by his family, friends, neighbors and associates throughout Kansas. I ask you to join me in paying tribute to Jack Belmont Berkley and his lifetime of service to his nation and state.

HONORING THE ILLINOIS & MICHIGAN CANAL: A PRECIOUS PIECE OF OUR NATION'S HISTORY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, 150 years ago, the Illinois & Michigan Canal was completed. Built from 1836 to 1848, the I&M Canal was the catalyst for the evolution of Chicago from a backwards settlement on the shore of Lake Michigan into the hustling metropolis referred to as the gateway to the American West. Followed later by the railroads and the Sanitary and Ship Canal, which played critical roles in the continued development of Chicago and the Midwest, the I&M Canal was the catalyst. It was the one of the first and certainly one of the most notable infrastructure projects that changed the landscape of Chicago and the American heartland forever, and it made an indelible mark in America's psyche as Chicago became one of the nation's largest transportation hubs.

The canal linked Lake Michigan with the Illinois River in LaSalle/Peru and made it possible to ship cargo from the Atlantic Ocean through the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River and down to the Gulf of Mexico. The canal was 60 feet wide and 6 feet deep along its entire length, and cargo was carried on barges pulled by mules. The I&M Canal stimulated economic development along its path, and particularly in Chicago.

Recognizing the rich heritage and recreational opportunities of the I&M Canal, Congress designated it as the first National Heritage Corridor in 1984, the first "partnership park" of its kind, which is now a model for such parks throughout the nation. Presently, over 10 such parks exist in the U.S., and it was the I&M Corridor that started it all. Along with the designation, Congress also created a Commission to coordinate the efforts and resources of federal, state, and local agencies.

My esteemed colleagues from the Illinois congressional delegation recognize the importance of the canal, too. Last year, I introduced legislation that would extend the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission for another five years to 2004. Nearly the entire delegation from my home state have cosponsored my legislation. They placed their bipartisan support behind the legislation, because we all recognize the historical importance of the I&M Canal, and we all want to see its preservation for our children and our children's children.

Mr. Speaker, this is why it is an honor for me to rise today to honor the 150th birthday of the Illinois & Michigan Canal. Its historical significance in the development of the Midwest has made an indelible mark in this nation's history. We should do our part to protect our national heritage by continuing to work for its preservation for the future generations to enjoy and cherish. As we look with boundless optimism towards the future, we must also be wise enough keep our feet planted and learn about and remember our roots—where we came from—for that is the tie that binds us as a people and as a nation.

HONORING MERITOR AUTOMOTIVE, INC. FOR CONTINUED JOB GROWTH

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the continued success of the hard-working men and women of Meritor Automotive, Inc. Today, the 552 employees of Meritor Automotive, Inc., along with local and state officials, will gather in Gordonsville, Tennessee to celebrate yet another milestone in the company's history. This milestone marks the revitalization of a factory—providing needed jobs to this growing community.

Meritor is a true success story. On April 1, 1995 Meritor purchased the business from Dura Automotive Systems. At the time many people felt Dura Systems' decision to discontinue production signaled the closure of this facility. However, the Meritor team changed that perception and was able to turn the business into a preferred supplier of Ford parts and receive numerous awards of excellence.

Since Meritor assumed control of the facility, the plant in Gordonsville has added 280 jobs to the local community; invested over \$15 million to refurbish the facility; pumped over \$50 million into the local economy; and invested over \$250,000 in environmental protections.

These are not small tasks. While the company continues to grow, they are also helping make Gordonsville, Smith County and the surrounding area a better place to live and raise a family. The list of community service projects include: providing on-site GED training at no cost; allowing college courses to be taught in their training rooms; working with local charities and civic groups, like the Lion's club to provide free eye examinations to the children of Smith County.

Middle Tennessee is one of the fastest growing areas in the country—with over 110,000 new jobs created since 1984. Meritor is committed to improving the quality of life in the Gordonsville community. They have worked to see that our children receive a good, quality education and allowed our young people to find a good job close to home. All of these contributions help build on my dream of a vibrant, growing economy in Middle Tennessee for the 21st Century.

I want to personally thank Meritor and all its employees for its continued commitment to this community and congratulate them on being awarded the Ford Q1/QS 9000 distinction.

SONNY BONO MEMORIAL SALTON SEA RECLAMATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, in addition to my staff, who have worked long and hard on this bill, I would like to thank Matt Simmons of DUNCAN HUNTER's staff, Jeff Shockey from JERRY LEWIS' staff, Catherine Johnson of KEN

CALVERT's office and the staff on the Resources Committee, Bob Faber and Ken Fisher. Without their tireless efforts on this bill, I do not know where we would be today.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Salton Sea Authority for their informed input in crafting this bill. Their efforts have been commendable, and I appreciate their assistance.

IN MEMORY OF COL. (R) WILLIAM
S. STARKE, JR.

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to say a few words in tribute to the late Col. (R) William S. Starke, Jr. Col. Starke, a loyal and dedicated soldier and a good friend of mine through the years, recently passed away at the age of 80.

Col. Starke, a native of Lexington, MO, entered the United States Army as a private in 1942. He served until 1970, when he retired as a colonel. During his distinguished career, William Starke fought as a tank commander during World War II in France, Germany, and Austria and saw combat in Korea. His other military tours included Turkey, Alaska, and Iran.

William Starke was one of three brothers who served in the Army. He married Heidi Maria Bauer of Vienna, Austria, in 1947, and they had five children.

After retirement, William Starke worked for Boatmen's Bank and in real estate development in Dixon, Missouri. He was a member of the Elks Club and several military service organizations including the Heartland Chapter of the 11th Armored Division.

Col. Starke is survived by his wife, Heidi, four children, 14 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, a brother and a sister.

Mr. Speaker, William Starke was a dedicated soldier and a true friend throughout his military career and beyond. I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to this fine Missourian.

CELEBRATING THE 70TH
BIRTHDAY OF LENA C. PRETSCH

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on July 27, 1998, Lena C. Pretsch, a constituent of mine from Payson, Arizona, will be celebrating her seventieth birthday with her family and friends. Lena is dedicated to serving her family, her community, and her country.

Lena grew up in Bloominglen, Pennsylvania where she met her husband, Joe, when he returned from World War II. She left Pennsylvania behind and joined her husband traveling around the world with the Army for twenty years. During those years, she also raised two sons, Roger and Richard, and a daughter, Kathy.

While patriotism runs in the family, Roger has stated that few Americans embrace their

patriotic duties as passionately as his mother did in times of need. During World War II as a teenager, Lena volunteered to read to blind soldiers recovering from wounds received in battle. Her voice soothed and comforted many young men in their time of need. Many years later, as she saw her own son off to the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, she helped send 15,000 Christmas cards to the paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division. Her son and the soldiers will never forget the Christmas cards they received in the desert.

Every Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and Fourth of July, Lena organizes a volunteer group that places 500 to 600 flags around the town of Payson. She also had a giant flag pole built along Highway 87 so visitors coming into town would see the American flag. She even convinced Governor Symington to declare Payson the Flag Capital of Arizona because of the group's efforts.

Along with her flag activities, Lena chairs the Governor's committee for the Americans with Disabilities Act. She helps plan events throughout the state to increase awareness of the contributions disabled people make to our society. She also remains active with the city council and her church.

As an ordinary citizen, Lena may not have made headlines with her contributions, but she has made an impact on the lives around her. Congratulations on your seventieth birthday, Lena. And thank you for your service.

FREEMASONRY'S LASTING
TRIBUTE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the District of Columbia, and the Freemasons of this nation who gather for the Sesquicentennial Celebration of the laying of the cornerstone of the Washington Monument.

Mr. Speaker, this monument to our first President, himself a Mason, retains the distinction of being the tallest freestanding masonry structure in the world. It is my privilege to enter into the RECORD information from the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the District of Columbia.

The Masons of the United States, having played a major role in the funding and erection of the Washington Monument, also have a major role in the current restoration effort. The cornerstone of the structure honoring the Father of our country was laid on July 4, 1848, by the Freemasons of America, with our own Past Grand Master, Benjamin B. French presiding. In these duties, he was assisted by the Grand Masters of the Grand Lodges of Pennsylvania and Maryland. Other Masons in attendance included representatives and members of Grand Lodges of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Delaware, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, and Texas, and of the Grand Royal Arch Masons of Maryland.

Records of the occasion inform us that the procession to the site consisted of the President and Vice President of the United States, and of the Heads of Departments, the Senate and the House of Representatives;

Foreign Ministers, distinguished strangers, and of the civil and military services. Also in the group were representatives of the Independent Order of the Oddfellows, the Order of the Red Men, Rechabites, and other Temperance and Benevolent Societies. But it was a Masonic day, and it was the Freemasons of the District of Columbia who were responsible for seeing that the ceremonies were in accord with Masonic custom and protocol.

At the conclusion of the ceremony Grand Master French presented the architect, Robert Mills (also a Mason), the working tools of his profession with these words: "I now present you, my Brother, the square, level, and plumb, which are the working tools you are to use in the erection of this monument. You, as a Freemason, know to what they morally allude: the plumb admonishes us to walk uprightly in our several stations before God and man, squaring our actions by the square of virtue, and remembering that we are traveling upon the level of time to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns. Never forgetting this sublime moral lesson, you are here to use them practically in your profession. Look well to the erection of this national monument; see that every stone is squared, and that it is placed in its position both level and plumb, that the noble offering of a nation to commemorate greatness, patriotism, and virtue, may stand until the end of time."

Mr. Speaker, I invite the Members in this hallowed chamber to join me in remembering the Masonic stones at the monument and the ongoing support provided by Grand Lodges and Lodges of Freemasons across America.

HONORING DORIS WEATHERFORD
AND THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE SUFFRAGIST MOVEMENT

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I announce the publication of Doris Weatherford's book, *A History of the American Suffragist Movement*. Doris Weatherford, who is a constituent of mine from Tampa, is a professor at the University of South Florida and is known for her accomplishments in the area of women's history.

The summer of 1998 marks the 150th anniversary of the Seneca Fall's Convention. At this convention, Elizabeth Cady Stanton authored the Declaration of Sentiments. The Declaration became the primary agenda for women's activism. Weatherford's book discusses women's history as one of the most dramatic political battles ever fought. Beginning with Anne Hutchinson and ending with the final ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment, her book is a complete depiction of the struggle for women's equality in the United States. The women's suffrage movement was a multi-century struggle that extended freedom to half of our nation. Strength, courage, and passion are the reasons why these women battled for what they so rightfully deserved, freedom.

Her other publications include the following: *Milestones: A Chronology of American Women's History*, *American Women's History: An A-Z of People, Organization, Issues, and Events*, *American Women in World War II*, and *Foreign and Female: Immigrant Women in America, 1840-1920*. In 1994, she received

the National Order of Women Legislators Hall of Fame Award. Also, in 1995 during Florida's Annual Civil Rights Conference, she received one of five awards commissioned by the Florida Commission on Human Relations.

I would like to ask all of my colleagues to join me in celebrating Doris Weatherford's contribution to the continuing legacy of women's history.

STEVE SCHIFF AUDITORIUM

SPEECH OF

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of serving with Steve Schiff on the Science Committee ever since Steve was elected to Congress.

As the Chairman of the Basic Research Subcommittee, Steve worked to ensure that our national investment in research and development were properly spent to maintain our nation's scientific and technological pre-eminence. Steve's stewardship of the Basic Research Subcommittee served our nation and his home district of Albuquerque well—especially the Sandia National Laboratory. Steve knew that Federal laboratories, such as Sandia, are one of our greatest assets and he did all he could to protect the important role they play in our nation's scientific research and development enterprise, such as leading the fight to stop a national laboratory closure commission. So, it is only fitting that today we honor Steve's memory by designating the auditorium at the Sandia Technology Transfer Center as the "Steve Schiff Auditorium."

Steve was committed not just to Albuquerque, Sandia, and scientific basic research development, but also committed to fairness and equity. He displayed his character in his many

years as a prosecutor in New Mexico, but also as the Chair of the House Ethics Committee. Steve was the sort of man who was guided not by the politics of an issue, but went where his sense of right and wrong took him.

As a result of our actions today, generations will be able to go to Sandia and remember everything that Steve stood for, so that his memory and his example will continue to live on even after his passing.

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS AND
CATHERINE LAWLER OF
SMITHTOWN ON THEIR 57TH
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this historic chamber to ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to Catherine and Thomas Lawler, of Smithtown, Long Island, as they celebrate their blessed 57th wedding anniversary today.

I believe, as many Members of this esteemed body do, that marriage is the bedrock of our society, the foundation on which all of our values, beliefs and hopes for the future stand. So it is altogether fitting that we, as National leaders, should take a moment to honor Catherine and Thomas Lawler for the love, devotion and faith that they have given each other and their marriage for 57 years.

From that blessed moment when they first met outside Morris Egan's store in Greenpoint, Brooklyn in August of 1940, Catherine and Thomas have been committed to each other. That devotion was sanctified by God on July 16, 1941 at St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church in Brooklyn. Their love for each other and their faith in God has been returned to

them many times over in the form of nine beautiful children—Thomas, Catherine, George, Anne, John, Mary, Theresa, Ellen and Michael.

Their abundant blessings necessitated several moves to bigger homes, in order to accommodate their growing family. At one point, Thomas and Catherine invested in an acre of land in Smithtown, Long Island, the place they referred to as their "summer home." By 1953, they moved the entire Lawler family to the new house of Ledgewood Drive, where they have called home since.

Wherever the Lawlers called home, their faith in God and family have remained firm, sustaining them in hard times—such as the tragic death of their daughter Mary at six months—or the many good times that visited this wonderful family. In the good Lord's own way, the blessings bestowed upon Catherine and Thomas have multiplied many times, not the least of these blessings being their 40 grandchildren.

All of this demonstrates the values, caring and commitment that Thomas and Catherine offer their community, attributes that have served their marriage and have made our Long Island community an even better place by their example. The foundation of the Smithtown community, indeed all of Long Island, has been strengthened for the past 57 years by the love, commitment and, yes, hard work that Thomas and Catherine have demonstrated.

As a community, we witness and even enjoy the many blessings and gifts bestowed upon Lawlers, who give so much themselves to others. It is through their example that all of us can truly understand the meaning of family values. Mr. Speaker, I ask that this entire chamber join me in offering our praise and heartiest congratulations to Catherine and Thomas Lawler on this blessed anniversary. A union as blessed as theirs will surely endure forever.