

I had the privilege today of presenting these honors to Officer Porter during a ceremony in my office. His career in law enforcement stands as a model to all who aspire to public service, and his courage in the face of catastrophic injury serves as an inspiration to every American.

HONORING RHONDA (RANDI)
WEINGARTEN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to praise a woman who has accomplished much. Rhonda (Randi) Weingarten is the new president of the 130,000-member United Federation of Teachers, the largest local union in the United States. She is also vice president of the 960,000 member American Federation of Teachers, the UFT's national affiliate and is a member of the Board of Directors of both the New York State United Teachers and the New York City Central Labor Council.

From 1986 to 1998 Randi served as counsel to UFT President Sandra Feldman, taking a lead role in contract negotiations for teachers and other school employees. When Ms. Feldman became president of the American Federation of Teachers, Randi was selected to serve as president. She has a B.S. from Cornell and graduated cum laude from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. She was also an adjunct professor at Cardozo from 1986-91. She first became affiliated with the UFT when working for a prestigious law firm which had the union as a client.

She has served as legislative assistant for the New York State Senate Labor Committee and as a mediator on disputes originating in the New York Criminal Court. She has served as a member of the board and then as chairperson of the Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York. She is also a certified teacher of social studies and American History.

Randi continues to advance the cause of education in New York. I look forward to working with her to keep the education of our youth as the highest priority of the people and our governments at every level.

TRIBUTE TO MACGREGOR RANCH

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the history and legacy of one of Colorado's oldest and largest historic cattle ranches, the MacGregor Ranch, and to pay tribute to all of those that worked to create, operate and protect it. This scenic, 3,000-acre ranch is located near the growing town of Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park.

Homesteaded by Alexander and Clara MacGregor in 1873, the MacGregor ranch will celebrate its 125th anniversary as a working ranch on August 28 and 29, 1998. Moreover, Clara MacGregor, the first postmistress in Estes Park, will be honored with a commemo-

orative postmark. The MacGregor's granddaughter, Muriel Lurilla MacGregor, ran the ranch until her death in 1970. A remarkable woman, Muriel earned a law degree from the University of Denver at a time when women lawyers were practically unknown. She also held degrees from the University of Colorado and from Colorado College. Hoping to preserve the beautiful ranch, Muriel's estate planning called for the ranch to be held in trust, and operated as it had been.

The Internal Revenue Service, however, disagreed and attempted to collect over two million dollars in inheritance taxes and fees from the relatives of Mrs. MacGregor. Fortunately, some civic-minded volunteers and a few lawyers in the Colorado Attorney General's Office worked diligently to prevent that, and to save the ranch from impending litigation and sale. Attorneys Ruth Anne Garland, James Riles and Howard Kennison put in eight years of hard work on the issues. They contributed their time and expertise to help resolve the many complex legal and tax issues clouding the future of the ranch. Gladys Thomson, and Orpha Kendall contributed considerable time and labor to keep the ranch operating after Muriel's death. With all of their help, the IRS negotiated a solution, and the Department of the Interior contributed funds for a scenic easement on the property. The MacGregor Ranch has now been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Volunteers now staff a visitors center for the charitable trust that holds and operates the ranch. Notably, the ranch attracted nearly seven thousand people last year. They come from around the nation to witness the active cattle ranch, and to revel in scenery and history as rugged as the Rocky Mountains. Students and youth groups make up a large proportion of the visitors. At the MacGregor ranch, children see how the hardy pioneers once made their living from the land. I am encouraged that all of those children have the opportunity to see how a ranch operates, and to see what good stewards of the land Colorado ranchers have been.

Mr. Speaker, the MacGregor family has left a lasting legacy for all of us to enjoy. I salute them, and all of the good people who worked to preserve that legacy. We all have a lot to gain from preserving our history and preserving the ranching way of life.

THE ADOPTION TAX CREDIT AND
EASING ADOPTION COSTS

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend to the attention of my colleagues the following editorial from the Marietta Daily Journal, which recognizes the importance of the Adoption Tax Credit passed by Congress in 1996 and urges further Congressional action to ease the costs involved in adopting a child.

[From the Marietta Daily Journal]

"AYE" TO ADOPTION CREDIT

People adopt children for lots of reasons. However, the desire to gain a tax break is not one of them. Yes, adoptive parents do receive a tax break from Uncle Sam, but the

amount scarcely comes close to what the adoption process actually costs.

Prospective adoptive parents easily can incur legal fees, medical bills, travel expenses and other costs in excess of \$20,000, according to Cobb County's Mark Johnson, executive director of the Hope for Children adoption agency.

With that in mind, House Speaker Newt Gingrich has announced a push to raise the adoption tax credit to \$8,000 from \$5,000 in hopes of spurring more people to adopt. He also would make the credit available to upper-income adoptive parents. And Mr. Gingrich knows a bit about adoption, having been adopted as a boy by his mother's second husband.

The speaker reasons that children who are adopted are more likely to grow up loved and as contributing members of society than children who spend their youths as wards of the state.

"It is so much better to have an adoption-child tax credit, which is one-third to one-fourth the cost of a year in prison, than it is to have that child end up 16 years later in jail," he said.

An increase in the tax credit would increase the number of adoptions of children that are least likely to be adopted—disabled children, minorities and siblings. Gingrich also announced plans to push for a change in the law that would limit the legal rights of biological parents who refuse to sign adoption papers, even though they fail to support their children financially.

"You can't run a society in which a totally irresponsible person, possibly to blackmail money out of you, can refuse to sign a document for a child they're providing no support for," he argued.

That makes perfect sense to us. And as for increasing the tax credit, the HOPE agency's Johnson predicts the number of adoptions would double if it was increased. That also makes sense, and we hope Congress heeds the speaker's advice.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TAX SIMPLIFICATION FOR AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS ACT

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I am joined by my colleagues, Messrs. LEVIN, CRANE, MATSUI, HERGER, JOHNSON, ENGLISH and NEAL, in introducing legislation to simplify and reform our current international tax laws. As all of you know, we are in a period of fundamental re-examination of the Internal Revenue Code. One of the most complicated and impenetrable areas of the Code and most in need of change is the foreign area. Our international trade laws have gotten ahead of our tax laws for this area. We consider our bill to be a "down payment" on needed changes in this area.

Now as we begin the process of re-examining in fundamental ways our income tax system, we believe it imperative to address the area of international taxation. In an Internal Revenue Code stuffed with eye-glazing complexity, there is probably no area that contains as many difficult and complicated rules as international taxation. Further, I cannot stress enough the importance of continued discussion between the Congress and Treasury of

simplifying our international tax laws; especially in the areas of interest allocation, partnerships, and the European Union.

The business world is changing at an increasingly rapid pace. As we all know, tax laws have failed to keep up with the rapid changes in the world technology and economy. Neither one of us is under any illusion that the measure which we introduced removes all complexity or breaks bold new conceptual ground. We believe, however, that the enactment of this legislation would be a significant step in the right direction. The legislation would enhance the ability of America to continue to be the preeminent economic force in the world. If our economy is to continue to create jobs for its citizens, we must ensure that the foreign provisions of the United States income tax law do not stand in the way.

The focus of the legislation is to put some rationalization to the international tax area. In general, the bill seeks in modest but important ways to: (1) simplify this overly complex area, especially the foreign tax credit and the various antideferral mechanism; (2) encourage exports; (3) enhance U.S. competitiveness in other industrialized countries. And it seeks to achieve these objectives in a revenue-conscious manner.

Specifically, the provision regarding the Subpart F exception for active financial services income is based in large part on the one-year rule embodied in H.R. 2513, the House passed bill that resulted from lengthy negotiations between the Treasury Department and the financial services industry. The bill's provision are not intended to replace the one-year rule in H.R. 2513 that could well be enacted this year. Rather, the bill includes additional options that taxpayers would like to see in a permanent rule, to facilitate discussion regarding the parameters of a permanent rule that would effectively level the playing field with respect to our foreign competition.

Furthermore, the bill allows deferral for cross-border income received by controlled foreign corporations engaged in the active conduct of a banking, financing, or similar business, under narrowly defined circumstances that are designed to preclude opportunities for excessive "mobility" of income. The first safeguard is the requirement that income eligible for deferral must be derived from a transaction with a "customer;" the definition of a customer (which is identical to the definition prescribed under proposed treasury regulations dealing with passive foreign investment companies) would not permit a related-party transaction to qualify if one of the principal purposes for such transaction was to satisfy the underlying provision. Second, the requirement that employees meet a "material participation" test will reinforce the "active" nature of the covered activities. Thus, corporations holding passive investments would be precluded from relying on the rule.

The law as now constituted frustrates the legitimate goals and objectives of American business and erects artificial and unnecessary barriers to U.S. competitiveness. In addition, the law stands as a monument to the act that the conceptual complexity of man as applied to the Internal Revenue Code knows no limits. Neither the largest U.S. based multinational companies nor the Internal Revenue Service is in a position to administer and interpret the mind numbing complexity of many of the foreign provisions. Why not then move toward

creating a set of international tax rules which taxpayers can understand, and the government can administer?

In summary, therefore the proposed changes we believe represent a creditable package and a "down payment" on further reform in the international tax area. We ask you to join us, in this bipartisan effort, by supporting our legislation.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON H.R.
4103

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, on the evening of Wednesday, June 24th, I was away from the Capitol complex and was not notified of an impending vote. As a result, I was unable to record my vote on rollcall No. 266. Had I been present, I would have voted for H.R. 4103, The Department of Defense Appropriation bill. Indeed, I must compliment my colleague BILL YOUNG, Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on National Security, for his fine work on this legislation. There is no more important appropriations bill considered by Congress than the bill providing funding for the defense of our nation, and nobody takes his responsibility more seriously than Chairman YOUNG. I look forward to Chairman YOUNG bringing back a conference report mirroring the priorities in the House version of H.R. 4103, and, assuming that to be the case, I will proudly cast my vote in support of this legislation at that time.

HONORING MAUREEN WALKER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, public service, when done honestly and done well, is the noblest of callings. Thus, I rise to honor a public servant who shows that definition to be true.

Maureen Walker has demonstrated unwavering integrity and an ardor for fiscal responsibility as Comptroller of the City of Mount Vernon. She has also shown a dedication to helping others throughout her community.

Her success has the quality of myth surrounding it. She was born in a village in Guyana to Caleb and Mildred Headley and perhaps it was living in a village that gave her the strong sense of community service that she has shown in her adoptive country.

She came to America and attended Brooklyn College, graduating Magna Cum Laude and received scholarships from Chase Manhattan and the National Association of Black Accountants. Maureen is a Certified Public Accountant with more than ten years experience. She was a senior financial analyst with Equitable Life Assurance and an auditor with Arthur Anderson & Company before becoming Mount Vernon's gain.

She has received numerous awards and has served on the Board of Estimate, the Urban Renewal Agency, the Board of Assessment and Review and, of course, on the

Board of Junior Achievers. She is also a member of the Board of the Community Aid Club.

Working with Maureen over the years I came to appreciate her ability and dedication. She gave herself to helping her community. Mount Vernon is better not only because she has served as its Comptroller, but especially because she lives there and cares.

HONORING PAUL O'DWYER

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of Paul O'Dwyer. Paul was a man of unquestioned principle who selflessly devoted his life to promoting understanding. His loss will be felt not only in New York but also around the world.

Born on an impoverished farm in Ireland, Paul O'Dwyer's humble beginnings awakened in him a desire to help those less fortunate. Subsequently, he became a champion for the underdog and a tenacious fighter for social justice. In his native country, Mr. O'Dwyer actively promoted a peaceful resolution to the conflict which plagued northern Ireland.

Upon arriving in this country, he immediately sought to correct the injustices he saw around him. Mr. O'Dwyer defended workers, teachers and civil-rights activists accused of Communist sympathies. He also helped register black voters in Mississippi during the civil rights movement.

Paul O'Dwyer's popularity among the common man helped him get elected to the New York City Council in 1963. He served as president of this organization from 1973 to 1977. Despite the constraints on his time, Paul remained a progressive leader of the Irish community in New York.

Perhaps Mr. O'Dwyer will be best remembered for his work with the United Nations, where he served as a liaison between countless diplomats and the City of New York. His ability to find common ground between New Yorkers and representatives from around the world earned him universal respect and admiration.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday New York lost a remarkable individual. This country and indeed the world could use more people like Paul O'Dwyer.

LITTLE THEATER HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Little Theater of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. This week the Little Theater will celebrate its 75th anniversary; it is believed to be possibly one of the oldest community theaters in the country. I am honored to have been asked to participate in this important celebration.

The Little Theater has been providing quality entertainment in Northeastern Pennsylvania since it was organized in 1922. The Theater's