level. This is more than double the poverty rate among children in smaller families. Nearly three of every five poor children in this country live in families with three or more children.

Recently the General Accounting Office (GAO) determined that 4.3 million eligible households did not claim the EITC in 1999, forgoing $2.6 billion in credits. The preponderance (about 81 percent) of the $2.6 billion in unclaimed credits would have gone to households with three or more children. Households with no eligible children would have received most of the remainder. The non-participation rates for these two groups, 37 percent for households with three or more children and 55 percent for childless households (as compared to roughly 95 percent for all other households), are convincing evidence that more needs to be done to expand and simplify the EITC program.

The current structure of the EITC fails to help larger families, with three or more children, since the highest level of credit is given to families with two or more children. Combining these larger families with families having two children ignores the unique needs of large families, which have experienced more difficulty in moving from welfare to work due to increased family expenditures such as child care costs.

Today I am introducing legislation to remedy this problem by creating a new EITC benefit level for families with three or more children. This new level, with a credit percentage of 45 percent, will provide a higher benefit for these families than what they currently receive under the ''two or more children'' category (which has a 40 percent credit rate).

My bill also will double the credit percentage for workers with no qualifying children from 7.65 percent to 15.3 percent. This change recognizes the fact that there is virtually no safety net for people in this category, who face high federal tax burdens. The 15.3 percent credit percentage is the amount needed to offset the full amount of the payroll tax, including the employer's share. In his paper, ''should the EITC for Workers Without children be Abolished, Maintained, or Expanded?'' Robert Greenstein, of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, notes that single workers are the only group in the United States who begin to owe federal income tax before their income reaches the poverty line; the federal income tax codes taxes them somewhat more deeply into poverty. Besides offsetting the full amount of the payroll tax (which most economists believe is borne by workers in the form of lower wages), Mr. Greenstein states that expanding the credit might also serve two other beneficial purposes—it might draw more single workers into the labor force and it should raise the incomes of some poor, non-custodial fathers, thereby increasing their ability to pay child support.

In addition, the bill will increase EITC benefits for all family categories by raising the maximum creditable earnings used to calculate the credit. For all eligible individuals with children, this amount for the year 2002 will be $10,710, the annual wages of a full-time worker earning the minimum wage. Isabel Sawhill and Adam Thomas, of the Brookings Institution, in their paper ''A Hand Up for the Bottom Third: toward a New Agenda for Low-Income Working Families,'' note that those who work full-time at a low wage job do not necessarily qualify for more benefits than do those who work less than full-time. They suggest that extending the maximum creditable earnings to the level corresponding with a full-time, minumum-wage salary would be in keeping with the EITC program's goal of ''making work pay.'' In other words, workers could be expected to work more hours if the income eligibility range for the EITC were extended or if the credit earned were increased. For childless workers, the maximum creditable earnings will rise to $6,000, approximately 60 percent of those wages.

Taken together, in 2002, these changes would provide the following maximum EITC amounts: Household with no qualifying children $918 (an increase of $542); household with 1 child $3,641 (an increase of $1,135); household with 2 children $4,284 (an increase of $144); household with 3 or more children $4,820 (an increase of $680).

In order to balance program costs, my bill increases the phaseout rates for all categories to allow benefits to phase out at the same income level as is the case under current law.

Finally my bill makes two important changes to the administration of the EITC—it eliminates the investment income disqualification test and it simplifies the rules for an abandoned spouse to qualify for the credit.

At at time when our country is undergoing so much change, we must not forget that our low-income families continue to remain at the margins of our economy and could be the first to suffer the effects of the current economic downturn. Their needs existed before the tragic events of September 11 and probably have only worsened since then.

I believe that the creation of the additional EITC category involving three or more children will benefit approximately 3.2 million households, thereby further reducing poverty among larger families. In addition to helping larger families to make ends meet, this new benefit level will provide these families with funds for upward mobility and asset building capabilities. Even a moderate increase in income will assist these families to improve their circumstances and work toward escaping poverty.

This bill also will benefit the U.S. economy by providing additional incentives for more people, especially low-income women, to join the work force. The economic stimulus function of my bill cannot be overlooked, especially at a time when we are providing inducements for corporations and higher income earners.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities supports this legislation as a ''bill that would better reward and encourage work, reduce poverty among the working poor, and simplify the EITC.'' They further state ''This is one of the most worthy initiatives policymakers could pursue.''

I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to further enhance the highly successful EITC by supporting this legislation, and, in doing so, by supporting a respectable income level for those Americans who are, and have been, left behind.

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF JEREMY W. KIDD

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Jeremy W. Kidd is lovingly remembered by his parents, family and friends;

Whereas, Jeremy made each day of his life full of excitement and goodness;

Whereas, Jeremy always had a smile on his face and brought smiles to the faces of all those he came in contact with; and

Whereas, Jeremy's kindness and consideration to others will always be remembered by all whose lives he touched;

Therefore, I invite my colleagues to join with me and the citizens of Ohio in mourning the loss of Jeremy W. Kidd, yet celebrating his life and his memory.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN N. HOSTETTLER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the House of Representatives on December 5 through December 13, 2001, due to the illness and subsequent death of my dear mother. Although I received the appropriate leave of absence from the House, I would like my constituents in the 8th District of Indiana to know how I would have voted if I were present on Roll Call votes #469 through #498. For the record, I would have voted in the following ways:

Hostettler Vote

Rollcall Nos.: 498 Yea; 497 No; 496 Yea; 495 Yea; 494 Yea; 493 Yea; 492 Yea; 491 Yea; 490 Yea; 489 No; 488 No; 487 Yea; 486 Yea; 485 Yea; 484 Yea; 483 Yea; 482 Yea; 481 No; 480 No; 479 Yea; 478 Yea; 477 Yea; 476 Yea; 475 Yea; 474 Yea; 473 Yea; 472 Yea; 471 No; 470 Yea; 469 Yea.

IN RECOGNITION OF KEN MILLS AND NIKI STERN OF THE LEXINGTON DEMOCRATIC CLUB

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ken Mills and Niki Stern, leaders of the Lexington Democratic Club in New York City. The Lexington Democratic Club has been such a vibrant part of the community in which I live and represent. It is a pleasure to pay tribute to two of its most illustrious leaders.

After graduating Phi Beta Kappa and Magna Cum Laude from Princeton University, Ken Mills went on to make his mark in the field of communications. After working for many years in the private sector, including a tenure as Vice-president and Director of Promotion and Communications for The Katz Agency, in 1978