

I think in all instances he asked us as Americans to be truthful, to accept the truth, to acknowledge the truth, and not to run away from the truth. Racism does exist in this Nation, and it is for us, as Americans, to work together to live in harmony. I think Dr. King would want us to do that.

So the anniversary of his assassination is not a time of sadness, but commemoration and commitment to the fact that each of us will try to overcome the devastation of racism and the fact that we isolate ourselves from other groups. President Clinton's recent visit to Africa, now almost finished, should signal the importance of Americans reaching out to all diverse groups.

Dr. King would be smiling, and he would hope that as we debate issues of national prominence, as we speak around this country, Dr. King would want us to use his words in truth and to recognize that what he wants for this Nation is equal opportunity for all. Until that date comes, I can imagine Dr. King somewhere continuing his fight, his oration, his speech, his non-violent way, but never giving up until there is racial harmony in this Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOSS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. NADLER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOODLATTE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

COMMENDING DR. AND MRS. SHELTON H. SHORT, III, FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP FUND AT RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to commend Dr. and Mrs. Shelton H. Short, III, of Clarksville, Virginia, for establishing a \$100,000 permanent scholarship fund at Randolph-Macon College in honor of Dr. Short's late father. The scholarship fund is designed to assist students from Boydton, Virginia, the first site of Randolph-Macon College, as well as students from surrounding communities.

Dr. Short and his wife Jean are distinguished citizens and active participants in their community in Mecklenburg, Virginia. Their families contributed in significant ways to that community, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Nation over the course of at least 2 centuries.

Indeed, Dr. Short is a descendent of the late Congressman William O. Goode, who served in the body from 1841 to 1843 and from 1853 to 1859. Although I am not privileged to be a relative of the former congressman, he was a prominent Virginian who served as Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates and wrote the original charter of Randolph-Macon College.

Shelton and Jean Short are to be applauded for their generosity and their commitment to the education of young men and women at Randolph-Macon college, an institution of higher learning on which their family has had such a significant and tremendous impact.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the article from the May 21 issue of the Mecklenburg Sun.

The article referred to follows:

SCHOLARSHIP EMPHASIZES R-MC TIES TO BOYDTON

BOYDTON.—A Clarksville couple has honored the memory of the late Shelton Hardaway Short, Jr. by establishing a \$100,000 permanent scholarship fund to Randolph-Macon College in his honor.

As benefactors of the scholarship, Shelton H. Short, III and his Jean were center stage at a ceremony Wednesday night in Boydton announcing the fund. They were joined by Dr. Ladell Payne, president of Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, local elected officials and about 100 onlookers at the Mecklenburg County Courthouse.

The scholarship is designed to reward deserving college students from Boydton who will serve as ambassadors of the college's roots in Boydton. If no eligible students apply from the town, the scholarship will go to students in Mecklenburg, Brunswick and other surrounding counties. The gift is meant to underscore the historic ties between Randolph-Macon, which was founded in Boydton, and Southside Virginia.

In remarks to the audience, Short noted that his father "would be pleased that the scholarship given in his name would bring closer the links between Randolph-Macon as it was in its founding home of Boydton in 1930, with Randolph-Macon of today and tomorrow in Hanover County, Virginia." Short also said his father would wish "that the recipient of the Boydton scholarship consider himself or herself as a goodwill ambassador representing Boydton, Southside Virginia" and surrounding areas.

According to Short, the criteria for winning the scholarship will go beyond academic and extracurricular achievements and address the character of potential applicants. The newly-endowed award is need based and will go to academically promising students in Boydton and surrounding areas.

Applicants "should consider making straight A's in good manners, a neat appearance and helpfulness to others as well as classwork," said Short. "To me straight A's in Greek or geometry are meaningless without good manners and a sincere desire to help others."

"We would ask the town fathers and town mothers of our area, and especially Boydton, to impress upon the winner the necessity of being a goodwill ambassador for Boydton,

Randolph-Macon College's place of birth. What the student does will reflect back upon Boydton—good or otherwise."

Short said Boydton students would be the first choice for the scholarship, followed by students in the rest of Mecklenburg County and Brunswick County. Other areas included in the scholarship's territory are Granville, Halifax, Vance and Warren Counties in North Carolina, and Charlotte, Dinwiddie, Greensville, Halifax, Lunenburg and Nottoway Counties in Virginia. Students from the North Carolina counties of Mecklenburg and Brunswick will also be eligible, Short said.

Short described his father, Shelton Hardaway Short, III as a "modest gentleman" who loved Randolph-Macon College. "He loved the original town of Randolph-Macon's birthplace—Boydton—as well as Randolph-Macon's present and future locality, Ashland. Shelton H. Short, Jr. dedicated, designed and donated the official flag for Randolph-Macon in 1968 and used as a centerpiece for the College's ensign a photo of the central structure of Randolph-Macon as it stood in Boydton in the 1930s."

At age 16, Shelton H. Short, Jr. left home in Brunswick County, Va. to enroll at Randolph-Macon in Ashland. His education there was interrupted by World War I, and he volunteered for the U.S. Army infantry as a teenager. After being assigned to training school at Virginia Military Institute, Short went to Plattsburg, N.Y. and was commissioned as a second lieutenant. When the war ended, he returned to R-MC and graduated as a member of the Class of 1919 with a bachelor's of art degree.

After volunteering for the Army in World War I, Short returned to the military at the age of 43 to serve his country during World War II. He became a major in the U.S. Marine Corps and served in the reserves after the surrender of Germany and Japan in 1945.

At Randolph-Macon, his volunteer spirit and energy were readily apparent—he was President of the Cotillion Club, an officer in Kappa Alpha, and centerfielder for the Yellow Jackets baseball team, even playing the day Babe Ruth and the Boston Red Sox played the Yellow Jackets in an exhibition game. After completing his degree, he turned his attention to the local business community, serving as president of Jeffreys Motor Company in Chase City and chairman of the Board of Trustees of Jeffreys-Spaulling Manufacturing Company and of Jeffreys-McElrath Manufacturing.

He also owned and operated several farms and was a prominent tobacco and tree farmer. He was director of Jeffreys Lumber, Inc., Home Telegraph and Telephone and Virginia Forestry, among other companies. In addition, he served for 4 years as a director of Peoples Bank and Trust Co. and its successor, Fidelity American Bank and Central Fidelity, all in Chase City.

Short also worked to better the community by serving on the Mecklenburg School Board and the Town Council of Chase City. He served in the Virginia House of Delegates from Mecklenburg County and served on the Virginia Economic Development Commission under three governors. A life-long member of the Methodist Church, he served on the Chase City Centenary United Methodist Church Board of Stewards for much of his adult life. He was also a Trustee of the former Blackstone College for Women.

The first winner of the Honorable Shelton H. Short, Jr. Scholarship will be announced in the fall, said Dr. Payne, R-MC President. The scholarship will reinvigorate the ties between Boydton and the college, he noted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. RAMSTAD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COYNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. COYNE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

INTRODUCTION OF THE CAPITAL GAINS TAX SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 1998

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Capital Gains Tax Simplification Act of 1998." This legislation would simplify the computation of capital gains taxes for all individual taxpayers. The bill would also provide modest capital gains tax reductions for millions of Americans.

I am sure that many of you have received complaints from a number of your constituents about the overly complex capital gains form—Schedule D—that they have to fill out as part of their 1997 Federal income tax returns. Their complaints are justified. Schedule D is long and complex—and it is very easy to make a mistake in filling out this form. Moreover, if nothing is done to fix this problem, Schedule D will get even more complex and burdensome in the coming years. The Capital Gains Tax Simplification Act of 1998 would solve the capital gains complexity problem once and for all.

The capital gains treatment provided in the Capital Gains Tax Simplification Act of 1998 is so simple that the substance of the bill can be stated in one short, easily understandable sentence: "If for any taxable year a taxpayer other than a corporation has a net capital gain, 40 percent of such gain shall be a deduction from gross income." In contrast, the Technical Corrections Act that passed the House last year contained 12 pages of detailed statutory language to describe the current complicated scheme for taxation of capital gains.

The time is long overdue for Congress to begin simplifying our tax laws. The capital gains provisions are a good place to start. The current capital gains schedule and the underlying rules for taxation of capital gains are unnecessarily complex. Regardless of one's views about capital gains taxes, I think that most of us would agree that a revenue-neutral simplification of the capital gains tax provisions is much-needed.

Current law imposes a significant burden on taxpayers who have capital gains. The IRS estimates that a typical taxpayer with a capital gain will spend 5 hours and 20 minutes filling out his or her capital gains tax form. This is

two hours more than in 1994. Moreover, the chances of making an effort in filling out this complicated, 54-line form are fairly high.

As a member of the National Commission on Restructuring the Internal Revenue Service, I supported the Commission's recommendation to pursue simplification at every possible opportunity. As the Ranking Member on the Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee, I am well aware of the need for tax simplification. We need to make the tax code less complex—and less burdensome—for the American taxpayer. The Capital Gains Tax Simplification Act of 1998 would go a long way toward meeting that goal.

This bill embodies simplification in the clearest and strongest sense of the word. The bill would replace a lengthy, complex provision with a simple, equitable solution. It would shorten and simplify the tax code, and—more importantly—it would shorten and simplify the process that millions of taxpayers must go through when filing out their annual income tax returns.

Now is the time to act, not next year or the next. Last year, in the House-passed IRS restructuring bill (H.R. 2676), the House and the Ways and Means Committee supported the IRS Restructuring Commission's view that the tax laws should be simplified wherever, and however, possible. My bill would do exactly that.

The IRS restructuring bill would also mandate that, for tax legislation considered by the tax-writing committees after January 1, 1998, a "tax complexity analysis" be provided by the Joint Committee on Taxation to ensure that tax provisions brought before the Congress enhance simplification and eliminate complexity. Had this "tax complexity analysis" law been in effect during consideration of the 1997 Taxpayer Relief Act, the capital gains provisions in that bill would have failed the test miserably. I believe that, in contrast, a "tax complexity analysis" of my bill would be extraordinarily positive. How could it be otherwise, when my bill would eliminate the requirement to fill out Schedule D for most capital gains recipients and replace it with a single line on the 1040 form?

What happened to make the current-law calculation of capital gains taxes so complex? The answer is simple. The 1997 taxpayer Relief Act created a confusing array of capital gains tax rates. As a result, the law provides for five different rates that can apply to the capital gains of an individual—10 percent, 15 percent, 20 percent, 25 percent, and 28 percent. I have attached a copy of the new 1997 capital gains tax computation schedule—Schedule D—to my statement to demonstrate the capital gains tax provisions' extraordinary complexity.

An additional tax rate category is scheduled to take effect in the year 2001, and another tax rate category will take effect in 2006. The forms required

to accommodate these additional rate categories will add significant additional complexity to the filing process for millions of taxpayers. After those provisions take effect, the 1997 Schedule D will look simple in comparison. Moreover, under current law, a growing number of taxpayers will have to fill out the capital gains form twice in the coming years—once for the regular tax, and once for the alternative minimum tax. If you think tax filers are angry and frustrated now, just wait a few years.

The worst aspect of current law is that its complexity falls hardest on low- and moderate-income taxpayers whose only capital investments are in mutual funds. They aren't wealthy people; they don't have their own accountants. They are the people who usually fill out their tax returns themselves. And they have to fill out that confusing, error-prone Schedule D themselves. Under the bill I am introducing today, those taxpayers would not have to fill out a separate capital gains tax form at all. They would simply include 60 percent of their total capital gains distributions on the appropriate line of their tax returns. Taxpayers with other sources of capital gains would still have to report these gains on Schedule D or its equivalent, but even they would no longer have to complete the roughly 35 lines of calculations on page 2 of Schedule D to figure out their taxes; they would simply figure out their net capital gains using Schedule D and then include 60 percent of that amount on the appropriate line of their tax return.

It has been said in recent days that much of the complexity associated with the capital gains tax could be eliminated by eliminating the new 18-month holding period requirement. This is just not true. Simply repealing the 18-month holding period requirement would not eliminate any part of the current complex capital gains schedule. The only way to get true simplification of the capital gains provisions enacted last year is to enact a simplification proposal like the one in my bill—that is, to provide a one-year holding period requirement for all capital assets, and to permit depreciation recapture gains on real estate to receive the full benefit of the capital gains tax reduction.

It is my understanding that the bill would be revenue neutral. The bill's simple 40-percent exclusion for capital gains can be substituted for the confusing array of capital gains tax rates under current law at no cost to the Federal Government. As I mentioned earlier, simplifying the computation of capital gains taxes for all individual taxpayers along these lines would also provide modest capital gains tax reductions for nearly all individuals with capital gains income. I have attached a chart which shows the impact of my legislation on the capital gains tax rates that individuals would pay. Most capital gains filers—over 11 million