The Congressional Pension Forfeiture Act combines the best elements of the three bills we introduced separately. The American people are fed up with business as usual in Washington, DC. The last thing that hard-working Americans and their families should expect is to pay for a convicted felon’s retirement. A former Representative was recently sentenced to 17 months in prison for crimes he committed against the American people. But while he sits behind bars, he’ll be collecting nearly $100,000 a year from his taxpayer-funded Congressional pension account. For this Congress to turn its back on the American public and let another Member leave office while he sits behind bars, he’ll be collecting his pension.

We urge all of our colleagues to lend their wholehearted support to this historic legislation and I ask the House leadership to work with Mr. Massie to pass this once and for all.

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LEXINGTON PARK CORPORATE CENTER

HON. STENY H. HOYER
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
F r i d a y , A u g u s t 2 , 1 9 9 6

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the honor of presiding at the groundbreaking for the Lexington Park Corporate Center, a project undertaken by Millison Development. The groundbreaking ceremony signified the opening of a development which will be occupied by three companies—DCS, Sercor, and the Rail Co.—conveniently located to serve the Patuxent River Naval Base.

The companies that will occupy this new center were the ones that took advantage of the changes brought in the 1940’s when this rural community was transformed from one dependent on farming and seafood, to one that is now technology driven.

A family that has been in St. Mary’s throughout the expansion and that has played a significant role in what has become one of the largest and strongest communities in the world, many families were very rapidly displaced from their homes and business. Most were forced to leave within 20 days of receiving their property appraisals and then it took months or more to get their money.

Hiram used his money to build a store and restaurant outside the main gate of the new base and subsequently developed a number of properties in the town that became known as Lexington Park. Upon his death in 1965, Hiram Millison’s obituary described him as a man who “planted seeds of progress.”

Hiram Millison saw opportunity when others were reeling from the trauma of disruption. He realized to be a great visionary—serving as the first president of the Patuxent River Council of the Naval League. This council played an important role in providing the community support for the Navy and the start of a tradition that has become a keystone that consolidates business in the town.

Today, we see this same support of the Navy with Hiram’s son Larry, who has served as a county commissioner, as a member of the board of education, and, in his role as a businessman, in his support of organizations like the Navy Alliance. Now, another Millison—Rachelle—is involved in the family business and she has proven herself as a citizen with community spirit who will not only continue to reap the seeds sown by her family, but she will also continue to sow seeds for future generations, as her father and grandfather did in the past.

I know that the companies involved with the Patuxent River base are experiencing disruption as a result of consolidations. Employees may be relocating from Crystal City, VA or Warminster, PA.

Aaron Davidson is a native Pennsylvania. He works for Sercor and along with his wife, will follow his job in Warminster down to Patuxent. In so doing, he has convinced many of his coworkers to follow suit. I want to assure Aaron, and the many other families relocating to this area, that this community is eager to have you and will do everything it can to make the transition for you and other families as smooth as possible.

The transition and change brought on by this consolidation, I hope that you—like Hiram Millison—will come to find opportunities here and join with the Millisons and other proud families, planting seeds in this great community for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Millison family. Their story of perseverance, community spirit, and patriotism is a shining example of what this great country can produce when opportunity is seized.