for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ross Wilson, former manager of the Southwestern Peanut Growers' Association. Widely regarded as the Nation's most knowledgeable person on the subject of the U.S. peanut industry, Ross has retired after spending the last 44 years of his life working for the betterment of the American farmer.

Ross is a native of Brownwood, Texas and a graduate of Daniel Baker College and Southwest Texas State University. He began his career as a teacher and a coach in Gorman, Texas where he eventually served as principal and superintendent.

In 1956, Ross was hired as the manager of the Southwestern Peanut Growers' Association where he oversaw the administration of the peanut program in the Southwest. In addition to serving on numerous boards and committees, he chaired the National Peanut Council Board of Directors, the Peanut Administrative Committee, and the Southwest Peanut Research and Education Advisory Committee.

In 1973, the Texas Agricultural Agents Association gave him their Man of the Year in Agriculture award, and in 1974, the Progressive Farmer magazine named him Man of the Year in Texas agriculture.

Ross has been active in civic affairs, helping to organize the Gorman Chamber of Commerce and serving as Gorman's mayor.

□ 1015

He also served as chairman of the Upper Leon River Municipal Water District.

GENETIC DISCRIMINATION

(Mrs. MORELLA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. SLAUGHTER), in support of H.R. 2457, the Genetic Nondiscrimination in Health Insurance and Employment Act.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would protect the fundamental civil right of all Americans against genetic discrimination. Genetic discrimination is an issue whose time has come. As most of us are aware, on June 26 of this year it was announced that the first draft of the human genomic map has been completed. A decade ago, scanning genes for disease-linked mutations seemed unimaginable. In the past 5 years alone, over 50 new genetic tests have been identified to make detection of genetic conditions, and it is now possible to find the genetic mutations associated with such malignancies as breast cancer, colon cancer, Huntington's disease, heart disease, Alzheimer's disease just to name a few.

Unfortunately, as a consequence, we not only hear stories of successful treatment for some of these diseases, but we are hearing stories of lives being destroyed because of denial of health insurance or loss of jobs.

We must end this terrible practice of genetic discrimination. We should do it now.

MEDICAL RECORDS PRIVACY

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, Americans are growing increasingly aware that the most intimate information they possess about themselves, their health information, is not only unprotected, but freely shared among corporate and other interests.

I am particularly concerned about the security of genetic information. With the recent completion of the rough draft of the human genome, increasing numbers of people will consider taking genetic tests to learn more about their future health. But unless we protect the privacy of this information, people will refuse to take the genetic tests or even to participate in the research. We then risk having billions of dollars spent on genetic research go to waste and the enormous promise of this research to go unfulfilled.

Right now, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee is holding a hearing on genetic discrimination in employment. Shamefully, the House of Representatives has never held a single hearing on genetic discrimination, and we cannot afford to waste any more time.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 2457, the Genetic Nondiscrimination in Health Insurance and Employment Act, and please sign discharge petition No. 11 to bring this bill to the House floor for a vote immediately.

REPUBLICAN INITIATIVES BENEFIT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, Republicans want to preserve and protect social security and the Medicare trust fund, and we have. We have set aside 100 percent of the trust fund revenues for social security and for Medicare. We have ended the process that existed in the past before the Republicans became the majority of borrowing out of those trust funds.

In addition, we have given workers the right to invest their money in the retirement plan of their choice, because yesterday we passed the IRA and the 401(k) expansion plan, we increased the contribution limits now to IRAs from $2,000 to $5,000 a year, and the 401(k) salary contribution to $15,000.

This is going to help our economy. This is going to help job creation. We have paid down close to $300 billion in public debt, and under our budget, we will pay off the $3.5 trillion public debt even while eliminating penalties on the American people, like the marriage tax, and bringing more dollars to the classroom for our children's education. We increase that education budget by 10 percent.

Mr. Speaker, this Republican Congress has taken the initiative on securing America's future, and should be proud of what it has accomplished.

URGING MEMBERS TO ASK THAT THE PRESIDENT PASS MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY RELIEF LEGISLATION

(Mr. SCHAFFER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, in just a few hours the House and Senate will agree on the marriage tax penalty repeal bill and send it over to the President. He says he will veto it. That would be unfortunate. I just ran into a high school student, Matt Heaton, from New Jersey, who told me he understands this issue.

When the Federal government taxes people for getting married, he says, it is betraying the faith of the American people. We should be rewarding couples who get married, not punishing them. It is insulting to our people to punish them for entering the sacred union of marriage. When young people clearly express American values by expressing their love for one another through marriage, it would be the height of infidelity to punish them for it.

Yet, the President now threatens to veto this pro-family bill. The marriage tax is hurting those who need money the most. It robs middle class families of resources that could be used for such things as child health care or education, maybe even a college education.

I urge my friends on both sides of the aisle to press the President to join us in repealing the marriage tax penalty. It is the sensible thing to do. It is the American thing to do. It is the right thing to do in our efforts to honor American families.

A TRIBUTE TO THE UPLAND PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY AND AN APPEAL TO REDUCE SECTION 8 PROGRAM BUREAUCRACY AND RED TAPE

(Mr. GARY MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give praise to the city of Upland Public Housing Authority, its executive director, Sammie Szabo, and her staff for their hard work and accomplishments administering the Section 8 public housing program.

At this time many authorities are having a very difficult time utilizing