

Mr. Speaker, the marriage penalty imposes a substantial burden on a great many American families. According to a recent report by the Congressional Budget Office, the average marriage penalty was nearly \$1,400 in 1996. Indeed, under 1996 tax law, married couples could have owed the IRS more than \$20,000 in additional taxes compared to what they would have owed had they not been married. This is patently unfair, Mr. Speaker, and Congress must act to provide these families the relief that they deserve.

As financial pressures push more and more nonworking spouses into the labor force, an increasing number of families fall prey to marriage penalties. Indeed, CBO estimates that 42 percent of all married couples—some 21 million families—incurred marriage penalties in 1996. One of the major reasons why so many of these joint filers face this added tax burden is that the very first dollar earned by a family's lower earning spouse is taxed at the marginal rate of the higher earning spouse. Exempting some of the lower earning spouse's income from tax would mitigate this unfair situation, providing significant relief to the millions of Americans who face a higher tax bill solely because they are married.

Mr. Speaker, two-earner married couples were once entitled to a significant tax deduction to help offset the marriage penalties that are built into the Internal Revenue Code. However, the Code no longer permits these families to take advantage of this deduction. The Marriage Penalty Relief Act would simply restore this two-earner deduction, once again allowing couples a 10-percent deduction for up to \$30,000 of the lower earning spouse's income. While this approach will not eliminate the marriage penalty in all cases, it will provide meaningful relief to victims of this unfair tax—at roughly one-third the estimated revenue cost of outright elimination.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that providing families relief from the marriage penalty should be a major legislative priority during the next session of the 105th Congress. I am pleased that the approach adopted in my legislation has already attracted substantial bipartisan support, and I would urge the rest of my colleagues to cosponsor the Marriage Penalty Relief Act.

#### GUAM BATTLES FAMILY VIOLENCE

### HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 7, 1997*

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, last week my home island of Guam was shocked by the death of 7-year-old Erica Aquino, her mother Therese Crisostomo Aquino and her father Rudy Aquino. The island of Guam is shocked and horrified at the horrible details of these violent deaths. According to police and media reports, Rudy Aquino, estranged from his ex-wife Therese, had shot her and then their young daughter Erica before turning the shotgun on himself. Immediate family members were summoned to the scene of the crime to learn first hand of the tragedy. They had been preparing for a birthday celebration in honor of Therese's brother, a newly ordained parish priest.

Therese was a social worker in the adult protective services unit of the Guam Depart-

ment of Public Health and Social Services. Her daughter Erica was a second grade student at San Vicente School in Barrigada. A week has passed since these deaths and the family and friends of Therese Crisostomo Aquino and her daughter Erica are asking many questions, "Why did it happen?; How could we have helped?" The friends and family of Rudy Aquino also ask "Why did it happen?" and "How could we have helped?"

The incident occurred on the eve of Governor Carl Gutierrez's Proclamation of October as Family Violence Awareness Month. As if to demonstrate the need for such a proclamation, three lives were lost because of family violence. As we all know, family violence affects us regardless of age, sexual orientation, physical ability, marital status, ethnicity, cultural or educational background, religion or economic status. It is often ignored and tolerated by our society, and despite the number of agencies and nonprofit organizations set up to assist them, many victims continue to feel isolated and ashamed, and even responsible for the abuse—blaming themselves. We have to do all that we can to let them know that they are not alone.

Family violence affects the whole family, especially children. Children in abusive homes carry the terrible lessons of violence with them into adulthood and into the next generation. Children who grow up in violent homes are 6 times more likely to commit suicide, 24 times more likely to commit sexual assault crimes, 74 times more likely to commit crimes against the person and 50 times more likely to abuse drugs or alcohol.

Sadly, in Guam, despite a culture in which our elderly or "manamko", as they are affectionately known, are honored and revered, it was essential for our government to open an adult protective services unit in 1989. Since its inception, there have been 800 reports of physical and emotional abuse received by our island's elderly and disabled. Abuse in our families has reached into the generations that preceded us.

In Guam, police officers have responded to 5,969 family violence offenses from 1993 through 1995. During that same time period, the Child Protective Services received 5,881 referrals, and in 1996 they have reviewed over 3,000 of these referrals. In 1995, the Guam Attorney General's Office prosecuted 106 criminal felony cases and 248 criminal misdemeanor cases; while from January through June, 1996, they prosecuted 50 criminal felonies and 248 criminal misdemeanor cases. So many women and men are reluctant to admit to the violence and reach out beyond the family that experts believe the actual prevalence may be much higher than the numbers indicate.

So what are we doing in Guam to lessen and eliminate the instances of violence taking place between family members? Since 1993, the Governor, through executive order, has established the family violence task force comprised of all governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations which deal with family violence. Among its primary duties is the development and implementation of inter-and intra-departmental or agency policy and protocol on family violence; the development and evaluation of prevention and treatment programs for the community-at-large and for targeted groups; and the establishment of a community resource, referral and visitation center to dis-

seminate throughout the territory, educational information and materials concerning prevention and response to family violence.

The family violence task force was just re-institutionalized this year, and includes the following members: The First Lady of Guam, Mrs. Geraldine T. Gutierrez; and representatives of the following private and public entities: the Guam Police Department; the Department of Corrections; the Department of Law, Attorney General's Office; the Superior Court of Guam, Family Counseling and Client Services Division; the Guam Legal Services Corporation; the Public Defender Services Corporation; the Guam Bar; Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse; the Crisis Hotline; Healing Hearts; Department of Public Health & Social Services, Adult and Child Protective Services; Department of Youth Affairs; the Governor's Community Outreach Federal Programs Office; the Mayors' Council of Guam; the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority; the Guam Department of Education; the Guam Community College; the University of Guam; the Alee Shelter and Shelter for Abused Children, Catholic Social Services; Victim Advocates Reaching Out [VARO] inafamaolek, Inc; Victim Witness Ayuda Services; Sanctuary Inc; United Women of Micronesia; Naval Services Center, U.S. Navy Hospital Guam; Andersen Air Force Base Support Flight; and other individuals, to be named from the community-at-large which include religious leaders, private business persons and members of civic associations and organizations.

The Family Violence Task Force has traditionally held a public awareness campaign throughout the month of October. This year, Family Violence Awareness Month is being headed by Alicia Limtiaco, a private attorney who has formerly served as the island's Chief Prosecutor. One of the many events planned for the month is a "Silent Witness Exhibit" in memory of fatalities of domestic violence of Guam. Guam will be represented in the national events being held this month here in Washington by First Lady Geri Gutierrez, Sister Eileen of the Alee Shelter, and Marie McElligot of the Superior Court of Guam, as well as other dedicated supporters and advocates.

Also scheduled throughout the month are numerous appearances on all the local radio and television stations, as well as forums for specific target groups such as "Up Close and Personal" for service providers, "Ashes, Ashes We All Fall Down" for university students; and forums with broader themes such as "Legal Issues," "Life Skills for Women Only," "Life Skills Seminar for Couples," and "For Men Only." The local churches are encouraged to conduct sermons on family violence, and a poster and essay contest will be conducted in the island's schools.

Despite all these efforts, Guam continues to battle with family violence. It is recognized as a very serious and escalating problem within our community, and will take the entire community to actively work together to make our island safe for everyone, especially our women, children, elderly and disabled. On behalf of the people of Guam and the United States, I commend the dedicated work of all of the agencies, professionals, and volunteers, who work tirelessly to bring peace to each island family.

CONGRATULATIONS ON DOUBLE  
TENTH DAY

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 7, 1997*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the October 10, 1997 celebration of the 36th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China on Taiwan. October 10 was selected as the date for observing Taiwan's founding because on that date in 1911, troops and ordinary citizens of the Wuchang region of China revolted against their Manchu dynastic rulers to protest against the corruption and incompetence of their leadership. After centuries of imperial and dynastic rule, the October 10th rebellion affirmed the desire of the Chinese people to achieve self-determination. With the election of President Lee Teng-hui, the first democratically-elected head of state in China's history, we witnessed a partial realization of the aspirations of the Chinese people who revolted in 1911.

Under President Lee's leadership, Taiwan has expanded its presence within the international community and has become an important source of development assistance. As evidence by the levels of cultural exchanges and bilateral trade, relations between the United States and Taiwan have never been stronger. President Lee has selected Dr. Jason Hu, Taiwan's former representative in Washington, as his new Foreign Minister. During his time in Washington, Dr. Hu proved himself to be a hard-working, highly effective and selfless representative of the Taiwanese Government and people. I am confident that Dr. Hu will be equally successful and impressive in his new position of Foreign Minister.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the people of Taiwan on the upcoming October 10, 1997 celebration of the anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China on Taiwan.

IN HONOR OF GREGORY R.  
DEMALINE ON HIS ATTAINMENT  
OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 7, 1997*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Gregory Demaline of Parma, OH, who will be honored for his attainment of Eagle Scout.

The attainment of Eagle Scout is a high and rare honor requiring years of dedication to self-improvement, hard work, and the community. Each Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges, 12 of which are required, including badges in: lifesaving; first aid; citizenship in the community; citizenship in the Nation; citizenship in the world; personal management of time and money; family life; environmental science; and camping.

In addition to acquiring and proving proficiency in those and other skills, an Eagle Scout must hold leadership positions within the troop where he learns to earn the respect and hear the criticism of those he leads.

The Eagle Scout must live by the Scouting law, which holds that he must be: trustworthy,

loyal, brave, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, clean, and reverent.

And the Eagle Scout must complete an Eagle project, which he must plan, finance, and evaluate on his own. It is no wonder that only 2 percent of all boys entering Scouting achieve this rank.

My fellow colleagues, let us recognize and praise Gregory for his achievement.

THOSE SURPLUSES: PROCEED  
WITH CAUTION

**HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 7, 1997*

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, the Washington Post published an excellent article about the Federal budget by Dr. Robert Reischauer, former CBO director and now a fellow at the Brookings Institution. I would like to share this article with my colleagues. Many of our colleagues are proposing new ways to spend a putative budget surplus, either by cutting more taxes or raising spending. Dr. Reischauer warns Congress that this is a mistake. He reminds us that even though we have made extraordinary progress in reducing the deficit, the Government is still not in surplus and the budget is not projected to reach surplus until after the year 2000. We should certainly not be spending a surplus we don't have.

Even when we reach surplus, Dr. Reischauer points out, we will be relying on the balance in the Social Security trust fund to offset the deficit spending in the rest of the Federal budget. Finally, there is considerable merit in paying down the \$4 trillion debt the Federal Government owes the public, once we reach surplus. This will help prepare us for the deficits we will be facing once we start to pay the cost of the baby boomers' retirement.

Two months ago, Congress and the President enacted a bipartisan 5-year budget plan, which provided both for modest spending increases and tax cuts. Sticking to the budget agreement is the surest path to reaching a budget surplus. In any case, we should certainly not start spending surpluses we have not yet achieved.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 21, 1997]

THOSE SURPLUSES: PROCEED WITH CAUTION

(By Robert D. Reischauer)

Had Rip van Winkle been around a few years ago, he would have been put to sleep reading the endless stream of apocalyptic budget reports which warned that the large deficit of the day would soon explode if politically impossible spending cuts or tax increases were not enacted immediately. Had he been roused a few weeks ago and told that the president had just signed the first significant tax cut since 1981 and that the latest budget projections were for modest but growing surpluses after 2001, he undoubtedly would have gone into immediate cardiac arrest.

The amazing budgetary turnaround of the past year and the prospect of future surpluses have also quickened pulses on Capitol Hill. Those who worship at the concrete altar already have drawn up plans to boost highway spending; those whose faith tells them that lower taxes can solve all of the nation's problems have begun crafting further tax reductions; and those whose worthy

social initiatives have been cruelly sacrificed to the gods of fiscal responsibility over the past decade are dusting off their proposals for expanded social investments.

Before the promised surpluses burn a hole in the congressional pocketbook, lawmakers should remember that these surpluses are not yet in hand and that there are benefits from sustaining rather than spending them. The projections of surpluses assume that Congress and the president will adhere to the balanced budget act's limits on discretionary spending. These limits, which provide half the deficit reduction needed to balance the budget in the year 2002, will require politically painful votes on appropriations in each of the next four years, votes that will reduce real discretionary spending 12 percent below current levels by 2002. The experience of the past few months should raise a bit of skepticism about the political system's ability to mete out such sacrifice. When faced with the \$544.8 billion discretionary spending cap that the 1993 budget agreement set for the coming fiscal year, Congress and the president balked and used the new agreement to add \$8.5 billion to the fiscal 1998 limits.

The projected surpluses could also evaporate if there are many slips in those portions of the balanced budget and tax relief acts that do not require further legislative action. Some of the promised Medicare savings, which account for over half of the spending reductions anticipated for the next five years, could fail to materialize if the Health Care Finance Administration has difficulty implementing the 226 complex provisions of the new law that generate these savings. The \$21.4 billion expected to be bid for rights to use portions of the electromagnetic spectrum for commercial purposes could turn out to be more pie-in-the-sky than money-in-the-bank. The revenue loss from the tax relief act could be larger than anticipated if individuals respond with more gusto than expected to its incentives or if wily tax accounts find unforeseen ways to mine the provisions of the new law.

The considerable uncertainty that surrounds estimates of both how much the program cuts will save and how much tax reductions will cost if cuts and reductions are implemented as planned is a larger reason for caution. The Office of Management and Budget's estimate of the net reduction in Medicare spending over the next five years is 34 percent larger than the Congressional Budget Office's, while Congress's Joint Tax Committee calculates that the child tax credit will cost 19 percent more than Treasury estimates.

While the economics assumptions upon which the new budget projections are based appear to be quite prudent, an average-sized recession could easily add \$100 billion to the deficit for a year or two and delay the attainment of a balanced budget until well after 2002.

These warnings may represent excessive caution; modest surpluses could well materialize early in the 21st century. But if they do, there are good reasons to squirrel them away—that is, to pay down the federal debt—rather than spend them on program expansions or further tax cuts. Even in 2002, when the budget is first projected to be in surplus, taxpayers won't come close to footing the full bill for what the federal government provides them. The overall budget surplus of \$32 billion that CBO projects for 2002 will be made up of a \$120 billion surplus in the Social Security program offset by a whopping \$88 billion deficit in all of the government's other accounts. It is well recognized that Social Security is incurring future liabilities that far exceed its modest surpluses and that without major reform it will be insolvent before the last of the baby boomers has retired.