

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO SOUTH CAROLINA'S WATERMELON FARMERS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to South Carolina's watermelon farmers who planted more than 11,000 acres of watermelons this year. Yesterday, each Member of Congress should have received watermelons grown at the farm of Jim Williams of Lodge, SC. These watermelons were picked on Sunday and driven overnight by Clinton and Wade Murdaugh to be delivered to both the House and the Senate on Monday morning.

We take great pride in our watermelons in South Carolina. We like to call them Mother Nature's perfect candy; they're sweet, succulent, nutritious and even fat-free. South Carolina farmers lead the way in the production of watermelons. My State was a pioneer in the use of black plastic and irrigation to expand the watermelon growing season. By covering the earth in spring with black plastic, farmers can not only speed the melons' growth by raising soil temperatures, but also prevent weed growth.

So, as we all enjoy this summer treat, I would like to thank all the folks in South Carolina who brought us these watermelons: Jim Williams of Williams Farm in Lodge, SC; Les Tindal, our State agriculture commissioner; Martin Eubanks and Minta Wade of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture; Randy Cockrell and the South Carolina Watermelon Association; Bennie Hughes and the South Carolina Watermelon Board; and also Senator HOLLINGS, Representative SPRATT and their staffs who helped to deliver the melons. They have all worked very hard to share a taste of South Carolina with my colleagues here in Washington and I thank them.

DEMOCRATS USE SKEWED FIGURES TO CHALLENGE TAX-CUT PROPOSAL

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member highly commends to his colleagues the following editorial which appeared in the Omaha World Herald on June 20, 1997. This editorial is of particular interest because it notes the fraudulent basis for the argument used by Democrats opposing the Taxpayer Relief Act.

DEMOCRATS USE SKEWED FIGURES TO CHALLENGE TAX-CUT PROPOSAL

Democrats who don't like the House-approved tax-cut proposal that is now before the Senate ought to challenge it on its merits instead of putting out a fraudulent class-warfare argument.

The Clinton administration and congressional Democrats who oppose the Republican-sponsored plan argue that the proposed net tax cut of \$85 billion over five years (\$135 billion in cuts and \$50 billion in tax increases) is targeted to favor the rich. They rely on a report from President Clinton's Treasury Department asserting that two-thirds of the benefits would go to people in the nation's top 20 percent of earners.

Treasury officials reached that conclusion by inflating the definition of income like a toy balloon. It included things such as "imputed rental value." That means the sharp-pencil pushers at Treasury have calculated how much a homeowner could rent his home for and added that figure onto his income. They also included the increased value of retirement funds, pension contributions and employer-funded life and health insurance.

Those are not what most middle-class people would call "income." Such ridiculous additions skew the economic profile of the middle-class taxpayer. But they enable Treasury officials to ratchet millions of people up into phony levels of wealth and then claim that the middle class is being overlooked in the tax-cut package.

The Joint Committee on Taxation sees it differently. Using a definition of income more like that of the IRS, the committee found that people earning from \$20,000 to \$75,000 a year would receive 71 percent of the proposed tax savings in the GOP plan. The percentage jumps to 88 if the range is expanded to \$100,000. Only 7 percent of the proposed tax cuts would go to people earning more than \$100,000 a year.

Based on a reasonable definition of income, the Republican tax-cut proposal is focused on the middle class. But Democrats insist that the GOP is intent on stiffing the middle class in order to take care of high rollers.

In a battle of credibility on tax policy, the Joint Committee on Taxation demolishes the Clinton administration's Treasury Department. We are inclined to believe the committee when it says 1) Treasury is unfairly inflating income figures to push middle-class families into upper income levels, and 2) the majority of GOP-proposed tax relief is directed to the middle class.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH MINDER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues.

Each city or town has a person who is dedicated to improving the community and making it a better and more enjoyable place for people to live, work, and raise their family. Joseph Minder has been this person for the city of Martins Ferry, OH.

Throughout his career, Mr. Minder has worked tirelessly for the city of Martins Ferry. He served as recreation director for over 9 years, service and safety director for over 13 years, and as an administrative assistant until his retirement. He continued to serve the city, and the people who have made Martins Ferry

their home, as a volunteer as well. Joseph Minder was a member and often chairman of such events as the Betty Zane Frontier Days, the Strawberry Festival, and he also worked to bring fireworks to Martins Ferry for Independence Day.

Mr. Minder's greatest accomplishment was overseeing the new, state-of-the-art waterplant in Martins Ferry. This plant just went on line in May. Again, Mr. Minder's hard work and determination benefited the people of Martins Ferry, OH.

Joseph Minder's service and commitment to Martins Ferry are commendable, and Mr. Minder's work is deserving of the thanks and praise of the people of his community. I ask my colleagues to join me today in thanking Mr. Minder, and wishing him luck and success in his retirement.

IN HONOR OF FATHER JOHN PROTOPAPAS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Father John Protopapas on his retirement from Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Cleveland, OH, after 30 years of service, guidance, and friendship.

John Protopapas was born in the village of Pano-Zodnia, Cyprus in 1927. His grandfather was the Protospyter of his village, and his father was the psalti. Following family tradition, John Protopapas was destined to serve the church. In 1949, an uncle sponsored him to enter the United States. He enrolled in the Greek Orthodox Theological Seminary in Brookline, MA. After graduating in 1952, he attended Andover Newton Theological School earning the degrees of bachelor of divinity and master of sacred theology, majoring in pastoral clinical psychology.

In June 1955, he married Catherine Lianides and was ordained. The couple spent 10 years in Bangor, ME, at St. George Church. During this time, their three children, Christopher James, Paula Joanne, and Mira Lynn, were born. After brief assignments to the Holy Dormition Church in Oakmont-Verona, PA, and Kimisis Tis Theotokou in Alliquippa, PA, Father Protopapas was assigned to Cleveland's Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church on July 15, 1967. The community has enjoyed his selfless leadership in spirituality, education, and culture ever since.

Father Protopapas is a prominent humanitarian. As a result of his sponsorship, several patients from Greece have traveled to local hospitals to receive open-heart surgery. He was appointed honorary mayor of Cleveland in 1989 for his important work in the progress of the city. Among the many other honors he has received throughout his life, Father Protopapas currently holds the positions of member of the Diocesan Council, chairman of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the Diocesan Greek Education Committee, and chairman and secretary of the Diocesan Ecclesiastical Court in Ohio.

When he is not working to enhance the spiritual, cultural, and civic life of the community, Father Protopapas is an avid gardener. His plants and flowers, as well as his parishioners and the community as a whole, have certainly flourished under his care. My fellow colleagues, please join me recognizing the lifetime achievements of Father John Protopapas as his friends and family celebrate his prestigious career on July 26, 1997.

TRIBUTE TO ABE FRIEDMAN

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, the Denver Police and Fire Widows have asked me to please pay tribute to Mr. Abe Friedman of Jamaica, NY and it is a great honor to have the ability to do so. It is not possible to reiterate all the good, kind, and charitable acts Abe Friedman has provided these women over the years. We all innately understand the terrible circumstances that revolve around losing one's loved one. While no one can give back the husbands these women lost, Mr. Friedman has gone above and beyond the call of duty to give these women the comfort and respect they so rightfully deserve. To the widows of the Denver Police and Fire Departments, his unending concern for their happiness is one of the most endearing memories of those years they lovingly spent as a member of a police or fire family.

On Sunday, May 18, 1997, these women assembled as guests of Mr. Friedman to celebrate the Seventh Annual Spring Extravaganza to celebrate Mother's Day. He spent the day toasting and honoring the many years each widow served as an integral part of a police or fire department family. This simple act was truly a sign of deep consideration for these women and was greatly appreciated by all in attendance.

The Denver Police and Fire Widows are hopeful that this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reading, in a small way, may convey to Abe Friedman their sincere and unending admiration. They are forever grateful for his many acts of thoughtfulness, attentiveness, and kindness which Abe Friedman has bestowed upon them simply with his friendship.

IN HONOR OF THE ANNANDALE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR ACTION

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Annandale Christian Community for Action, a group which provides a safety net for needy families and individuals in my district through volunteer social action programs. ACCA is a model provider of child care for low- and moderate-income families and

their array of volunteer programs in emergency assistance in transportation services is unparalleled in northern Virginia.

Thirty years ago, the Higher Horizons Day Care Center learned that 13 of the children enrolled would have to be ejected because the income of their working parents was slightly greater than the set poverty standard. Fred and Emily Ruffing, members of St. Michael's Catholic Church, which had organized Higher Horizons saw this impending crisis as a focal point for organizing Annandale's Christian community. In late February of that year, Fred met with Annandale clergy and lay people form the local congregations to explain what was needed. On March 13, 1967, at Peace Lutheran Church, about three dozen members of the local church community gathered and ACCA was born. Responding to the demonstrated need for more day care facilities, particularly ones open to minority children, January 1968 marked the opening of the ACCA Day Care Center at John Calvin Presbyterian Church. This center still serves today as an outstanding model for other similar facilities in the provision of quality care and education for nearly 200 children.

ACCA programs are operated almost entirely by hundreds of volunteers and financed primarily through donations from its 25 member churches, individuals, and groups. These programs include emergency food and monetary assistance for such basic necessities such as rent, utilities, and medical expenses. Additionally, ACCA has developed programs that provide individuals with transportation to medical and therapy appointments, collection and delivery of used furniture, college scholarships for students with special challenges, and repairs and provision of shelter to homeless families.

ACCA Inc. is governed by a board of directors comprised of official representatives from its 25 member churches. All functions, including those of officers, committee chairperson, and service providers, remain carried out by volunteers. From the beginning, ACCA has had successful continuing partnerships, not only with its member churches, but also with Fairfax County and the private sector. Drawing on its large pool of volunteers, ACCA also collaborates with Christmas-in-April, Meals on Wheels, and two local shelters. Both the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Virginia General Assembly have passed resolutions commending ACCA for leadership and continuity of effort in carrying out community social action programs.

Throughout 1997, ACCA's board and member churches are celebrating both the remarkable achievements of the small, dedicated group of local citizens who began ACCA in 1967 and the growth and flexibility of ACCA's programs over three decades in meeting the needs of this dynamic suburban area. I know my colleagues will join me in applauding ACCA for continuously carrying out successful community social action programs for three decades. It is a model worthy of emulation by others, nationwide, in meeting the challenges of immigration, poverty, and welfare reform.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE FAKAN

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bravery and courage of Regional Security Officer Steve Fakan. Steve is a native of Vermilion, OH, which is in my district and was recently honored by the Secretary of State Madeline Albright.

Steve exhibited exceptional personal bravery and perseverance by saving the lives of trapped American journalists caught in raging gun battles between rival factions during the renewed fighting in Monrovia, Liberia, in May 1996.

On May 14, 1996, the Regional Security Officer [RSO] office received a frantic call for help from eight journalists staying at the Mamba Point Hotel. Factional fighting raged around the hotel and the journalists feared for their lives as out-of-control fighters savagely ransacked the area only a few hundred meters from the Embassy. They requested urgent help in getting to the Embassy, as conditions continued to deteriorate.

Diplomatic Security [DS] agents RSO Steve Fakan and TDY RSO Tony Deibler quickly assessed the potentially lethal situation and devised a strategy to rescue the beleaguered journalists.

Using the nearest Embassy gate to the hotel as an exit, Steve and Tony traversed by foot over 300 meters of treacherous open field to the hotel by using alternate covering patterns for each other. Their every movement was closely eyed by snipers perched in nearby buildings.

After reaching the hotel safely, they quickly briefed the journalists on their escape plan. Countless bullets ricocheted off the pavement and nearby buildings as the group made its way back to the embassy. The two agents both realized that they were being tracked by snipers.

As the reporters used the appropriate cover maneuvers, taught to them by the DS agents, to make it back to the Embassy, Tony spotted a sniper aiming his weapon at Steve. Without hesitation, Tony quickly sighted in the sniper with his scoped weapon, causing him to hold his fire and take his finger off the trigger.

The eight journalists, dragging cameras and equipment, made it safely to Embassy compound, thanks to the expertise of the two DS agents. The exhausted, but grateful group of journalists rained enthusiastic praise on the exceptional courage exhibited by their rescuers.

These two men are outstanding examples of the best that DS has to offer, and the American people can be proud that Diplomatic Security has public servants like Tony and Steve to protect our interests overseas.

TRIBUTE TO JUSTIN LEONARD

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly remarkable young man,