

proposals to shut down Fort Monmouth and put thousands out of work.

Through it all, he helped Jim Howard develop a reputation for excellent constituent service. Tim had a right to be proud in the early eighties when the New York Times cited a poll taken of New Jersey staffers and Members of Congress in which Jim Howard's office operation was voted the best in the New Jersey congressional delegation.

Many of my colleagues and their staffs will remember Tim as I do, a warm and compassionate person with a dry Irish wit that earned him many friends and the love of his staff. He was often a help to me as I was starting my legislative career and I drew upon his wealth of wisdom and experience when I had the opportunity.

To Marilyn, his wife of 50 years, his 6 children and 10 grandchildren, I send my deepest condolences for a very great loss.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDENT LOAN AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 1995

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 1995

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Student Loan Affordability Act of 1995. Many of my colleagues already agree that the best way to ensure the future prosperity of America is to empower our students to meet the demand for the high skill high wage jobs of the 21st century. Post-secondary education is an essential component in developing the skills necessary to be competitive in today's global markets. Unfortunately, with the costs of post-secondary education dramatically rising the number of middle class families who can afford to send their children to college is falling.

The Student Loan Affordability Act will offer middle income families the relief they need, and empower them to engage in the most important of tasks: sending their children off to college. The proposal will establish a tax deduction for the interest payments on student loans, just like that provided for interest on mortgages. As a result of this legislation, students and their families will be able to reduce the costs of their education.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that this bill is supported by my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. The education of our students should not be a battleground for partisan politics but a source of pride and consensus that we may all support. We must invest in our children's education today if we are going to be competitive in international markets tomorrow.

I encourage all my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that a copy of the legislation be printed in the RECORD.

H.R. —

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Student Loan Affordability Act of 1995".

SEC. 2. DEDUCTION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION EXPENSES.

(a) DEDUCTION ALLOWED.—Part VII of subchapter B of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to additional itemized deductions for individuals) is amended by redesignating section 220 as section 221 and by inserting after section 219 the following new section:

"SEC. 220. INTEREST ON STUDENT LOANS.

"(a) ALLOWANCE OF DEDUCTION.—In the case of an individual, there shall be allowed as a deduction an amount equal to the interest on qualified higher education loans paid by the taxpayer during the taxable year.

"(b) QUALIFIED HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN.—For purposes of this section—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualified higher education loan' means a loan which—

"(A) is made to a student to meet the student's cost of attendance at an institution of higher education;

"(B)(i) is made, insured, or guaranteed by the Federal Government;

"(ii) is made by a State or a political subdivision of a State;

"(iii) is made from the proceeds of a qualified student loan bond under section 144(b); or

"(iv) is made by an institution of higher education (as defined in section 1201(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1141(a))); and

"(C) in combination with all other financial assistance awarded to (or on behalf of) such student to meet such cost of attendance, does not exceed such cost of attendance for the academic year for which such loan is made.

"(2) COST OF ATTENDANCE.—The term 'cost of attendance' has the meaning given such term by section 472 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 10871l).

"(3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—Unless stated otherwise, the term 'institution of higher education' means an institution which—

"(A) is described in section 481 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1088), and

"(B) is eligible to participate in programs under title IV of such Act.

"(c) NO DOUBLE BENEFIT.—No deduction shall be allowed under subsection (a) for interest on qualified higher education loans with respect to which a deduction is allowed under any other provision of this chapter.

"(d) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may prescribe such regulations as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out this section, including regulations requiring record-keeping and information reporting."

(b) DEDUCTION ALLOWED IN COMPUTING ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—Section 62(a) of such Code is amended by inserting after paragraph (15) the following new paragraph:

"(16) INTEREST ON STUDENT LOANS.—The deduction allowed by section 220."

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for part VII of subchapter B of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by striking the item relating to section 220 and inserting:

"Sec. 220. Interest on student loans.

"Sec. 221. Cross reference."

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 1995.

TRIBUTE TO ROGER E. PETERSON

HON. HARRIS W. FAWELL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 1995

Mr. FAWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Roger E. Peterson, chief execu-

tive officer of Ace Hardware Corp. Ace Hardware is a dealer-owner cooperative founded in Chicago in 1924 and has its corporate headquarters located in Oak Brook, IL. Roger has announced his retirement effective May 31, 1995.

Under Roger's leadership Ace reached more than \$2.3 billion in sales to its 5,000 independently-owned stores in all 50 States and 55 countries and territories in 1994. I am pleased to add over \$205 million of those sales were accounted for by almost 400 Ace retailers in Illinois.

These retailers characterize what Roger, the State of Illinois, and Ace are all about: excellence, leadership, friendliness, team work, family orientation, and striving to always be the best they can be.

Roger began his career with Montgomery Ward after graduating from the University of Miami (Florida) in 1960. Prior to joining Ace, Roger was also executive vice president and general manager of C/P Products Corporation in Elkart, IN. His other experience includes various management positions with the J.C. Penney and Ben Franklin, Division of City Products Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, Roger joined Ace in September, 1976, as national distribution manager. In 1983, he was promoted to vice president of operations with additional responsibilities for traffic, labor relations, corporate security, and physical distribution center planning, including site selection negotiations.

Within 2 years, Roger was appointed executive vice president, and on August 5, 1986, he became president of Ace. In January, 1990, Roger was given the additional title CEO by the Ace board of directors. He has served longer as president than all but the legendary Richard C. Hesse who reigned for 44 years.

Under Roger's leadership, Ace's distribution system expanded from 5 distribution facilities in 1976 to the current total of 14. One of these facilities, at 1.1 million square feet, is the largest in the industry.

The Ace Hardware Corporation's Ace 2000 program and its accelerated version, the New Age of Ace initiated under Roger's leadership, has an objective of making Ace Hardware, Home Center, and LBM retailers the premier hardlines retailers in the industry by the year 2000.

Clearly Mr. Speaker, Roger defines Ace's corporate mission as being a total " * * * retail support company * * * providing independent Ace dealers with quality products, programs, and services. We exist to serve the Ace dealer and we know that Ace's success is based on the success of that independent Ace dealer," stated Roger.

He has worked diligently, not only for Ace, but for the hardware industry as well, as illustrated by the leadership award presented to him at the International Hardware Dealers Association convention in March, 1994. Roger personifies that true leadership is making people better than they ever thought they could be.

Mr. Speaker, Roger's management style, philosophy and leadership are paying huge dividends today and will continue to do so for years to come. After many years of distinguished and superior service to the Ace hardware Corp., I wish Roger all the accolades he so rightfully deserves. May his years of retirement bring Roger all the best with his wife,