

promise." And on the Republican side, House Speaker Newt Gingrich said, "We have proven together that the American constitutional system works, that slowly, over time, we listen to the will of the American people." He added that he does not intend to abandon the spirit of cooperation that led to the agreement.

The president is being criticized by liberals within Democratic ranks for having compromised too much; the speaker for having given in too readily. It was a contentious process, as are many decisions in a democracy.

The plan is surely flawed, but it did provide evidence that the message from the voters about having something done about recurring federal deficits and high levels of taxation was heard.

It is important now to realize that this is unfinished business. There is much more to be done to reduce the burden of taxation and the rates of growth in federal spending. Voters themselves are the key to whether this will be produced in the future. If they insist, more progress is possible.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD LESHER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 1997

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, saying goodbye to colleagues and friends is rarely enjoyable and yet we must do it so often. I rise today to say goodbye to an icon of the business community, Dr. Richard Leshner.

At age 63, Dr. Leshner has decided to retire to his boyhood home in Chambersburg, PA. Since taking the top spot at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 22 years ago, Dr. Leshner has directed and expanded this group into a powerful voice for American businesses in Washington and around the world. I can state today without reservation that the chamber's positions on issues are well respected in the eyes of Members of Congress and often play a part of the many decisions made in the Nation's Capitol.

Some of the major achievements of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce during the tenure of Dr. Leshner include the implementation of a weekly communication network which includes television and print media. For example, the Voice of Business, a newspaper article, is distributed nationwide to over 600 newspapers. In addition, programs like First Business and It's Your Business reach the Nation's business men and women through cable and network television. With this strong communications network in place it is little wonder that the chamber's membership has swelled to 300,000 and its budget expanded from \$40 million to \$70 million during the tenure of Dr. Leshner.

Another program that Dr. Leshner designed, and one that I believe has profound impacts on policy and politicians in Washington, is How They Voted. This program earmarks votes that are critical to the chamber and rates Members of Congress based on those key votes. While I am a new member of Congress, I have learned quickly to pay special attention to the chamber's key votes because of this program.

Finally, the National Chamber Litigation Center, a public policy legal arm, represents business interests in the Federal court system

and provides services where there would otherwise be a void.

In closing, I commend Dr. Richard Leshner for his long-term commitment to the chamber and for playing a critical part in the policies of this Nation. Saying goodbye is rarely enjoyable, but today we should celebrate the accomplishments of Dr. Leshner.

TRIBUTE TO THE IRS BROOKHAVEN SERVICE CENTER

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the many valued employees of the Internal Revenue Service's Brookhaven service center, as it celebrates its 25th year of operation in Brookhaven Town, Long Island. Located in Holtsville, in the heart of this great town, the IRS Brookhaven service center has enriched local residents through its employment opportunities and mentoring programs for the taxpayers of New York.

Most notably, though, the Brookhaven service center has created a selfless, community-focused vision during the past 25 years. It has helped provide a greater degree of community togetherness through its many services, and improved its communication with taxpayers through its employees' dedication and diligence. The taxpayer assistance the center provides are quite exceptional—from answering thousands of taxpayers' calls on a toll free line, to resolving customer complaints cases. Employing nearly 5,000 workers during peak times of year, the Brookhaven service center is crucial to the economic development of the town.

The Brookhaven service center would not thrive if not for the excellent service that its staff provide its customers, the American taxpayer. The continued growth of the center, and the diversity of services it provides, is a fitting tribute to the employees who have helped to forge a strong and lasting relationship with the people of Brookhaven.

The importance of the Brookhaven service center to the Federal Government can not be understated, even as we pay tribute to this 25th anniversary. Last year, the service center processed 16 million individual and business returns from Montauk Point on the East End of Long Island, to Atlantic City on the southern shore of New Jersey. The employees of this center work hard for the people all over America who call with questions and concerns when the April 15 tax season rolls around. They are problem solvers, providing a great service to their fellow Americans. Brookhaven service center employees also donate their time and resources to town food drives, annual Christmas toy drives, and the Salvation Army. Each year, employees also give blood in conjunction with the Greater New York Blood Program.

At the Brookhaven service center, a diverse group of Long Islanders have come together with one common goal—to provide assistance to their neighbors and fellow citizens. As they commence their 25th year of service, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting the Brookhaven service center's work, and to applaud a true community partnership.

IN HONOR OF THE STATE CHAMPION RESTON LITTLE LEAGUE ALL-STAR TEAM

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to the 1997 Reston American Little League All-Star Team. On August 26, 1997, there was a parade to celebrate and welcome the All-Stars home from the Little League southern regional tournament in St. Petersburg, FL. The All-Stars have worked hard during their baseball season and through the spirit of teamwork, they have achieved major victories in the district, State, and regional Little League championships. These young players are to be commended for their outstanding efforts and sportsmanship they displayed as they competed in these three tournament championships. The Homecoming Parade in their honor will include all of the team players, and coaches who will march down Market Street at the Reston Town Center in the heart of their community. The All-Stars will be greeted and honored for their many accomplishments by several local dignitaries and community leaders. I would also like to recognize each player individually for their many achievements: Brian Beatty, Ben Bjarlo, Jeff Collins, Matt Foley, Colin Golding, Brandon Guyer, David Harrison, Scott Horton, Jared Kubin, David Miller, Ryan Smithson, John Stipicevic, Nick Tracy, Adam Wright; as well as their team manager Larry Kubin, their coach Paul Foley, and their assistant coach Harold Tracy.

The 1997 Reston All-Stars won the district IV championship for the first time in Reston Little League history. This meant the All-Stars earned the right to represent district IV at the State Little League championship tournament in Virginia. The All-Stars journeyed down to Danville where their perseverance and team work helped them achieve a come-from-behind victory over the Bristol, VA team. After the All-Stars had been defeated in the second game of the double elimination tournament, the Reston team redoubled their efforts and fought their way through the loser's bracket, playing three doubleheaders in 3 days in order to qualify for the State championship game against the Bristol team. The All-Stars were victorious over the Bristol team in a 9 to 7 nailbiter. This was another first in the history of Reston Little League as the All-Stars won the Virginia State championship and earned the right to represent the State in the southeast regional championships.

At the southeast regional championship tournament, the Reston All-Stars faced some of the best Little League teams in the Nation. The winner of the southeast regional qualifies to compete in the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA. Reston lost their first game of the double-elimination tournament to Texas, but then won three straight games against teams from Tennessee, Alabama, and South Carolina. The All-Stars made it to the section II final where they faced the Texas team they had lost to in the first round. Reston lost to the Texas team and were eliminated from further competition; however, the Reston All-Stars finished the year as one of the best 16 Little League baseball teams in the Nation.