

CAPS THE ECONOMY

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, every year since President Clinton took office, Americans have watched their paychecks dwindle and their tax bill skyrocket. My Republican colleagues and I want to reverse this trend. We want to enable families to earn more and keep more of what they earn.

The President's tax-and-spend policies mean the Government gets more and families get less. Last year, families earned \$803 less in after-tax dollars than in 1992. In 1993, the President and his colleagues passed the largest tax increase in American history. Taxes are now the highest they have been in peacetime history and almost every American household and business feels the impact.

My Republican colleagues and I have worked diligently to put American families first. We passed tax cuts for families. We passed a balanced budget that would lower interest rates. We passed genuine welfare reform that would have saved taxpayers billions of dollars. Why have America's families not seen any of these savings? President Clinton vetoed all of them.

We have successfully passed a line-item veto and cut foreign aid. We have passed regulatory reform—overregulation costs American households \$6,000 a year. Further, my Republican colleagues and I will press on and pass health insurance reform to ensure families are able to keep their coverage if they lose or change jobs, get sick, or move.

I am committed to helping America's families get ahead and putting an end to the Clinton assault on hardworking taxpayers. It is time Washington started working for them, instead of making them work for Washington.

NATIONAL PROPANE SAFETY WEEK

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, for over 70 years, the propane gas industry has been making significant contributions to American life with remarkable degrees of dependability, efficiency, and above all safety. To highlight the industry's sincere concern with safety, the National Propane Gas Association sponsors National Propane Safety Week, which is being held this year from May 6 to 10. Today I would like to recognize this focus on safety and bring it to the attention of my colleagues.

Throughout the week, activities are being held to promote safety including safety demonstrations and antitampering messages, and public service announcements. Helpful tips on using gas grills, handling cylinders for recreational vehicles, what to do if a homeowner smells gas, and how to handle a pilot light that won't light, are also being shared.

All across the country, manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors regularly help in educating the over 60 million consumers of propane on the wise use of this gas. Consumers

use this common fuel to heat their homes, and barns, dry their crops, and fuel their vehicles and machines. National Propane Safety Week plays an important role in reinforcing the safety education of those who already have access to this pertinent information, as well as making it available to those who do not.

A home safety audit, called Gas Check, is another initiative strongly recommended by the National Propane Gas Association throughout Safety Week. This year's focus is on the importance of regular appliance system check-ups to ensure the safe operation of all gas-fueled household appliances. Attention to the safety needs of consumers like these should be recognized and appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to stress my support for all of the propane dealers in my district who put safety first, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same. I would also like to commend the National Propane Gas Association and its constituent dealers for their efforts to promote public awareness about propane safety issues through their sponsorship of and participation in National Propane Safety Week.

MARK RYBECKI AND THE FOOD SOURCE NETWORK OF MYRTLE BEACH, SC

HON. MARSHALL "MARK" SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, today is a special day in the fight against hunger around the United States. The Congressional Hunger Center and Victory Wholesale Grocers of Dayton, OH, presented the third annual Victory Against Hunger Awards to recipients from across the Nation.

On behalf of the First District of South Carolina, I take special pride that one of our own is a recipient of this important award. The Food Source Network of Myrtle Beach, SC, headed by Chef Mark Rybecki, is a 1996 Victory Against Hunger Award recipient.

The Food Source Network is an unique program among those dedicated to eradicating hunger around the country. First, because it was founded by chefs. And second, because it is the first type of program in its area—there are no other such programs within a 150 miles of the Grand Strand area of South Carolina.

Mark Rybecki and the Food Source Network volunteers take food that is left over from restaurants and other food providers, and give it to organizations that feed people in need. This perishable food rescue program enables organizations around Horry County—like the Red Cross, Citizens Against Spouse Abuse [CASA] and Meals on Wheels—to feed more people.

I want to commend the Congressional Hunger Center for their advocacy on behalf of those in need. And I want to thank Mark Rybecki, and the Food Source Network, for doing everything possible to help those in need.

HONORING THE MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Mountain Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer fire fighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give go graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

PERSIAN GULF SYNDROME HEALTH BENEFITS EXTENSION ACT OF 1996

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which extends priority healthcare to Persian Gulf war veterans who served in Israel and Turkey. My bill is entitled the "Persian Gulf Syndrome Health Benefits Extension Act of 1996." The bill has received bipartisan support from my colleagues on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Men and women who served during the Persian Gulf war in Israel and Turkey were originally excluded from the definition of in-theatre operations. Many of these soldiers suffer from similar undiagnosed medical problems that may be related to service during the Persian Gulf war.

Throughout my service on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I have emphasized the need to alleviate the suffering of those individuals afflicted with the Persian Gulf syndrome.